

German A1

Instructor: Narges Roshan
Course Number: GM 101, Group B
Times: Monday, 10:45-12:15
Wednesday, 09:00-10:30
Friday, 09:00-10:30
Location: will be announced
Email: n.roshan@berlin.bard.edu
Office hours by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to start you on the road to communicative competence in German. By “communicative,” we mean that you will learn to express your own ideas orally and in writing, and to develop strategies for understanding spoken and written discourse—as opposed to merely memorizing vocabulary lists and grammar rules. By “competence,” we mean that your acquisition of the language must show a high level of grammatical, lexical, and cultural *accuracy*. Our goal is not simply a list of rules and words, but real communication between speakers.

To achieve these goals, you have to engage in as many communicative exchanges as possible.

The course will give you ample opportunity to do so: in the group or with a partner, in direct interaction with me, in listening to dialogue between other native speakers on audiovisual media, in expressing your ideas in writing, and in understanding and discussing short texts.

- **The classroom interaction will be in German**, because input and use are the chief engines of foreign language acquisition.
- **Active and consistent classroom participation** is crucial to your success at acquiring the language. A language cannot be “crammed” in. So as to get the most out of this class, you need to constantly use and practice the language.
- **Outside the classroom**, you are expected—and will need to—spend at least 12 hours a week, which corresponds to two hours each day, doing your homework, and learning and practicing your grammar and vocabulary.
- Make sure to always bring a **hardcopy** of your written **homework** to class. Assignments need to be **double-spaced** and have **margins of about 3 cm** on each side for comments and corrections. You will have to compose **two versions** of each of the longer written assignments. Based on your instructor’s feedback on version one, you’ll have to correct your essay and thereby improve your first grade by half a grade. Example: if your first essay version received a B+ your corrected second version will receive an A-. The second grade will count toward your final grade.
- **Essays that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example).** Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks

of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

The learning goals of this beginner's class A1 are in accordance with the **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment** (abbreviated as CEFR). CEFR is a guideline used to describe achievements of learners of foreign languages across Europe. It describes what a learner is supposed to be able to do in reading, listening, speaking and writing at each level. Our class fulfills the requirements of the "A1 Breakthrough or beginner" level. What this means is that once you have completed the class successfully you are able to

- understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type
- introduce yourself and others and ask and answer questions about personal details such as where you live, people you know and things you have
- interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.

Attendance

- You will be allowed no more than three absences during the semester. Repeated **lateness** also counts as an absence.

- Each **additional absence** will **lower your final grade** by half a point (i.e. if your final grade is a B, and you have missed five classes and/or been late repeatedly you will be downgraded to a C)

- Six absences and more will result in automatic **failure** of the course

- If you have any **medical issues** or other concerns that could impact your compliance with these regulations, you need to inform your instructor during the first week of the semester. For information on disability accommodation, you should consult with Anke Sharma, Student Affairs Officer, a.sharma@berlin.bard.edu.

The process for applying for disability accommodation is explained in the Student Handbook with links to the forms here: <http://www.berlin.bard.edu/for-students/student-handbook/policies-and-regulations/#c4206>

Please be punctual and considerate. Switch off your cell phones before each class (including the vibration setting). If you are texting, emailing, surfing the web – you are considered absent! Also please keep bathroom breaks to a minimum. Interruptions are bad for everybody's concentration and impolite.

Course Materials

Schritte Plus **NEU** 1 (A1.1). Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch.

ISBN 978-3-19-301081-0

15,49 €

Schritte PLUS **NEU** 2 (A1.2). Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch.

ISBN 978-3-19-601081-7

15,49 €

Note:

You will have to order and purchase the books.

The book for the A1 level is divided into two parts (A1= A1.1 + A1.2). Please buy both books.

It has to be Schritte plus **Neu**. Please don't buy older versions (**ISBN !**).

Recommendation

I strongly encourage you to make use of the language learning materials on the **Bard Center for Foreign Languages and Culture** website at <http://flcl.bard.edu/resources/german/>

If you are in for a challenge, you can tune in on

Deutsche Welle radio or TV at <http://www.dw-world.de/> and

Info Radio at http://www.inforadio.de/livestream/inforadio_hoeren.html

Learning and Testing

About every two weeks, you will take **a test of the "Chapter" you have studied** (the exact test date will be announced by me at least two classes in advance).

The tests must be taken on the announced test days. The only acceptable means of rescheduling a test are: (a) prior arrangements with me in the case of religious holidays, pressing personal or family matters, or (b) written notification from a doctor or from the Dean of ECLA of Bard following the absence. (Tests that are missed and not excused under these terms will not be rescheduled, and will receive a score of "0%".) In preparation for all tests and quizzes, you are expected to:

- make frequent use of the recordings (online available) and additional material of the book
- study the "Lernwortschatz" for each "Chapter" that you find in the back of the book

Final Exam: The final exam consists of four sections (grammar, reading comprehension, writing, listening test, oral test) that cover material from each chapter completed during the term. An "F" on the final exam results in automatic failure of the course, and you will need to retake your A1 class.

Grading

Your Grade will be based on class attendance, quality of participation, written homework assignments, and tests:

- Class Participation 25%
- Homework, Quizzes (announced or unannounced) 25%
- Chapter Tests 25%
- Final Exam 25%

Schedule of Classes

Each “Chapter” will always be accompanied by additional exercises. “Chapter” tests will take place about every two weeks.

This syllabus is subject to change. You are responsible throughout the semester for knowing what you have to do for each class.

Week 1 (Jan. 30 – Feb. 05)

Week 2 (Feb. 06 – Feb. 12)

Week 3 (Feb. 13 – Feb. 19)

Week 4 (Feb. 20 – Feb. 26)

Week 5 (Feb. 27 – Mar. 05)

Week 6 (Mar. 06- Mar. 12)

Week 7 (Mar. 13-Mar. 19)

Week 8 (Mar. 20-Mar. 26)

Week 09 (Mar. 27- Apr. 02)

Week 10 (Apr. 03-Apr. 09)

Spring Break

Week 11 (Apr. 18-Apr. 23)

Week 12 (Apr. 24- Apr.30)

Monday 01 May, Federal Holiday

Week 13 (Apr. 01-Apr. 07)

Week 14 (Apr. 08-Apr. 14) Review

Week 15 (Apr. 15-April 21) Completion Week

May 18 **Final Examination**