
FG 201

Intermediate German I

U.S. Naval Academy

Course Description

The 200 level German courses are considered “beginner-intermediate” level classes and should expand the students’ capabilities in speaking, reading, writing, and listening comprehension, as well as introduce topics on German culture. All instructions and activities will be performed in German to the maximum extent practicable. Unless extra instruction is being provided by the instructor, the use of English in the classroom should be avoided. The course will include projects that are educational and entertaining. Classroom activities will be focused on student interaction and active, verbal participation.

This course has as its overarching goal the development of the students’ proficiency approximately to the level of A1/A2 according to the Common European Framework Reference (CEFR) for language proficiency.

Additionally, this course has the goal of building on grammar and vocabulary developed in FG101/102 in order to express oneself confidently and coherently in personal, familial, social and daily situations, and acquainting students with aspects of German society and culture.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course midshipmen will be able to:

- Communicate information written and verbally based on covered topics such as characteristics and personality, social interaction, media, travel, cultural life (art, music, theater, etc.) and free-time activities.
- Correctly employ present, past and future tenses.
- Understand and correctly use the four different grammatical cases in German.
- Read and understand informational texts at the A2 level on the CEFR scale (informational articles, short stories, weather, etc.).
- Demonstrate listening competency to understand conversations about subjects introduced in this course.
- Use technology to interact with the learning community and to pursue increasingly profound comprehension of media in German.

Instructor: Dr. Ines Martin

Fall 2018

MWF 3rd and 5th period

Room: 3rd period NI0215, 5th period NI0120

E-Mail: imartin@usna.edu

Office: Nimitz G078

EI: MWF 11-12 & by appointment

Materials

Anton, C., Barske, T., & McKinstry, M. (2017). *Sag Mal: An Introduction to German Language and Culture. 2nd Edition. Vista Higher Learning.*

Online Component: *Sag Mal. Student Activities Manual & Supersite. 2nd Edition. Vista Higher Learning.*

EI

In addition to my regular EI hours (see above), I am always available for EI by appointment. Just talk to me ☺!

Grade Distribution

15%

Participation

20%

Homework (includes vocab tests)

15 %

2 Comprehensive Exams (Weeks 5 & 10)

20%

Travel Guide (7 parts, incl. a presentation)

10%

Oral Final Exam

20%

Written Final Exam

Requirements

Participation – 15%

Participation in this class is very important because learning happens in in-class discussions and presentations and peer-to-peer interaction as well as through your assigned readings and writing assignments. When you come to class and participate actively, you will know, understand, and appreciate the material thoroughly. Participation will be assessed through your oral participation in partner, group, and class discussions, questions you ask, comments you have, or any other productive way you can contribute to the material. Failing to bring your book to class will reflect negatively on your participation grade.

Evaluation Guidelines for Participation

90-100 % You are well prepared, as demonstrated by your comments made in class; you are interested in and respect others' opinions; you ask and respond to questions; demonstrate knowledge of course materials; foster a vibrant intellectual community. You are genuinely engaged with the class.

80-89 % You are generally prepared, you make an effort to refer to readings and course topics; you are willing to participate in discussions in class.

70-79 % You only reluctantly participate in class activities and you are often unprepared; rarely practice critical thinking; do not demonstrate sufficient knowledge of course materials.

60-69 % You are not willing to participate in class activities and are unable to ask or answer questions; you are generally unprepared; demonstrate little knowledge of course materials.

0-59 % You are absent (physically or mentally), unprepared, or disruptive in class. [Sleeping, emailing, messaging, or spending time on facebook in class counts as being mentally absent.]

Homework – 20%

There will be daily homework. Homework in this course consists of Vista Supersite activities, grammar worksheets, and any other general assignments your instructor may assign. Homework assignments will be checked for completion and accuracy. Vista Supersite homework will not be accepted late, but the worst grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. Remember: it is your responsibility to ask your instructor, whenever you have a problem understanding and/or following directions for any part of the material covered in class or given to you as homework assignments.

There will be at least three announced and unannounced vocabulary tests throughout the semester. These will count for 5% of your homework grade.

Comprehensive Exams – 15%

Comprehensive Exams will cover grammar, vocabulary, and content from class and provide you, as a language learner, with immediate feedback on your progress and development in the course. They will assess listening, writing, and grammar skills. The first comprehensive exam will take place in Week 5 and cover course content up until Week 5. The second comprehensive exam will take place in Week 10 and cover course content from Week 5-10.

Travel Guide – 20%

Over the course of the semester you will complete a travel guide project, which consists of 7 parts. There will be several drafts with revisions and a final presentation in Week 14. You will receive more details on this project in the second week of the semester.

Final Exam – 30%

You will take a final exam that will consist of an oral exam (in pairs of 2 students – 10% of your final grade) and a written exam (20% of your final grade). The written exam will consist of the following tasks: listening, reading comprehension, grammar, and writing. The final exam will cover topics from the entire semester. Even though the oral exam will be held in pairs of 2 students, each student will receive an individual grade.

Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Collaboration:

As with any other course at USNA, academic integrity must be maintained at all times. This includes citing all references used, including when collaborating with other students or receiving tutoring inside or outside of USNA. Use of online dictionaries (such as Leo.org, en.pons.com/translate, linguee.de, etc.) is encouraged. **Use of online translation software (Google Translate, etc.) to translate whole thoughts, ideas, sentences and/or larger texts for use in any assignment is not allowed and will be considered a violation of academic integrity.** Academic dishonesty further includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating,
- plagiarizing,
- fabricating information,
- facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others (e.g., sharing an old exam),
- having unauthorized possession of exams,
- submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor (*submitting any work that has previously been submitted for credit (whether in high school or in college) is self-plagiarism*),
- or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Midshipmen don't lie. Midshipmen don't cheat. Midshipmen don't steal.

Collaboration:

Collaboration in class is highly encouraged, except during tests and exams. It is also highly encouraged when practicing outside of class, e.g. new vocabulary and pronunciation of words. One of the best ways to get better at speaking a new language is to speak in a non-stressful low stakes environment and you are encouraged to do so. However, it is in your best interest to complete homework assignments and other projects alone as each piece of this class builds on the last and tests and presentations will only increase in difficulty. If you collaborate with another individual outside of class, whether he/she is enrolled in German at USNA or not, you must cite this on your work that you turn in. If you have any questions whether or not it is ok to collaborate, please ask.

Classroom Behavior:

- The instructor and students will behave and treat each other with dignity and respect.
- We don't tolerate crude, sexually explicit or offensive jokes or remarks.
- We don't use profanity.
- Debates and critical analysis are good, personal attacks are not.
- We don't belittle people for asking questions or expressing opinions.
- You may have beverages in class, but no food or tobacco products. Clean your desk areas and remove your trash before you depart.
- I will get to know you by your first names; you can call me Dr. Martin or Dr. M. (This is how you will often interact with senior officers after you graduate.)

Use of Technology:

- Please take your phones out in the beginning of class and place them face down in front of you. Phones will remain face down until I tell you to use them for class. You do not need to use them for an online dictionary. If you don't know a word, use the glossary in your book or ask me!
 - If on any given day you have responsibilities or personal reasons why you need to check your phone or have it face up, let me know in the beginning of class.
- When you go to the restroom during class, your phone remains on your desk (again, unless you have informed me before class that you have a good reason why you need to take your phone to the bathroom with you!).
- Please leave laptops, iPads etc. in your book bags unless prompted to take them out. Languages classes aren't heavy note-taking classes and you will be able to keep up with paper and pencil 😊.

Semesterplan FG201

Woche	Tag	Datum	Unterrichtsstoff	Benotete Aufgaben*
1	Mo.	20.8.	Vorstellung	
	Mi.	22.8.	Syllabus, Aufgaben, Lernstandsbestimmung	
	Fr.	24.8.	Plagiarismus Übung, Kapitel 7	
2	Mo.	27.8.	Lektion 7A	
	Mi.	29.1.	Lektion 7A	
	Fr.	31.8.	Lektion 7A	
3	Mo.	3.9.	Labor Day - Kein Unterricht	
	Di.	4.9.	*Monday Schedule , Lektion 7A	
	Mi.	5.9.	Lektion 7A	Travel Guide (TG) Part #1
	Fr.	7.9.	Lektion 7B	
4	Mo.	10.9.	Lektion 7B	
	Mi.	12.9.	Lektion 7B	
	Fr.	14.9.	Lektion 7B	
5	Mo.	17.9.	Lektion 7B	TG #2
	Mi.	19.9.	Lektion 8B	
	Fr.	21.9.	Exam	Comprehensive Exam #1
6	Mo.	24.9.	Lektion 8B	
	Mi.	26.9.	Lektion 8B	
	Fr.	28.9.	Lektion 8B	TG #3
7	Mo.	1.10.	Lektion 9A	
	Mi.	3.10.	Sonderstunde zum Tag der Deutschen Einheit	
	Fr.	5.10.	Lektion 9A	
8	Mo.	8.10.	Columbus Day - Kein Unterricht	
	Mi.	10.10.	Lektion 9A	
	Fr.	12.10.	Lektion 9A	TG #4
9	Mo.	15.10.	Lektion 9A	
	Mi.	17.10.	Lektion 9B	
	Fr.	19.10.	Lektion 9B	
10	Mo.	22.10.	Lektion 9B	
	Mi.	24.10.	Lektion 9B	
	Fr.	26.10.	Exam	Comprehensive Exam #2
11	Mo.	29.10.	Lektion 10A	
	Mi.	31.10.	Lektion 10A	TG #5
	Fr.	2.11.	Lektion 10A	
12	Mo.	5.11.	Lektion 10A	
	Mi.	7.11.	Lektion 10B	
	Fr.	9.11.	Lektion 10B	TG #6
13	Mo.	12.11.	Veterans Day - Kein Unterricht	
	Mi.	14.11.	Lektion 10B	
	Fr.	16.11.	Lektion 10B	
14	Mo.	19.11.	Landeskunde	Reiseführer Presentations; TG #7 due
	Mi.	21.11.	Landeskunde	Reiseführer Presentations
	Fr.	23.11.	Thanksgiving - Kein Unterricht	
15	Mo.	26.11.	Review for Final Exam	
	Mi.	28.11.	Review for Final Exam	
	Fr.	30.11.	Weihnachten in Deutschland	
16	Mo.	3.12.	Oral Exams (during regular class time)	
	Mi.	5.12.		
17	TBD	TBD	FINAL EXAM	

*all work is due at 7am (not at the beginning of class)

Homework will be due every day as assigned.

Vocabulary Tests will be announced **and** unannounced.

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Reiseführer – Travel Guide

For this semester-long project, you will create a travel guide for a German, Austrian, or Swiss city.

Part 1 (150 points) – due on Blackboard Wed, Sep 5th

For the first part of the travel project, you will choose a city in Germany, Austria, or Switzerland. (Maybe you have ancestors in this city, maybe it has great history, maybe you just always wanted to visit...?)

Write a short essay about your city, addressing the following questions:

- Wie viele Leute wohnen in dieser Stadt? (How many people live in this town/city?)
- Wo liegt sie in Deutschland, der Schweiz oder Österreich? (Where is this city in Germany, Switzerland or Austria?)
- Warum haben Sie diese Stadt gewählt? (Why did you choose this town/city?)
- Ist die Stadt für etwas berühmt? (Is this town/city known for something in particular?)
- Was sind die Dinge, die man in Ihrer Stadt machen kann? (What kinds of things can one do in your town/city?)
- Plus anything else you want to mention about your city.

You should write at least 10 sentences. Save your essay with the following name: “YOURNAME_Part1”, e.g., “MARTIN_Part1” and upload it to the Assignment on Blackboard. Only Word Documents will be accepted!

Part 2 (100 points) – due on Blackboard Mon, Sep 17th

Use my feedback and the correction key to make corrections to your essay. We will practice how to use the correction key in class. Save your essay with the following name: “YOURNAME_Part1_Corrected” and upload it to the Part 2 Assignment on Blackboard. Only Word Documents will be accepted!

Part 3 (150 points) – due on Blackboard Fri, Sep 28th

For the next part of your essay, find 2-3 photos of attractions or of places/buildings/people in your town that are historically significant. Describe them and explain their history in relation to the city.

The following questions can help guide your essay:

- Wer hat dieses Gebäude/diesen Park/diese Straße gebaut? (Who built this building/park/street?)
- Wann hat man das Gebäude/den Park/die Straße gebaut? (When was it built?)
- Warum sind diese Dinge wichtig/historisch? (Why is this item/attraction/person important/historic?)
- Warum ist Ihnen dieses Erlebnis wichtig? (Why is this experience important to you?)
- Was ist die Geschichte der Fotos? (What is the history behind the photo?)

Copy and paste the pictures in the Word document and write at least 10 sentences (total, not per photo).

Use the past tense for this part of the essay! You can use the *Perfekt* or the *Präteritum*.

But be careful to use **active voice**. You have not learned passive voice in German yet! Passive voice is when your sentence does not state who or what is doing the thing described in your sentence.

For example:

- **PASSIVE:** *The building was built in 1920.* (Notice that whoever built the building is not mentioned in this sentence.)
- **ACTIVE:** *John Smith built the building in 1920.* (A specific person built the building in this sentence.)
The city built the building in 1920. (An entity built the building in this sentence.)

In both active voice examples, there is an agent; that is, someone or something that actually performed the action of building. Since we have not yet learned the passive voice, please make sure you always have this person or thing that does the action. If you use the passive voice, I have to assume that you used translation software which counts as academic dishonesty (see syllabus!). If you have questions, please ask me before you turn in your assignment.

Save your essay with the following name: “YOURNAME_Part3” and upload it to Assignment 3 on Blackboard. Only Word Documents will be accepted!

Part 4 (100 points) – due on Blackboard Fri, Oct 12th

Use my feedback and the correction key to make corrections to your essay. Save your essay with the following name: “YOURNAME_Part3_Corrected” and upload it to Assignment 4 on Blackboard. Word Documents only!

Part 5 (150 points) – due on Blackboard Wed, Oct 31st

For this last part of your travel guide, you are asked to imagine that you show the city to a friend. Say what you would show them, what you would do, what you would eat and drink, where you would party etc.

Use the Konjunktiv II! → *For example: Wenn du mich in Frankfurt besuchen würdest, würden wir die Europäische Zentralbank besichtigen. Dann würden wir am Main spazieren gehen und ein Bier trinken.*

Write at least 10 sentences. Save your essay with the following name: “YOURNAME_Part5” and upload it to Assignment 5 on Blackboard. Only Word Documents will be accepted!

Part 6 (100 points) - due on Blackboard Fri, Nov 9th

Use my feedback and the correction key to make corrections to your essay. Save your essay with the following name: “YOURNAME_Part5_Corrected” and upload it to Assignment 6 on Blackboard. Word Documents only!

Part 7 (250 points) – due in class and on Blackboard, Mon, Nov 19th

7A (100 points) Travel Guide Portfolio: Use all corrected corrections (yes, you will receive corrections on the corrections you submitted... that’s how academic writing works...) of your 3 essay parts and put them together in one Word Document. Upload it to Assignment 7 on Blackboard with the file name “YOURNAME_Part7”. (→This can be an easy A if you have done all work throughout the semester. Nothing new to add!).

7B (150 points) Presentation: Give a 2-4 mins presentation on your city using Microsoft PowerPoint. You can use the information that you found for your travel guide, but you cannot simply read your Travel Guide out loud. Make it interesting! Convince us to travel to your city! The more convincing and dazzling your presentation is, the better your grade will be!

Presentations will be scheduled during Week 14 of the semester (i.e., Monday + Wednesday before Thanksgiving).