



UN2102 Course Introduction

An online version of this syllabus can be found under:
<https://germanic.columbia.edu>

Section	Instructor	Daytime/Location
UN2102-001	Michael Watzka	MTR 1:10-2:25 pm TBA
UN2102-002	Simona Vaidean	TR 6:10-8:00 pm TBA

German language students are expected to attend and complete class work from day one of class. Students **MUST BE ATTENDANCE** and have completed all course work for weeks one and two at very latest Thurs. September 12 for 2-day classes or Fri. September 13 for 3-day classes. There will be **NO NEW ADMITS** to German language classes in Week 3 of the Semester!

Lehrwerk: *Anders gedacht*. Motyl, Späinghaus, **Text and Workbook** 2013.
(Columbia Book Store / Book Culture)



Empfohlen: *Langenscheidts Großwörterbuch Deutsch als Fremdsprache*. Götz et al, Herausgeber. Berlin und München: Langenscheidt, 2007.

Course Goals: German 2102 is conducted entirely in German and emphasizes the four basic language skills plus cultural awareness. We have a very ambitious agenda, which targets:

Speaking in a variety of modes

- actively participating in a broad range of structures and vocabulary
- answering and asking questions
- circumlocution: defining/describing when exact words fail
- acting (in self-written or other) skits and role playing
- responding to and formulating personalized questions
- negotiating and communicating in German

Reading for a variety of purposes

- gathering information
- establishing general ideas
- making generalizations

- sequencing events
- interpreting information (factual and fictional)
- completing a German play; retelling and interpreting major theme

Hearing/understanding

- instructor and peers,
- audio and video segments
- feature film episode

Writing

- exercises (from recombination and copying to open-ended creative writing)
- communicative activities: making lists, taking notes, writing memos, etc.
- four topical essays (graded holistically)

Cultural awareness

- deeper interest in German language and in the culture of German-speaking countries
- sensitivity to issues and problems of contemporary life in German-speaking countries
- familiarity with recent political events in German-speaking countries
- increased awareness of cultural diversity in general
- preparedness for those interested in studying at the Freie Universität Berlin
- viewing art exhibitions related to the culture of German-speaking countries

Meta-cognitive skills: Awareness of the language learning process

- Formulating individual strategies
- Formulating individual goals and reflecting on them in the course of the semester

By the end of the semester, if you have attended all classes, completed all written and listening assignments successfully, and received at least a B-grade on all exams, you should be able to:

- speak and understand German well enough to converse comfortably with a German speaker (accustomed to dealing with non-natives) about yourself, your family, interests, daily activities, and topics of general interest;
- read and understand the main ideas and most important supporting details of a variety of authentic and edited texts of varied length (e.g. brief newspaper articles, descriptions, summaries, poems, short stories) and be able to locate specific information in such texts;
- write reasonably coherent and grammatically appropriate texts (e.g. letters, notes, summaries, and descriptions) related to everyday topics, experiences, and class readings;
- understand and grasp the main ideas of spoken German in straightforward formal oral texts (e.g. announcements, weather reports, commercials), as well as conversations and discussions of familiar topics;
- understand and grasp the main ideas of a variety of videos and film clips intended for native-speaker audience. demonstrate mastery of major grammatical concepts and usage of the 75 high frequency verbs (in present, past and future tenses in both active and passive voice; as well as in the subjunctive mood).

For further information, contact [Jutta Schmiers-Heller](mailto:js2331@columbia.edu) (js2331@columbia.edu) or [Irene Motyl](mailto:imotyl@barnard.edu). (imotyl@barnard.edu).

Course Policies and Requirements:

German language students are expected to attend and complete class work from day one of class. Students MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE and have completed all course work for weeks one and two at very latest Thurs. September 14 for 2-day classes or Fri. September 15 for 3-day classes. There will be NO NEW ADMITS to German language classes in Week 3 of the Semester!

1. Attendance, preparation and participation and quizzes
2. Three essays (300 words)
3. One oral presentation
4. Collaborative work on wiki / media / creative project
5. One presentation of a group project
6. Portfolio
7. Oral final interview

Portfolio:

The central feature of Portfolios is that samples of evidence demonstrate the progress you make toward self-defined objectives whose attainment requires creativity, self-discipline and inter-disciplinarity.

In the course of the semester students will be expected to **compile a Portfolio** which will consist of essays, poems, skits, and other forms of creative writing, taped poems/songs written by the individual student, and a final project.

At the end of the semester your Portfolio should contain:

Two essays; one poem or song text; a good, clear outline of your oral presentation or final project; sample writing (of your choice) of a text by a German author; your individual vocabulary list (@30 entries per topic) and a self-evaluation. Each of these items should also be accompanied by a brief reflection upon how and why you chose these documents to be in your portfolio, how they were created, and in what capacity they document your learning experience.

This course is conducted in German. The rapid pace of the course requires all students to attend class and be prepared to participate actively in German every day. Homework, individual and partner activities, quizzes, writing assignments will be routine from day one; be prepared to work about two hours out of class for every hour in class.

Class attendance is a formal component of the grade. Frequent or extended absences impede development of oral/aural skills and directly influence in-class performance. **Any student who misses class (for any reason) should inform the instructor in advance, as well as make up, and hand in all work.** No grade will be awarded for late work, but work will be corrected as part of the student's overall record. Regular attendance is absolutely necessary in language classes. Missed deadlines count as zero. **More than one week of absence automatically lowers the grade for classwork. Excused absences require a note from the student's class dean.** If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what material was covered during your absence and to keep up with the current assignments and classroom materials. **DO NOT MISS CLASS!**

Columbia and Barnard policy on academic integrity forbids students to hand 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 the student. All work must be completed by the student him/herself and reflect the student's personal language level. No credit will be awarded for work that you did not complete yourself! **Extensive use (= translation of a sentence and/or more) of a translation tool such as Google translate violates academic integrity.** If you feel you need tutoring, speak to your instructor or contact Jutta Schmiers-Heller (js2331) at Columbia or Irene Motyl-Mudretzkyj (imudretz@barnard.edu) for Barnard for permissible tutoring guidelines.

Essays: Students are required to write original, coherent essays (approximately 250-300 words each) on three assigned topic using vocabulary (from personal lists and from the textbook) and structures already learned and practiced in class. The essays are intended as tools to demonstrate how well you have learned to communicate using what you know. Under no circumstances should tutors or German speakers edit or author your work. You will have an opportunity to write each essay twice and be graded on 1. comprehensibility, 2. quality of the content/information, 3) your use of vocabulary appropriate to the topic and level, and 4. grammatical accuracy. When you write your second version, you will be expected to incorporate your instructor's feedback on content and accuracy. **In order to evaluate how well you can write in German only with the use of hardcopy dictionary, the first essay will be an in-class assignment. The remaining essays will be written outside of class. If the deadline for the first essay version is missed, the student loses his/her chance to rewrite the essay and the first version will be graded. Essays that were not written by the student will not receive a grade. (Please refer back to Columbia's and Barnard's policy on integrity as well as the use of translation programs (see above).**

Attendance, preparation and participation and quizzes = 20% and/or 30% of final grade (individual instructors may include web-based projects as 10% of this total).*

Grading:	
Class preparation and participation	10%
Homework and quizzes (late submissions = 0)	10%
Vocabulary lists	10%
Three essays + reflections	25%
Oral presentation / Final project	10%
*Wiki / Media / Creative project	10%
Final oral interview	10%
Portfolio including representative work (essays, vocabulary lists, outlines of oral presentation / project + reflections on each of these + self-evaluation of learning process in course	15%
Missing more than one-week's worth of classes automatically lowers the overall course grade.	

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**, 403A Hamilton Hall, x44824 (js2331@columbia.edu); Barnard students contact **Irene Motyl-Mudretzkyj**, 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/> or <https://german.barnard.edu>.

Deutsches Haus:

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 weekly 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](#).

UN2102 Class Syllabus

Daten / Termine	Kommunikationsthema	Sprachliche Funktion
1. Woche (2. - 6. September)	Einheit 7 Bewegungen und Gegenbewegungen *Die 68er Bewegung	*Zweiteilige Konjunktionen *Adjektive mit Präpositional-Ergänzung
2. Woche (9. - 13. September) Friday, September 13 – last day to add a class.	*Hausbesetzungen	*Rektion der Nomen *Das Perfekt (Wiederholung)
3. Woche (16. – 21. September) (NO NEW ADMITS) Aufsatz I	* <i>Die RAF (Rote Armee Fraktion)</i>	*Funktionsverbgefüge (FVG)
4. Woche (23. – 27. September)	Einheit 5: Lola rennt: Ein Film der 90er Jahre * Arbeit mit dem Film	* Modalpartikeln * Wiederholung: Konjunktiv II
5. Woche	* Arbeit mit dem Film	* Anwendung und Vertiefung der

(30. September - 4. Oktober)	Reflexionen zum Film	erlernten Strukturen
6. Woche (7. -11. Oktober).	Einheit 8: Umgang mit der Vergangenheit * Aufarbeitung der Vergangenheit	* Infinitive mit <i>anstatt...zu</i> , <i>ohne...zu</i> , <i>um...zu</i> * Konjunktiv II der Vergangenheit * Temporale Konjunktionen vs. Präpositionen * Plusquamperfekt
7. Woche (14. - 18. Oktober) Aufsatz 2	* <i>Todesfuge</i> (Paul Celan) * Film: <i>Deutschland, bleiche Mutter</i>	* Neben- und unterordnende Konjunktionen * Adverbiale Konjunktionen
8. Woche (21. – 25. Oktober)	* Film: <i>Deutschland, bleiche Mutter</i>	* Doppelter Infinitiv * Konjunktionen <i>als</i> , <i>wenn</i> , <i>wann</i>
9. Woche (28. Oktober – 1. November)	Einheit 9: Kunst und Künstler / Anselm Kiefer *Werke von Anselm Kiefer	* Prädikative und attributive Adjektive * Partizip I und II als Adjektiv
10. Woche (4. – 8. November)	MONTAG/DIENSTAG – Academic Holiday/Wahntag KEIN KURS * Die deutsche Mythologie in den Bildern Anselm Kiefers * Die Rolle der Kunst heute	* Fortsetzung
11. Woche (11. – 15. November) AUFSATZ 3	Extensives Lesen Dürrenmatt: * Besuch der alten Dame	* Anwendung und Vertiefung der erlernten Strukturen
12. Woche (18. – 21. November)	* Besuch der alten Dam	* Anwendung und Vertiefung der erlernten Strukturen
13. Woche (25. -29. November)	* <i>Besuch der alten Dame</i> DONNERSTAG + FREITAG – THANKSGIVING + ACADEMIC HOLIDAY – KEIN KURS	* Anwendung und Vertiefung der erlernten Strukturen
14. Woche (2. – 6. Dezember)	* Präsentation der Schlussprojekte	* Anwendung und Vertiefung der erlernten Strukturen
15. Woche Montag, 19. Dezember	Letzter Tag für Montagskurse * Portfolio-Abgabe * Mündliche Interviews	(dates can vary from section to section)