

# Wir entdecken Berlin

Advanced German I: Fall 2023

Columbia University – Fall 2023  
Course Number: German UN3001  
Day & Time: MW 10:10am–11:25am  
Location: 313 Hamilton Hall



Instructor: Dr. Julia Perrin (she/her)  
E-Mail: jn2168@columbia.edu  
Office Hours:  
Thurs 1:30-2:30pm  
Location: 404A Hamilton  
Fri by appointment on zoom

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Let's explore Berlin from the vantage point of our German-language classroom. Even if we can't smell Berlin's legendary air - die Berliner Luft - we can explore the city's history and atmosphere, its Bezirke and Kieze. We will experience Berlin through short literary texts, film, music, art, and the news. What better way to prepare for a visit to Germany's capital! You'll be ready to study at Berlin's Freie Universität, do an internship in Berlin, or simply travel there.



## TEXTS – Required readings:

Everything will be posted on Canvas. You do NOT need to buy anything.  
We will be reading excerpts from:

- *Berlin zum Verweilen*, Ralf Nestmeyer (Editor), 2020.
- *Berliner Geheimnisse*, Eva-Maria Bast und Jochen Stoltenberg, Berliner Morgenpost, 2018.
- *Berlin Kiez für Kiez*, Julia Brodauf (Editor), 2018.
- *Stasiland: Stories From Behind the Walls*, Anna Funder, 2011.
- *Haltet Euer Herz bereit*, Maxim Leo, 2011.

## Recommended:

Please find both an English-German and a German-German online dictionary that you like. I work with the pre-installed dictionary app on my Mac, which has both English-German as well as German-German.

<https://support.apple.com/guide/dictionary/welcome/mac>

Jutta recommends this one: <https://de.thefreedictionary.com/>

And there are a number of other good dictionaries out there that will all do the job. Compare their different interfaces here: <https://learnoutlive.com/german-english-dictionary/>

## **GOALS**

### **Course Goals:**

German 3001 is an ambitious 14-week socio-cultural exploration of Berlin that includes

1) Communicating only 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) Questioning and reflecting upon Berlin's recent past, and 5) Developing your own Berlin experience and presenting your interests in various forms, such as presentations, an essay, your CV, an application letter and interview for an internship in Berlin, and 6) Each student will create a portfolio that might serve as their application for an internship or semester of study in Berlin. 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 and Berlin 'experts' (synchronously and asynchronously) in a productive, respectful and inclusive way.

## **LEARNING POST COVID**

While the pandemic is officially over, Covid is still around, and to varying extents we continue to deal with some anxiety, stress, uncertainty, trauma, and grief. Our goal is to create a culture of flexibility and care in our class community, and we believe such a culture builds upon consistent engagement, empathy, 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.

## COURSE SPECS

### Attendance:

I will expect you to attend class. The rapid pace of the course requires all students to present and be prepared to participate actively in German every time we meet. If you miss class, you will fall behind. Repeated absences will lower your grade and jeopardize your success in class. Attending class regularly and doing your homework regularly, a little bit every day, is your best bet to do really well in this class. If you are sick or cannot be in class for any other reason, please let me know as soon as you can so that we can discuss how to make up for the missed work. (You can keep things vague and do not need to share the reason for which you are absent. But I do need to know whether you will be in class or not.) Handing in work late without having asked for extensions will affect your grade, unless we have discussed it before. Extensions will not be given unless you have a really good reason.

Please also note that we cannot accept new students after week 3.

### Note the following holidays:

The University will be closed on:

- November 6 and 7 (Long weekend before Election Day)
- November 22-24 (Thanksgiving)

### Tasks and Deadlines:

Deadlines for 2nd drafts or final versions will be announced. Deadlines are subject to change.

#	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: <i>Ein Spaziergang durch den Kiez.</i>	By September 20: Choose a Kiez  (Presentations will be later in the semester, in weeks 11-13)
3.	Aufsatz (essay) on a Berlin-related topic. 1st draft.	Choose your topic during the week of October 9/ October 11.  First draft due on October 30.

5.	1st drafts of CV (Lebenslauf) und cover letter (Anschreiben)	Submit by October 18
6.	Collaborative Projects - Presentation: <i>Ein Spaziergang durch den Kiez.</i>	Between November 13 and Nov 29: 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 15
8.	Oral Interview (Vorstellungsgespräch)	After December 11 (last day)– details tba

**Overview of Grade Breakdown:**

Task	% out 100%
Attendance and other Homework Preparation (including the vocabulary list, and homework that is scheduled to align with the content of the class)	20%
Participation (engagement in class and outside of class, including informal communication on 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%

**OTHER HOUSEKEEPING SPECS**

**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 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 themselves and reflect the student's personal language level. Please note that extensive

use (= translation of a sentence and/or more) of a translation tool such as Google translate or any AI tool 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.

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 a 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.
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.
4. **Vocabulary Lists** – To build your vocabulary we will create a common vocabulary list, and you will take quizzes on this vocabulary. In addition, it is always a good idea to create your own vocabulary list 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. 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. I will always make time for you if you are. Most importantly, contact your Dean/Advisor so they can help you. In addition, visit Columbia’s/Barnard’s websites on health and counseling to know what services are

available to you: <https://health.columbia.edu/services/ods> and <https://www.barnard.edu/health>

**Other resources:**

<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 (ideally before the course starts) should you have a name and/or pronoun that differs from the one Columbia has on file for you. We will make sure to address you by the name and/or pronoun you prefer.. 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.

**Deutsch 3001 Semesterplan – Herbst 2022** Subject to change

WOCHE	MODULE UND THEMEN	ERKLÄRUNG
<b>MODUL 1: ANKUNFT IN BERLIN</b>		
<b>1./2. Woche</b>  6. September  11. und 13. September	<b>Ankunft im Kurs und in Berlin:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kursteilnehmer kennenlernen</li> <li>● Kursüberblick</li> </ul>	Wir lernen uns kennen und definieren unsere Ziele im Hinblick auf Deutsch und Berlin.  Wir bekommen einen ersten Eindruck von Berlin. (Geschichte, Bezirke, Kieze)
<b>MODUL 2: BERLIN UND BILDUNG</b>		
<b>3./4. Woche</b>  18. und 20. September,  25. und 27. September	<b>Fokus Film:</b>  <b>Doku "Berlin Rebel High School"</b>  	Kurzer Einblick in das deutsche Schulsystem.  Wir arbeiten mit der Doku(mentation) <i>Berlin Rebel High School</i> . Sie berichtet über eine ungewöhnliche Schule in Berlin, die SfE (Schule für Erwachsenenbildung), auf die junge Erwachsene gehen, die mit dem traditionellen Schulsystem Probleme hatten. und ihnen die Möglichkeit gibt, das Abitur zu machen.  Wir diskutieren die Schule und ihre Menschen, das deutsche Schulsystem und vieles andere.  <b>20. September (Ende der 3. Woche): Studierende wählen ein Thema/ einen Kiez für ein kollaboratives Projekt.</b> (Die Präsentationen dazu sind im November, Woche 11-14)
<b>5. Woche</b>  2. und 4. Oktober	<b>Berlins Universitäten und Hochschulen</b>  	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.



In dieser Woche: Thema für den Aufsatz wählen. >  
Abgabetermin für den 1. Entwurf ist der 30. Oktober.

### MODUL 3: PRAKTIKUM IN BERLIN

#### 6./7. Woche

9. und 11. Oktober,  
16. und 18. Oktober

#### Praktikum in Berlin

- CV
- Anschreiben
- Vorstellungsgespräch



Wir arbeiten mit einer Webseite, die Tipps zur Bewerbung auf Praktika gibt. In diesem Kontext wählen Sie einen fiktiven Praktikumsplatz, schreiben einen deutschen Lebenslauf und ein Anschreiben, und am Ende des Semesters werden Sie ein Vorstellungsgespräch haben.

**Abgabetermin für Lebenslauf und Anschreiben (Erste Entwürfe) ist der 25. Oktober.**

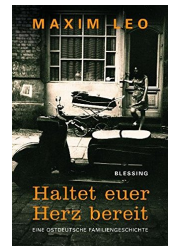
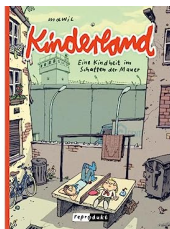
### MODUL 4: DIE BERLINER MAUER

#### 8./9. Woche

23. Oktober  
25. Oktober

30. Oktober  
1. November

#### Der Fall der Berliner Mauer



Am 9. November 1989, also circa vor 34 Jahren, fiel die Mauer. Wir werden den Tag, die Ereignisse und die Geschichte um die Mauer erforschen.

Wir lesen Auszüge aus Anna Funders *Stasiland*, Maxim Leos *Haltet Euer Herz bereit*, und aus der Graphic Novel *Kinderland* von Mawil.



MODUL 5: BERLIN ZUM VERWEILEN		
<p><b>11. – 13. Woche</b></p> <p>13. und 15. November</p> <p>20. November</p> <p><b>22., 23., und 24. November - frei für Thanksgiving</b></p> <p>27. November</p> <p>29. November</p>	<p><b>Fokus Literatur</b></p>  <p><b>Und: Präsentationen der Kiez Projekte</b></p> 	<p>Wir arbeiten (voraussichtlich) mit diesen Texten aus dem Buch:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alfred Döblin: Berlin Alexanderplatz</li> <li>2. Sybill Volks: Torstraße 1</li> <li>3. Egon Erwin Kisch: Aus dem Café Größenwahn</li> <li>4. Hans Fallada: Jeder stirbt für sich allein.</li> <li>5. Thomas Brussig: Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee</li> <li>6. Tiemo Rink: Als Major Tom in Schöneberg lebte</li> </ol> <p><b>Kollaborative Projekte: Präsentationen und Diskussion</b></p>
MODUL 6: ENDSPURT		
<p><b>14./15. Woche</b></p> <p>4. und 6. Dezember</p> <p>11. Dezember</p>	<p><b>Portfolios und Auswertung des Lernprozesses im Berlin-Kurs</b></p>	<p>Die letzten 3 Tage benutzen wir, um die Portfolios zu beenden und an den Vorstellungsgesprächen zu arbeiten.</p> <p><b>Die Vorstellungsgespräche finden nach dem letzten Kurstag statt und dauern ca. 15 Minuten pro Person.</b></p> <p><b>Portfolios müssen am Freitag, den 15. Dezember, fertig sein.</b></p>