

GM151 German A2 (Group B)

Instructor: Ulrike Harnisch
Times: Monday, 10:45-12:15
Wednesday, 09:00-10:30
Friday, 09:00-10:30
Location: to be announced
Email: u.harnisch@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 small groups 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.

- **Most 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 A2 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 "A2 Waystage or elementary" level. What this means is that once you have completed the class successfully you are able to

- understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment).
- communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.
- describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

Attendance

Since interaction is critical for language learning, we take class attendance very seriously. Please note the following regulations:

- 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

Anne Buscha, Szilvia Szita: **Begegnungen A2+**, Integriertes Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch, Schubert-Verlag, ISBN 978-3-929526-89-9

24,50 Euro

fakultativ: **Glossar Englisch-Französisch-Spanisch**, ISBN 978-3-929526-91-2

9,90 Euro

Erich Kästner: **Das doppelte Lottchen**, Easy Readers, ISBN-10: 3126757243

7,99 Euro

Note:

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 Bard College Berlin 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 CD’s in the back of your Lehrbuch
- study the “Wortschatz” for each chapter that you find in your “Glossar” and your Lehrbuch

Final Exam: The final exam consists of five 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 A2 class.

Grading

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

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| • 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)	Chapter 1
Week 2 (Feb. 06 – Feb. 12)	Chapter 1
Week 3 (Feb. 13 – Feb. 19)	Chapter 1
Week 4 (Feb. 20 – Feb. 26)	Chapter 2
Week 5 (Feb. 27 – Mar. 05)	Chapter 2
Week 6 (Mar. 06– Mar. 12)	Chapter 3
Week 7 (Mar. 13 – Mar. 19)	Chapter 3
Week 8 (Mar. 20 – Mar. 26)	Chapter 4

Week 9 (Mar. 27– Apr. 02)	Chapter 4
Week 10 (Apr. 03 – Apr. 09)	Chapter 5
Spring Break	
Week 11 (Apr. 18 – Apr. 23)	Chapter 5
Week 12 (Apr. 24 –Apr. 30)	Chapter 6
Week 13 (May 01 – May 07)	Chapter 6
Week 14 (May 08– May 14)	Review
Week 15 (May 15- May 19)	Completion Week
May 18	Final Examination