

Intensive Elementary German I+II – S1121



Essential Info

Instructor: Dr. Silja Weber, svw2108@columbia.edu

Office: HH 404A, drop-in hours after class or by appointment

Class times: M, T, W, H 11am-3:10pm

Session A: May 23-July 1

- **Please note that we have class on Friday, June 3** (make-up day for May 30).

Required books (bookstore or tablet version online):

- DaF kompakt neu A1 Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch ISBN 9783126763134
- DaF kompakt neu A2 Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch ISBN 9783126763141

Recommended (second-hand is fine):

- Essential Grammar of German, ISBN 9783192015755
- OR English Grammar for students of German, ISBN 9780934034388

Course description

The course is equivalent to UN1101 and UN1102, the first two semesters of the German language sequence. We will work on understanding, speaking, reading, and writing German across a range of subjects: family activities, studies, work and home life, as well as travel, economics, and current events. The class is conducted in German and supplemented with homework and audiovisual materials. Come prepared to talk, experiment, and find your place in the community of people who speak German.

Course Goals

If you complete S1121 with a grade of B- or better (including the final exam), you should be able to

- express basic information in German about themselves, families, interests, likes and dislikes, daily activities;
- understand and participate in a simple conversation on everyday topics (e.g., weather, meeting people, school, shopping, etc.);
- read edited German texts on familiar topics, understand the main ideas, and pick out important information from unedited German texts (e.g., menus, signs, train schedules, workshop programs, etc.);
- fill in forms requesting information, write letters, notes, post cards, or messages providing simple information;
- express information about German-speaking countries and your own (e.g., geography, weather, du/Sie distinction, customs);
- use and understand a range of essential vocabulary related to everyday life (e.g., days of the week, colors, numbers, months, seasons, telling time, foods, names of stores, family, common objects, transportation, etc.), and
- pronounce German well enough and produce German with enough grammatical accuracy to be comprehensible to a German speaker accustomed to speaking with non-natives.

Course Requirements

- **Be present:** One day equals one week of classes in a regular semester course.
- **Be engaged:** Your participation is essential to our learning as a group. Mistakes are an essential part of the learning process, don't let them stop you!
- **Ask questions:** You will get much more out of the course. All questions are welcome.
- **Do assigned work thoroughly and consistently:** homework assignments (written and oral), review and vocabulary study, chapter tests, and a final on the last day of class (July 3, 2019).
- **Any questions or concerns, talk to me** – since time flies in this class, the earlier the better.

Grading

Participation (preparation, active listening, team work, and active engagement)	25%
Writing assignments (5)	15%
Weekly tests (5)	15%
Presentations (3)	10%
Homework / Practice assignments	20%
Final Exam	15%

Perspectives and Policies

Learning preferences and accommodations

We acknowledge in our courses that people learn in different ways. For example, having visuals to support text may work better for some students, whereas others learn better by listening to the instructor. Please talk to your instructor about your learning preferences, so we can make the course work as well as possible for everyone. If you have, or suspect, a disability of any kind, please be sure to contact the office of disabilities (see link below) so that accommodations can be put in place. The earlier we know about it the better it will work.

Academic, Mental, and Physical Support

Student life can get very intense. If you feel that you need help in any way, please don't wait but act immediately. Let your instructor know that you are struggling. Most importantly, contact your Dean/Advisor so they can help you. In addition, visit Columbia's/Barnard's websites to know what services are available to you: <https://health.columbia.edu/services/ods> and <https://www.barnard.edu/health>

German Grammatical Gender

Nouns in German have a gender (masculine, feminine, or neuter) that often does not obey any apparent logic. The German language also assigns humans a gender, and German is not special for having a rigid binary gender system. Pervasive gender normativity is reflected in our use of language, and language instruction is one of the spaces in which such traditional structures are reinforced. At Columbia and Barnard, we strive to be respectful and inclusive. Whereas we still need to learn language in its normative form, I encourage you to be aware of the implications of such norms and to be attentive to your classmates' and instructors' desires. Please contact your instructor right away should you have any preferred name and/or preferred pronoun by which you would like to be addressed. Although there are limitations to what the language allows grammatically, the German Department faculty and staff are committed to finding solutions that work for everyone.

German Studies

Direct questions about language courses German at Columbia to Jutta Schmiers-Heller, 402 Hamilton Hall, x44824 (js2331@columbia.edu); Barnard students contact Irene Motyl, 320c Millbank Hall, x44287 (imotyl@barnard.edu). To major or concentrate in German, contact Prof. Dorothea von Mücke, 410 Hamilton Hall, x41891 (dev1@columbia.edu). For further information on the department, go to: <https://germanic.columbia.edu>

Deutsches Haus

(420 W. 116 St.) is a center for academic, cultural, and social exchange. Programs and events include lectures, films, conferences, recitals, art exhibits, and gatherings like the biweekly Kaffeestunde. All levels of German students are encouraged to attend events which provide students with a great opportunity to practice speaking German. Visit [Deutsches Haus](#) online for details.

Course Plan (Any changes after the beginning of the course will be discussed in class.)

Week 1 (May 23 – May 27)

Day	Topics, chapter	Due (major assignments)
Montag, 23. Mai	Chapter 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to the course • Alphabet, numbers, pronunciation • Classroom instructions • Countries, introducing yourself 	Buy the books!
Dienstag, 24. Mai	Chapter 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families and friends • Basic restaurant vocabulary • Articles • Present tense 	Every day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review vocabulary • Practice phrasing and pronunciation • Assignments given in class
Mittwoch, 25. Mai	Chapter 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student life and appointments • Weather and weekend activities • Basic past tense • Intro to Case 	
Donnerstag, 26. Mai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review • Reading strategies and a poem • Beginning the first writing assignment 	

Week 2 (May 31 – June 3)

Day	Topics, chapter	Due
Dienstag, 31. Mai	Chapter 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs • Appointments and formal email conventions • Dates and months • Modal verbs and a poem 	Test 1 (Ch. 1-3) Writing Assignment 1 Draft
Mittwoch, 1. Juni	Chapter 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobbies and sport • Irregular present tense • Perfect tense for regular verbs 	
Donnerstag, 2. Juni	Chapter 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apartments and furniture • Giving locations • Perfect tense for irregular verbs • Word order for objects 	Short presentation: Hobbys or academic interests
Freitag, 3. Juni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review • Vocabulary work • Reading strategies • Yoko Tawada: Wortstellung • Film clip 	Writing Assignment 1

Week 3 (June 6-9)

Day	Topics, chapter	Due
Montag, 6. Juni	Chapter 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colors and clothes • Imperatives • Polite requests • Suggestions 	Test 2 (Ch. 4-6) Writing Assignment 2 Draft
Dienstag, 7. Juni	Chapter 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sightseeing and orientation • Transportation • Directions and locations • Art and artists 	
Mittwoch, 8. Juni	Chapter 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrations and graduation • Adjective endings with ein-words • Word order for pronoun objects • Schnitzeljagd / Orientation game 	
Donnerstag, 9. Juni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review • Vocabulary work • Reading strategies • Film clip 	Writing Assignment 2 Presentation: Artists

Week 4 (June 13 – June 16)

Day	Topics, chapter	Due
Montag, 13. Juni	Chapter 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking for an apartment • Comparisons • Prepositions and case 	Test 3 (Ch. 7-9) Writing Assignment 3 Draft
Dienstag, 14. Juni	Chapter 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning your studies, study abroad • Activities in town • Conditions and reasons • Reflexive verbs • Adjective endings for all contexts 	
Mittwoch, 15. Juni	Chapter 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money, shopping, and banks • Simple past tense for regular verbs • Dative verbs • Intro: Fairy tales 	
Donnerstag, 26. Juni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review • German fairy tales • Kafka: Three Parables • “Im Juli” (2010) - Intro 	Writing Assignment 3

Week 5 (June 20 – June 23)

Day	Topics, chapter	Due
Montag, 20. Juni	Chapter 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Temporal clauses • Modal verbs Part 2 • Im Juli ctd. 	Test 4 (Ch. 10-12) Script Draft
Dienstag, 21. Juni	Chapter 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekend planning • Clothing and shopping • Im Juli ctd. • Passive voice 	
Mittwoch, 22. Juni	Chapter 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festivals and things to see • Directions (word order) • Im Juli ctd. • Indirect questions 	
Donnerstag, 23. Juni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review • Im Juli ctd. • Genitive 	Script Final Version Presentation: Role Plays Individual presentations (2)

Week 6 (June 27 – June 30)

Day	Topics, chapter	Due
Montag, 27. Juni	Chapter 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational system and job training • Future Tense • Im Juli ctd. • Relative clauses 	Test 5 (Ch. 13-15) Individual presentations (2)
Dienstag, 28. Juni	Chapter 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resumes and job interviews • Im Juli ctd. • Word order • May Ayim: blues in schwarzweiß 	Individual presentations (2)
Mittwoch, 29. Juni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review • Wrap up • Final 	
Donnerstag, 30. Juni		Final Reflection