

UN2101 - Intermediate German I

You can find our course offerings for 2101 in the Course Directory:

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/bulletin/uwb/#/cu/bulletin/uwb/subj/GERM/ Spring2023.html>

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

You have to be in class and caught up on work by Friday, Jan. 27. The first two weeks will run online and foreground review. The later you come in, the more review you will miss.

COURSE INFORMATION

Required book

- **Lehrwerk:** *Anders gedacht*. Motyl, Späinghaus, 2013.
(Columbia Book Store / Book Culture)
- **Empfohlen:** *Langenscheidts Großwörterbuch Deutsch als Fremdsprache*. Götz et al, Herausgeber. Berlin und München: Langenscheidt, 2007.



Contacts:

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

Course Goals

German 2101 is conducted entirely in German and emphasizes the four basic language skills plus cultural awareness. We have a very ambitious agenda.

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 assessments, you should be able to:

- speak and understand German well enough to converse comfortably with another German speaker 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 on familiar topics;
- understand 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 active and passive voice; as well as in the subjunctive mood).

LEARNING DURING COVID

Despite having been back for in-person classes, we are still dealing with some anxiety, stress, uncertainty, trauma, and grief to varying extents. 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.

EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

General expectations

- 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, Jan. 27. **January 27** is also the last day to add a course. **February 21** is the last day to drop a class.
- 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 to track your progress and showcase your achievement. More info below.

Columbia and Barnard policy on academic integrity require that you do not represent the work of others as your own. All work needs to reflect your own personal language level. **Extensive use (= translation of a sentence and/or more) of a translation tool such as Google translate will not help you learn and 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. Come ready to experiment and contribute! Be prepared to work about two hours out of class for every hour in class. If you need to miss class, **inform your instructor in advance.** It is your responsibility to find out what was covered in class, make up and hand in all class work and homework. **Stay engaged - the course covers a lot of ground every day.**

Assessment

Portfolio Assessment. 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. Specific portfolio assignments may vary between instructors, but typically, at the end of the semester your Portfolio should (can vary based on instructor or need) contain:

- Your learning goals and strategies
- 2 essays (plus reflection);
- 2 samples of creative writing (plus reflection)
- 1 outline of your oral presentation or final project (plus reflection),
- Your individual vocabulary lists of 20-30 entries per unit (with an overall reflection on learning vocabulary),
- A cumulative self-evaluation of your learning process.

Writing assignments. Students are required to write three **coherent essays** (approx. 250-300 words) on assigned essay prompts using vocabulary and structures already learned and practiced in class. The goal is to learn to communicate using what you know, and **it is important that you write at your own level of competence.** Essays are graded on comprehensibility, quality of the content/information, use of vocabulary, and grammatical accuracy (including correct typing of German characters).

Each essay is written twice. After receiving comments about the content feedback on linguistic structure, 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, the first draft of your first essay will be an in-class assignment. The remaining essays will be written outside of class. **Resist the temptation to use online translators,** they will not help you learn and their use for more than individual words constitutes plagiarism.

Grading

Preparation and engagement (attendance or equivalent, preparation for class, journals, engagement with asynchronous creative assignments - specific components may vary)	15%
Homework and quizzes	15%
Vocabulary lists	10%
Writing assignments and oral presentation	20%
Final project	15%
Final oral interview	10%
Portfolio (Learning goals and strategies, major assignments, creative assignments, reflections, final self-evaluation) - Completion and thoughtful reflections	15%

Missing more than one week of classes without making up for it will affect your course grade.

Departmental grading scale

Letter grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Numerical index	98+	94- 97	90- 93	87- 89	83- 86	80- 82	77- 79	73- 76	70- 72	65- 69	64-

Resources, Policies and Information

Placement Exam. If you have prior knowledge of German, you need to take our placement exam, so we can help you to find the best level. You can find information on the test here:

<https://germanic.columbia.edu/content/germanplacementexam>

Or you can contact Jutta Schmiers-Heller (js2331@columbia.edu) for Columbia and Irene Motyl-Mudretzkyj (imotyl@barnard.edu) for Barnard.

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. It's still pandemic time and student life can get stressful. **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. 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>

<https://www.barnard.edu/health>

<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**, 403A Hamilton Hall, x44824 (js2331@columbia.edu); To major or concentrate in German, contact **Prof. Annie Pfeifer**, 415 Hamilton Hall, x43202 (ap750@columbia.edu). Barnard students please contact **Irene Motyl-Mudretzkyj**, 320c Millbank Hall, x44287 (imotyl@barnard.edu).

Departmental Online Presence:

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

Twitter: @CUGermanic

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

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

Deutsches Haus / Enrichment. 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](https://www.facebook.com/CUGermanic/) or on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CUGermanic/> There will be Coffee Hours every other Monday evening.

KURSPLAN (DETAILS MAY BE ADJUSTED BASED ON COURSE NEEDS)

Woche	Kommunikationsthema	Sprachliche Funktion	Größere Aufgaben
<i>16. Januar: MLK Day</i>			
1. Woche (17.-20. Januar)	Kennenlernen Einführung in den Kurs Einheit E: Das Reisen - Texte und Statistiken	Wiederholung: Verben (Zeitformen, regelmäßige/trennbare Verben)	
2. Woche (23.-27. Januar)	Einheit E: * Neue Trends beim Reisen * Freizeitstress oder Nichtstun * Aufsatz 1 Version 1 im Kurs	Pronomen Präpositionen und Kasus	
3. Woche (30. Januar - 3. Februar)	Lernstrategien und Ziele Einheit 4: Die Comedian Harmonists * Geschichtlicher Hintergrund * Weimarer Republik	Infinitiv ohne zu/Modalverben	Aufsatz 1 Version 2
4. Woche (6.-10. Februar)	Einheit 4: * Weimarer Republik * Film: Comedian Harmonists	Reflexive Verben mit und ohne Präpositionalobjekt	
5. Woche (13.-17. Februar)	Einheit 4: * Film: Comedian Harmonists	Relativsätze/ Relativpronomen	Mini-Referate Weimarer Republik
6. Woche (20.-24. Februar)	Einheit 4: * Film: Comedian Harmonists * Nachholen und Wiederholen	Wiederholung Relativsätze Verbformen: Passiv vs. Aktiv	Aufsatz 2, Version 1
7. Woche (27. Februar - 3. März)	Einheit 10: Das Leben im anderen Deutschland * Einführung und Nachkriegszeit * Die Teilung	Passiv	
8. Woche (6.-10. März)	Einheit 10: *Film: <i>Good bye, Lenin!</i>	Infinitiv mit <i>zu</i>	
<i>13.-17. März: Spring Break</i>			
9. Woche (20.-24. März)	Einheit 10: * Film: <i>Das Leben der Anderen</i> * Die Stasi	Verben mit Präpositionalobjekten; Da-/wo-Komposita	
10. Woche (27. -31. März)	Einheit 10: * Reflektion: Die Wiedervereinigung - und jetzt?	Genitiv; Präpositionen mit Genitiv: <i>Während,</i>	Aufsatz 3, Version 1

	* Nachholen und Wiederholen	<i>trotz, wegen, anstatt/statt; Perfekt</i>	
11. Woche (3.-7. April)	Einheit 3: Multikulturelles Leben * Einführung * Migration	Futur Konjunktiv II im Präsens	
12. Woche (10.-14. April)	Einheit 3: * Einwanderung und Einbürgerung * Ein Song	Konjunktiv II im Präsens; <i>bekommen vs. werden</i>	
13. Woche (17.-21. April)	Einheit 3: * Kaminer: Sprachtest * Afrodeutsche * Aktuelle Diskussionen		
14./15. Woche (24. April - 1. Mai)	* Nachholen und Wiederholen * Präsentation der Schlussprojekte		Individuelles Projekt
Reading Week	NO WRITTEN FINAL EXAM		Portfolios Interviews