

3001 - Advanced German: Berlin! Fall 2021



Course information

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

Drop in: 404A Hamilton Hall, Wednesday after class or by appt.

Course times: MW 11:40am-12:55pm

Required text: Brussig, T. *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*. Fischer Verlag. Feel free to buy where you wish - used okay, but keep to this edition so we can work with the same page numbers. ISBN 9783596148479. **You have to have the book by the end of October.**

Expectations for all participants

- **Enjoy yourself:** Find something fascinating about Berlin and share it with us. This is a serious academic course, but don't be afraid to laugh and experiment.
- **Be present:** We will be covering a lot of ground every day. Let me know if you can't make it; it affects lesson planning and makes it easier to get you caught up.
- **Be engaged:** Your participation, both in class and outside of it, is essential to our learning as a group. Mistakes are a crucial part of the learning process, since they show where your forming edge is. Don't let them stop you!
- **Be respectful:** We are a group of individuals with all kinds of backgrounds and life stories. Speak for yourself, and be ready to listen and learn from each other.
- **Ask questions:** We will all get more out of the course. All questions are welcome.
- **Do assigned work thoroughly and consistently:** There will be homework assignments (reading, written, and oral), review and vocabulary study, projects, and an oral interview. Look ahead and plan your time accordingly.
- **Any questions or concerns, talk to me** - time flies, so the earlier we work things out, the better the course will work for us all.

Course objectives

Explore Berlin from the vantage point of a Columbia German-language classroom! Even if you can't smell Berlin's legendary air, you can gain insight into the city's atmosphere, explore its neighborhoods (Kieze), and gain insights into what's happening now in Berlin and how it emerges from history. What better way to prepare yourself 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?

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. Viewings, readings, individual and collaborative assignments, and interactive class activities aim to strengthen both oral and written communication and the ability to engage in critical analysis in German.

Goals for language development

1. Increase ease in reading through short German texts and a contemporary novel,
2. Develop interpretive skills needed for communicating questions, ideas, and opinions,
3. Build vocabulary and ability to define German words in German and paraphrase,
4. Interact comfortably with authentic genre and forms of German media, and
5. Communicate your new skills via individual and team presentations, a writing sample, a mock application for an internship in Berlin, and an oral interview.

Learning preferences, accommodations, self-care, and the pandemic

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 links below) so that accommodations can be put in place. The earlier we know about it the better it will work.

While we are back on campus, it is clear that all of us are still dealing with some anxiety, stress, uncertainty, trauma, and grief to varying extents due to the ongoing Covid pandemic and just LIFE. Be patient with yourself and others, and take care of yourself. My goal is to create a culture of flexibility and care in our class community, and I believe such a culture builds upon consistent engagement, empathy, and clear communication. I will try to create channels for these and model expectations, but I will also rely on you to help build our community and provide feedback so that we can make adjustments when needed.

Resources: If you feel you may need support, please don't wait. Let me know, and 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:

Health, <https://health.columbia.edu/services/ods> and <https://www.barnard.edu/health>

Food pantry at Columbia, <https://thefoodpantry.studentgroups.columbia.edu/>,

Dean's Emergency Fund, <https://cc-seas.financialaid.columbia.edu/deans-fund>

Portfolio (contains most assignments from the semester)

The Portfolio is a collection of all the work you have accomplished throughout the semester. It will also serve as a basis for the Vorstellungsgespräch. If you have completed all tasks in a timely manner, putting the Portfolio together will be fairly simple. The Portfolio grade is based on completion both in terms of content and time. The Portfolio **will be handed in online as one pdf document on Canvas** and must contain:

1. Cover page with your name and Email address
2. Table of Contents
3. Tabellarischer Lebenslauf (CV)
4. Anschreiben (cover letter for the Praktikum)
5. Powerpoint Kiez
6. Aufsatz
7. Powerpoint individuelles Referat

Grading

Participation (preparation, active listening, teamwork, active engagement in class and with reflective assignments, completion of portfolio)	15%
Homework (reading assignments, preparation for class, occasional grammar, contribution to vocab list)	15%
Presentations (2)	20%
Application materials (CV, cover letter)	20%
Essay (2 versions)	20%
Oral interview	10%

Departmental grading scale

Letter grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Numerical index	97+	94-	90-	87-	83-	80-	77-	73-	70-	65-	64-
		97	93	89	86	82	79	76	72	69	

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.

Columbia and Barnard policy on academic integrity

The Columbia and Barnard Policy on Academic Integrity forbids students to hand in work (homework, vocabulary lists, essays, etc.) that is not entirely your own. Concretely: Write things yourself. If you use a tutor, they can give feedback, explain, and point you to solutions, but not write for you.

- Don't use online translators/dictionaries beyond looking up single words - at your level, they are likely to scramble things anyway, and you will learn much more without them.
- If you quote sources, insert footnotes and provide the source. In any written assignment, make sure you write (a lot) more original text than you quote sources.
- I'd rather teach than police you. I know you are human: If you need extensions, please talk to me rather than finding a solution to your time crunch that violates academic integrity.

Review policies here:

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

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

More info on German

- If you would like more **info on the German program**, a concentration/minor or major, internships, or study abroad opportunities, please talk to Jutta Schmiers-Heller (js2331@columbia.edu), Irene Motyl-Mudretzkyj at Barnard (imudretz@barnard.edu) or Director of Undergraduate Studies Dorothea von Mücke (dev1@columbia.edu).
- The Deutsches Haus at Columbia (420 W 116th St) has **regular events** on German-related topics. You can find news and events online at <https://www.facebook.com/CUGermanic/>.
- We will also again have **biweekly coffee hours** in person at the Deutsches Haus on **Mondays, 5:30-6:30pm, starting September 13th**. All are welcome!

--- Semester Plan on the following page ---

Semesterplan Herbst 2021 (kann sich noch ändern)

Jede Woche: Vokabeln zur kollaborativen Vokabelliste hinzufügen

Alle 2 Wochen: eine Reflektion machen.

Woche	Themen/Aktivitäten	Zu tun
1./2. Woche 13.-17. Sept.	Einführung, Kennenlernen, Brainstormen zum Thema Berlin, erster Eindruck Projekt Kiez - Modellpräsentation, Wahlphase	
3. Woche 20.-24. Sept.	Projekt Kiez - Arbeitsphase! Jede Gruppe recherchiert einen Stadtteil.	Laptop mitbringen
4. Woche 27. Sept.- 1. Okt	Projekt Kiez - Präsentationsphase! Sie präsentieren Ihren Kiez. Jeder soll etwas sagen. Länge: ca. 15 Minuten. Aufsatz: Berlin damals und heute - anfangen	PPT für die Präsentation abgeben Vokabelliste Kiez
5.-6. Woche 4.- 15. Okt.	Berlin als multi- und transkulturelle Stadt: Kunst, Musik, Sprache, Aktivismus	Minipräsentation Vokabelliste Multikulturelles Berlin
7. Woche 18.-22. Okt.	Universitäten und Hochschulen	Aufsatz Version 1
8. Woche 25.-29. Okt.	Praktikum und Bewerbung: Praktika finden, Bewerbungsunterlagen	
<i>1./2. November: Vorlesungsfreie Tage, 2. November ist Wahltag</i>		
9. Woche 3.-5. Nov.	Praktikum und Bewerbung: Das Genre Bewerbung - Sprachliche Mittel	Aufsatz Version 2 Vokabelliste Bewerbung und Hochschulen
10.-12. Woche 8.Nov.-23. Nov..	Sonnenallee: Arbeit mit und Diskussionen über Thomas Brussigs Roman	
<i>24.-26. November: Vorlesungsfreie Tage um Thanksgiving</i>		
13. Woche	Sonnenallee: Arbeit mit und Diskussionen über Thomas Brussigs Roman Präsentationen	Woche 13: Individuelle Präsentationen Vokabelliste Sonnenallee/Präsentationen
14./15. Woche 6.-10.Dez., 13. Dez	Präsentationen, Abschlussreflektionen, Vorstellungsgespräche	Woche 14: Individuelle Präsentationen