



UN2101 Course Introduction

Intermediate German I

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

Section	Instructor	Daytime/Location
UN2101-001	Nate Wagner	MWR 10:10 am-11:25 pm
UN2101-002	Isabelle Egger	MW 6:10-8:00 pm

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 Friday, January 31. There will be NO NEW ADMITS to German language classes in Week 3 of the Semester!

Course Goals:

Intermediate German UN2101 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
 - 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)
- Hearing/understanding instructor, peers, audio, video and film
- 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
- Metacognitive 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 a grade of "B" or better on all class work, papers, presentations and the final portfolio, 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 on 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 all frames.

For all questions about the courses contact for Columbia [Jutta Schmiere-Heller](#), Language Program Director and for Barnard [Irene Motyl-Mudretzkyj](#), Language Program Coordinator.
Registration information: Columbia Bulletin, Vergil, or the Barnard Registrar.

Course Policies and Requirements Intermediate German UN2101

- 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 **Friday, February 1**. There will be **NO NEW ADMITS** to German language classes in Week 3 of the Semester!
- Three essays (@250 words) (**Note**: the first essay, first version will be written in class)
- One oral interview
- One oral presentation
- One presentation of a group project
- Portfolio of materials demonstrating mastery of topics, vocabulary, communication skills, AND documenting learning process
- Daily preparation, homework assignments, quizzes, and in-class participation represent 20% and/or 30% of the course grade. Individual instructors may include web projects such as wikis or blogs representing 10% of the course grade

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. In addition, the complete portfolio will contain reflections on the student's learning processes and on overall goals and achievements for the semester.

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, 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.

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. Any student who misses class (for any reason) **should inform the instructor in advance.** It is the student's responsibility to find out what was covered in class, make up and hand in all class work and homework. 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.**

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.

At the end of the semester your Portfolio should contain:

- **2 essays (plus reflections);**
- **1 poem or song text (with reflection);**
- **1 outline of your oral presentation or final project (with reflection),**
- **your individual vocabulary lists of 20-30 entries per unit (with an overall reflection on learning vocabulary),**
- **a cumulative self-evaluation of the learning process.**

Each entry must be accompanied by a brief reflection on 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. **Specific portfolio requirements may vary from instructor to instructor.**

ESSAYS: Students are required to write a **coherent essay** (approx. 200-250 words) on three assigned topics using vocabulary and structures already learned and practiced in class. The exercise is to learn to communicate using what you know. Under no circumstances are your essays to be edited and/or written by anyone but yourself. Essays are graded on 1. comprehensibility, 2. quality of the content/ information, 3. use of vocabulary, and 4. grammatical accuracy (including correct typing of German characters).

Each essay is written twice. After receiving comments about the content and an indication of grammatical errors, your rewrite should incorporate the instructor's suggestions. The final grade is the average of both drafts. **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 and 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 / projects + reflections on each of these + self-evaluation of learning process in course	15%
Missing more than one week 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>.

Berlin Consortium: The consortium makes it possible for science, social science and humanities majors who have completed German 2102/3001 to study at the Freie Universität Berlin for an academic year or semester. The program involves full immersion in the German language, enrollment directly in courses shared with German students at the FU, access to university libraries and student housing, internship opportunities during vacations, and exposure to cultural and political life in contemporary Germany and Europe.

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](#).

Class Syllabus

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.

Frühling Intermediate German I UN2101

Woche	Kommunikationsthema	Sprachliche Funktion
20. Januar – MLK Tag- Kein Kurs 1. Woche 21. - 24. Januar	Kennenlernen: Gespräch über Lernstrategien, Erwartungen und individuelle Zielsetzungen * Einheit E: Das Reisen: Texte und Statistiken	Grammatikwiederholung Grundelemente der Kommunikation: Verben, Präsens, Perfekt und Präteritum Regelmäßige und trennbare Verben
2. Woche 27.-31. Januar (January 31 - last day to add class.)	Fortsetzung Einheit E: * Neue Trends beim Reisen * Freizeitstress oder Nichtstun **NO NEW ADMITS in Week 3!**	Unregelmäßige und untrennbare Verben Der Dativ, der Akkusativ, Pronomen Präpositionen mit Akkusativ und Dativ; Wechselpräpositionen; Aufforderungen und Wünsche ausdrücken: Imperativ
3. Woche 3. – 7. Februar (NO NEW ADMITS) Aufsatz I	Einheit 3: Multikulturelles Leben * Cem Özdemir, Multikulti-Mann des Jahres	Genitiv; Präpositionen mit Genitiv: <i>Während, trotz, wegen, anstatt/statt</i>
4. Woche 10. – 14. Februar	Fortsetzung Einheit 3: * Migration	Perfekt; Futur
5. Woche 17. – 21. Februar	Fortsetzung Einheit 3: * Einwanderung und Einbürgerung * Deutschsein und Fremdsein * Film: <i>Schwarzfahrer</i>	Konjunktiv II im Präsens; Modalverben; <i>bekommen vs. werden</i>

6. Woche 24.-28. Februar	Fortsetzung Einheit 3 Einheit 4: Die Comedian Harmonists * Geschichtlicher Hintergrund * Weimarer Republik	Infinitiv ohne <i>zu</i> ; Reflexive Verben mit Präpositionalobjekt
7. Woche 2. – 6. März	Fortsetzung: Die Comedian Harmonists * Film: Comedian Harmonists	Relativsätze/ Relativpronomen Reflexive Verben
8. Woche 9. – 13. März Aufsatz 2	Fortsetzung: Die Comedian Harmonists * Film: Comedian Harmonists	Wiederholung
16.- 20. März	Frühlingsferien – Kein Kurs	
9. Woche 23. – 27. März	Einheit 10: Das Leben im anderen Deutschland	Verbenformen: Passiv vs. Aktiv
10. Woche 30. März – 3. April	Fortsetzung Einheit 10 : * Film: <i>Good bye, Lenin!</i>	Passiv Wiederholung :Relativsätze
11. Woche 6. – 10. April AUFSATZ 3	Fortsetzung Einheit 10 : * Film : <i>Das Leben der Anderen</i>	Wiederholung
12. Woche 13. – 17. April	Einheit 1: * Das Wandern * Ausflug in die deutsche Literatur * Der Wald	Infinitiv mit <i>zu</i> Verben mit Präpositionalobjekte; Da-Komposita; Präteritum; Wo-Komposita
13. Woche 20. – 24. April	Fortsetzung Einheit 1: * der Mond * Arbeit mit dem Portfolio / Projekten	Verben und verwandte Nomen; Anwendung des neuen Wortschatzes und der neuen Strukturen
14. Woche 27. April – 1. Mai	* Arbeit mit dem Portfolio * Arbeit an den Schlussprojekten * Präsentation der Projekte	Anwendung des neuen Wortschatzes und der neuen Strukturen
15. Woche (4. Mai) – Nur für Kurse, die am Montag Unterricht haben	ABGABE DER PORTFOLIOS MÜNDLICHE INTERVIEWS (dates can vary from section to section) This class does NOT have a FINAL EXAM.	Anwendung des neuen Wortschatzes und der neuen Strukturen