



Advanced German 3001 – Herbst 2025



Advanced German V3001 Fall 2025

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Meeting times: MW 11:40-12:55
Meeting Place: TBA
Office hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Let's get to know Berlin from the vantage point of a Columbia German-language classroom. Even if we can't smell Berlin's legendary air, we can gain insight into the city's history and atmosphere, its location in Germany and Europe, explore Berlin's Bezirke and Kieze, as well as get an idea of what's happening now in Berlin. We'll experience Berlin through literature, film, music, art, and news. What better way to prepare for a visit to the capital city of Germany, for study at Berlin's Freie Universität, or for an internship at one of its institutions?

PREREQUISITES

UN2102 or placement. Please note that if you have prior German outside of Columbia's language sequence, the German placement test is required in order to find the best placement for you in our program.

TEXTS

We will be working with excerpts from these sources. Scans will be made available in Canvas:

Berliner Geheimnisse, Eva-Maria Bast und Jochen Stoltenberg, Berliner Morgenpost, 2018.

Tagebuch einer Busfahrerin, Boesler, Antje, 2023

Berlin Kiez für Kiez, Julia Brodauf (Editor), 2018.

Das Fest („Anne“, 71-91), Lucy Fricke, 2024

Stasiland: Stories From Behind the Walls, Anna Funder, 2011.

Haltet Euer Herz bereit, Maxim Leo, 2011.

Berlin zum Verweilen, Ralf Nestmeyer (Editor), 2020.

Berliner Böse Weiber, Sylvia Wage, 2021

Recommended Texts:

Langenscheidt Großwörterbuch Deutsch als Fremdsprache

[Online Version: de.thefreedictionary.com]

A good bilingual dictionary.



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COURSE GOALS

German UN3001 is an socio-cultural exploration of Berlin that includes 1) Communicating in German in a cooperative environment, i.e., working with partners and in teams; 2) Getting to know Berlin through various media, such as internet, film, and literature; 3) Engaging with cultural diversity in Berlin's multi-cultural neighborhoods; 4) Reflecting upon Berlin's recent past; 5) Looking at Berlin and its location within Europe; 6) Developing your own Berlin experience and presenting your interests in various forms, such as presentations, various writing assignments (for example, an essay, padlet assignments, an application); and 7) Each student will create a portfolio to document their learning process. Advanced German I provides the chance to experience Berlin within a media-supported, communicative-language environment and is a gateway to majoring or concentrating in German at Columbia. The course provides ample opportunities for interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational communication in German.

GOALS FOR LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:

- 1) Increase ease in reading not only of short, thematically related German texts, but also a contemporary novel,
- 2) Develop interpretive skills needed for communicating questions, ideas, and opinions,
- 3) Build vocabulary and ability to define German words using German,
- 4) Deepen confidence of grammatical structures based on your needs,
- 5) Interact comfortably with authentic genre and forms of German media,
- 6) Strengthen both oral and written communication and the ability to engage in critical analysis,
- 7) Interact and collaborate with your peers in a productive, respectful and inclusive way.

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

This course is conducted in German. Come ready to experiment and contribute!

- You are expected to consistently and thoughtfully engage with class work from day one.
- You must be attending and caught up on class work by Friday, September 19.
- To continue to improve your German, it is crucial that we speak German in class as much as possible, whether as a whole class or in small groups and pairs.
- The more you engage and ask questions, the more you will learn. Engagement inside and outside of class is expected and counts significantly toward your grade.
- This course relies partly on portfolio assessment. Your Portfolio will help you track your progress and showcase your achievement. (more detailed instructions to follow in class)
- **Homework.** Homework is scheduled to align with the content in the class. Day to day homework affords further practice and is usually due before next class. Larger assignments have a bit more flexibility. If you are unclear about a requirement or an assignment, contact your instructor as soon as possible rather than waiting until it nears the deadline. **Late homework:** Homework must be submitted on time in the format requested (paper/electronic) in order to be graded as complete/full credit. You will lose 5% for each day it is late. After 10 days your homework will no longer be accepted.



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- **Attendance.** Your attendance at every class meeting is important. Frequent or extended absences impede development of oral/aural skills and will lower your grade or jeopardize your success in class. You will be allowed **three unexcused absences which will not affect your grade**. Each additional unexcused absence will result in lowering your final grade by 1%. Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to, work for other projects or courses and personal trips or events. If you cannot attend in person due to sickness, an unexpected family or personal matter, or a religious holiday, discuss strategies with your instructor ahead of time or as soon as possible to make up content. Be proactive. If you know you will be missing a class, it is your responsibility to let your instructor know in advance and arrange for any homework to be made up. Classes start promptly. Given the nature of language classes, it is essential that you be on time and that you do not disrupt the class by coming in late. If you have a prior commitment that is going to make you late on certain days, please let your instructor know. Please note that an accumulated 75/110 minutes of being late to class 5 minutes and above will result in an unexcused absence.
- **Device Policy.** The use of electronic devices, including but not limited to smartphones, tablet computers, and laptops, is generally prohibited during class sessions. While it is important to know how to use relevant permitted electronic resources as you learn the language, e.g. dictionaries, class time is limited and face-to-face interactions with peers and instructors are a priority. Your instructor will inform you in advance if this policy will be overridden for classroom activities supplemented with the use of a device.
- More detailed information on the course elements will be provided by your instructor throughout the course.

NOTE THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

The University will be closed on: November 4 (Academic Holiday) and 5 (Election Day), as well as November 26 (Academic Holiday), 27 (Thanksgiving), and 28 (Academic Holiday)

TASKS AND DEADLINES

[Deadlines for 2nd drafts or final versions will be announced – deadlines are subject to change based on need.]

#	Task (Aufgabe)	Deadline (Abgabetermin)
1.	Help create a vocabulary list in a shared google document.	All semester (online)
2.	Choose a Kiez for a Collaborative Project: a stroll through our Kiez.	September 17 Choose a Kiez Weeks 11-13: presentation
3.	Aufsatz (essay) on a Berlin related topic. 1st draft.	Choose your topic in week 6 on October 6. Draft due on October 28 (electronic submission)
5.	1st drafts of CV (Lebenslauf) und cover letter (Anschreiben)	November 5 (online)



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6.	Collaborative Projects - Presentation: A stroll through our Kiez	Weeks 11-13 (in-class presentations/discussion)
7.	Portfolio (posted online in Canvas - will contain final versions of all the work accomplished throughout semester and a final reflection)	Due on December 8
8.	Oral Interview (Vorstellungsgespräch – via Zoom)	After December 8 – details tba

OVERVIEW OF GRADE BREAKDOWN FOR COURSE

Task	% out 100%
Attendance and other Homework Preparation (including the vocabulary list, and homework that is schedule to align with the content of the class)	20%
Participation (engagement in-class and outside class, including informal communication projects and office hour check-ins)	20%
Collaborative Project on a Kiez	10%
Essay/Writing Sample (Aufsatz)	10%
CV (Lebenslauf)	10%
Cover Letter (Anschreiben)	10%
Oral Interview (Vorstellungsgespräch)	10%
Portfolio	10%

DEPARTMENTAL GRADING SCALE

Letter grade	A+*	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Numerical index	99.00+	94-98	90-93	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	65-69	64-

*Only for extraordinary performance across the board, no rounding up

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

As the **Columbia and Barnard Policy on Academic Integrity** makes clear, the work you submit in any class must be your own. Handing in work (homework, vocabulary lists, essays, etc.) that has been edited by a tutor or in any way authored or rewritten by someone other than you is not permitted. In a language class, this means that the common practices of asking someone to look over your work, using online grammar and translation tools (e.g., to translate half a sentence, a complete sentence and/or more), or using AI, are, unless otherwise indicated by your instructor, not permitted. It is crucial that all work is completed by you and reflects *your* competency in German. **The department has created grading mechanisms that minimize the impact of mistakes on your grade, but that will also impact your grade if you do use outside tools.** (Your instructor will share more detailed guidelines for specific assignments). If you feel you need tutoring, speak to your instructor or contact Jutta Schmiere-Heller at Columbia or Irene Motyl-Mudretzkyj for



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Barnard for permissible tutoring guidelines. Please also visit the following websites on academic integrity and the honor code:

<https://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/academicintegrity>

<http://www.college.columbia.edu/honorcode>

GENERAL TIPS

1. **Organization is everything** –Organize your electronic documents. Create a folder for your 3001 documents on your desktop and/or in canvas (courseworks.columbia.edu). Name your electronic documents in a way that will help you find them and identify them easily. ‘Essay 1’ is not the most helpful name. I will also require specific document names for tasks that will only be submitted electronically. **Please follow them.**
2. **Read homework instructions carefully and follow** them. Be sure to reach out if anything is unclear. I will bundle homework and important information in the Module section of Canvas, but also try to always create assignments.
3. **Be proactive and ask for help.** If anything is unclear, for example a homework assignment or in general, please ask or email me as soon as you can. Most likely, you are not alone. Don’t wait until after the deadline.
4. **Vocabulary Lists** – To build your vocabulary we will create a common vocabulary list and also write quizzes on them, but it’s a good idea to create your own vocabulary lists to increase your personal vocabulary.
5. **Grammar** – If you have specific grammar topics you would like to review – please let me know and I’ll work it into the course.

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, so please take care of yourself. 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. Our goal is to create a culture of empathy and care in our class community, and we believe such a culture builds upon consistent engagement and clear communication. We will try to create channels for these and model expectations, but we will also rely on you to help build our community and provide feedback so that we can make adjustments when needed. 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://www.health.columbia.edu>

<https://barnard.edu/health-wellness/student-health>



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<https://covid19.columbia.edu>

<https://thefoodpantry.studentgroups.columbia.edu>

<https://cc-seas.financialaid.columbia.edu/deans-fund>

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**. For questions about German major, minor, and concentration (before FA24), contact **Prof. Annie Pfeifer**, 415 Hamilton Hall, x4320 (ap750@columbia.edu). Barnard students should contact **Irene Motyl-Mudretzkyj**, 320 Milbank Hall (imotyl@barnard.edu).

DEPARTMENTAL ONLINE PRESENCE

Webpage: <https://germanic.columbia.edu> | <https://german.barnard.edu>.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cugermanic/>

X: @CUGermanic

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CUGermanic>




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 Kaffeestunde. All levels of German students are encouraged to attend events which provide students with a great opportunity to practice speaking German. <https://germanic.columbia.edu/deutsches-haus>.



Deutsch 3001 Semesterplan – Herbst 2025

[Subject to change based on our needs and ultimate size of group. The dates can be shifted if we have more time or need more time for a specific topic but this will be discussed and announced.]

WOCHE	MODULE UND THEMEN	ERKLÄRUNG
MODUL 1: ANKUNFT IN BERLIN (1. September ist frei: Labor Day)		
1. Woche 3. September	Ankunft im Kurs und in Berlin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kursteilnehmer kennenlernen - Kursüberblick 	Wir lernen uns kennen und definieren unsere Ziele im Hinblick auf Deutsch und Berlin.
2. Woche 8. und 10. September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Berlin kennenlernen: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Berlin im Überblick Berlin navigieren 	Wir bekommen einen ersten Eindruck von Berlin. (Geschichte, Bezirke, Kieze)
MODUL 2: BERLIN UND BILDUNG		
3. -4. Woche 15. und 17. September 22. und 24. September	Fokus Film – Doku:  Berlins Universitäten und Hochschulen 	Ende 3. Woche: Studierende wählen ein Thema für ein kollaboratives Projekt bis zum 18. September. (Präsentationen in Wochen 11-14) Kurzer ein Blick in das Schulsystem. Wir arbeiten mit der Doku(mentation) <i>Berlin Rebel High School</i> . Sie berichtet über eine ungewöhnliche Schule in Berlin, der SfE (Schule für Erwachsenenbildung), die jungen Erwachsenen, die mit dem traditionellen Schulsystem Probleme hatten, ermöglicht das Abitur zu machen. Wir diskutieren die Schule und ihre Menschen, das deutsche Schulsystem und vieles Anderes. Berlins Unis Wir werden uns detaillierter mit Berlins Universitäten und ihrem akademischen Angebot beschäftigen. Wir wollen auch sehen, wie Ihre persönlichen akademischen Interessen in den Unis reflektiert sind.
MODUL 3: Standort Berlin (7. Oktober: Last day to drop a class)		
5. und 6. Woche 29. Sept. und 1. Okt. 6. und 8. Oktober		Am 8. Oktober: Thema für den Aufsatz wählen. Bitte merken: Abgabetermin für den 1. Entwurf ist der 27. Oktober. Wir erforschen Berlin als Standort in Deutschland und auch in Europa. Kollaborative Arbeit – Gruppenprojekte im Unterricht.
MODUL 4: PRAKTIKUM IN BERLIN (16. Oktober: Official Midterm Date)		
7. und 8. Woche	Praktikum in Berlin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CV 	Wir arbeiten mit einer Webseite, die Tipps zur Bewerbung auf Praktika gibt. In diesem Kontext wählen



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13. und 15. 20. und 22. Oktober	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anschreiben - Vorstellungsgespräch 	Sie einen Praktikumsplatz, schreiben einen deutschen Lebenslauf und ein Anschreiben und am Ende des Semesters werden Sie ein Vorstellungsgespräch haben. Bitte merken: Abgabetermin für Lebenslauf und Anschreiben Entwürfe ist der 6. November.
MODUL 5: UM DIE BERLINER MAUER		
9 und 10. Woche 27. und 29. Oktober 5. Nov. 3. und 4. 11: frei Wahntag	Der Fall der Berliner Mauer 35 Jahre Fall der Mauer 	Am 9. November 1989, also vor 35 Jahren, fiel die Mauer. Wir werden den Tag und Ereignisse und Geschichte um die Mauer erforschen. Wie es passt, lesen wir Auszüge aus Anna Funders <i>Stasiland</i> , Maxim Leos <i>Haltet Euer Herz bereit</i> und <i>Berliner Geheimnissen</i> . Abgabetermin für Lebenslauf und Anschreiben Entwürfe ist der 5. November.
MODUL 6: BERLIN ZUM VERWEILEN		
11. – 13. Woche 10. und 12. 17. und 10. 24. November 26-28. November frei Thanks- giving	Fokus Literatur: <i>Tagebuch einer Busfahrerin</i> <i>Das Fest</i> <i>Berlin Böse Weiber</i> <i>Berlin zum Verweilen</i> und Präsentationen Kiez Projekte	Wir arbeiten mit einer Auswahl von Exzerpten dieser Texte: <i>Tagebuch einer Busfahrerin</i> <i>Das Fest</i> <i>Berlin Böse Weiber</i> <i>Berlin zum Verweilen</i> - 1. Alfred Döblin: Berlin Alexanderplatz 5. Thomas Brussig: Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee 6. Tiemo Rink: Als Major Tom in Schöneberg lebte Kollaborative Projekte: Präsentationen und Diskussion in diesen Wochen
MODUL 7: ENDSPURT		
14./15. Woche 1. und 2. und 8. Dezember	Portfolios und Auswertung des Lernprozesses im Berlin-Kurs	Die letzten 3 Tage nutzen wir um die Portfolios zu beenden und an den Vorstellungsgesprächen zu arbeiten. Die Vorstellungsgespräche finden nach dem letzten Kurstag statt und dauern ca. 15 Minuten pro Person. Portfolios müssen am Montag, dem 9. Dezember, fertig sein.