

ELEMENTARY GERMAN I (UN1101)

COURSE INFORMATION

General Information:

German I is a communicative language course, in which students develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in German and a basic understanding of German culture.

Course Info/Syllabi:

You can find our **course offerings for 1101** in the **Course Directory**:

<https://doc.sis.columbia.edu/#subj/GERM/ Fall2024.html>

An electronic version of this syllabus will be available under: <https://germanic.columbia.edu>

Registration information: Columbia Bulletin, Vergil, or the Barnard Registrar.

Contact Info:

For all questions about the courses contact for **Columbia Jutta Schmiers-Heller**, Language Program Director and for **Barnard Irene Motyl-Mudretzkyj**, Language Program Coordinator.

Required Texts:

Kontakte: A Communicative Approach.

Tschirner/Nikolai. **9th Edition, 2021.**



Course Goals:

Upon completion of German UN1101, students who have attended classes regularly and successfully completed all assignments and ALL assessments (with a minimum grade of B) should be able to:

- provide basic information in German about themselves, families, interests, likes and dislikes, daily activities;
- understand and participate in a simple conversation on everyday topics (e.g., weather, meeting people, school, shopping, etc.);
- read edited texts on familiar topics, understand the main ideas and identify the underlying themes;
- pick out important information from a variety of "authentic texts" (e.g. menus, signs, train schedules, websites, but also newspaper articles and simple literary texts, etc.);
- begin to follow film material, identify chief characters and plots;
- fill in forms requesting information, write letters, notes, or messages providing simple information;
- provide information about German-speaking countries (e.g., geography, weather, du/Sie distinction, customs);
- use and understand a range of essential vocabulary related to everyday life (e.g., days of the week, colors, numbers, months, seasons, telling time, foods, names of stores, family, transportation, etc.), and
- pronounce German well enough and produce German with enough grammatical accuracy to be comprehensible to a German speaker accustomed to speaking with non-natives.

ACADEMIC, MENTAL, AND PHYSICAL SUPPORT:

Student life can get very intense, especially during this time. 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. Our goal is to create a culture of empathy and care in our class community, and we believe such a culture builds upon consistent engagement 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. 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>

COURSE POLICIES AND GRADING

General expectations:

- This course is conducted in German. Come ready to experiment and contribute!
- In order to learn the language, it is crucial that we speak it in class as much as possible, whether as a whole class or in small groups and pairs.
- Stay engaged - the course covers a lot of ground every day. 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.
- Homework: Homework is scheduled to align with the content in the class. Day to day homework affords further practice and is usually due by the next class. Larger assignments have a bit more flexibility.
- Late assignments: Homework should be handed in on time. However, you will be given a grace period until midnight of the same day to hand in homework and it will not affect your grade. For each day after that you will lose 5% on your homework for lateness. After 10 days your homework will no longer be graded, and you will receive a 0.
- Frequent or extended absences impede development of oral/aural skills and will lower your grade or jeopardize your success in class. Each absence will impact your participation grade. The first 2 absences will not impact your overall grade, each additional absence will lower your overall grade by 1%. If you cannot attend in person due to sickness, discuss strategies with your instructor.
- Be proactive: 1. if you cannot join us on a given day, it is important to let your instructor know ahead of time and to discuss how and when you can make up the work. 2. If you are unclear about requirements or assignments, contact your instructor as soon as possible. Don't wait until after a deadline.
- Be prepared to work about **two hours out of class for every hour in class**.
- More detailed information on the course elements will be provided by your instructor throughout the course.

Grading overview:

Course Elements	Percentage of Grade	Additional Information
Class Work (attendance, participation)	20%	<p>Class work may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance as a crucial component to successful learning. • Participation is not just limited to speaking in front of class, but also your engagement in pair/group work, questions you may have before/after class, via email, or even coming to office hours. • Participation may also include informal writing and speaking projects.
Homework (practice)	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework is scheduled to align with the content in class, so please be sure to complete it on time.
Projects, and writing assignments	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignments in this category are scheduled in a way to allow some flexibility and time for completion. • Assignments are designed to allow you to use vocabulary and structures you have learned and practiced in class. All formal writing assignments will be completed in two versions. You will receive feedback on your first version, can make changes, and hence improve your final grade. • Short informal in-class writing will also be graded and allow you to practice expressing yourself briefly using newly learned vocabulary and structures.
Oral Assessment	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will occur throughout the semester and will be announced as such. Oral assessment can take the form of reading tongue twisters and short texts, short presentations, brief in-class interviews, description of pictures, informal conversations.
Quizzes	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular graded quizzes (on smaller items, such as vocabulary) and larger quizzes (chapter reviews) are designed to help you practice various aspects of the language and will be scheduled inside and outside of class. • Smaller quizzes: 10%; larger quizzes: 20%
Final Oral Assessment	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The semester will end with a final oral assessment. There will be NO written final exam.

Grade Breakdown:

Letter Grade	Numerical Index	Letter Grade	Numerical Index
A+*	99.00+	C+	77-79
A	94-97	C	73-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D	65-69
B	83-86	F	0-64
B-	80-82		

* Only for extraordinary performance across the board;
No rounding up.

OTHER HOUSEKEEPING 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.

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. It is crucial that all work is completed by the students themselves and reflect their personal language level. Please note that 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. 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>

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.

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, we 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). For questions about our major, minor, and concentration (before FA24), contact **Prof. Annie Pfeifer**, 415 Hamilton Hall, x4320(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:

(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 Kaffeestunde. All levels of German students are encouraged to attend events which provide students with a great opportunity to practice speaking German. <https://germanic.columbia.edu/deutsches-haus>

ELEMENTARY GERMAN 1101 - Weekly Plan

Please note:

- Monday, September 2, is Labor Day – we have no classes.
- The overall content and assignment may change based on our class needs.
- Major changes to deadlines can still occur based on class needs, but will be discussed in class in a timely manner. Small quizzes will be announced but are not reflected in the syllabus.
- The weekly plan just gives you a general overview, however, more information on topics and page numbers can be found in the book and detailed instructions for homework and assignments will be provided by your instructor.

Week	Topic	Language Functions	Deadlines for larger assignments
Woche 1 September 3-6 Sept. 2 – Labor Day	Getting to know each other Introductions A/B Requests Names Alphabet and Numbers Clothing and Colors Greetings and Goodbyes	The verb <i>heißen</i> The German Case System Grammatical Genders Formal/Informal Address of people	1st week Survey on learning and basic info.
Woche 2 September 9 – 13	Getting to know each other Introductions A/B Our Classroom Descriptions Family The body Weather and Seasons Nationality, Origin, and Language	Definite and indefinite articles The verbs <i>sein</i> and <i>haben</i> Plurals of nouns Personal pronouns Possessive determiners	Last Day: 5-minute in-class writing First Session of Week: Chapter Review Quiz A/B - In class Last Day: 5-minute in-class writing
Please note:	Friday, September 13 is the last day to add a class. Please note that you need to be caught up by the end of week 3, if you join late.		
Woche 3 September 16 – 20	Kapitel 1 – Wer ich bin und was ich tue. Leisure Time School and University	Present tense Likes and dislikes Telling time Word order in statements	Last Day: 5-minute in-class writing
Woche 4 September 23 – 27	Kapitel 1 – Wer ich bin und was ich tue. Daily Routine Personal Information	Separable pre-fix Verbs Word order in questions.	First Session of Week : Wer bin ich Padlet – Part A Last Session of Week: Wer bin ich Padlet – Part B: Comments Last Day: 5-minute in-class writing

<p>Woche 5 Sept .30 – Oct. 4</p>	<p>Kapitel 2 – Besitz und Vergnügen Possessions Presents</p>	<p>Accusative case The negative article kein- The verb möchte (would like)</p>	<p>First Session in this week: Chapter Review Quiz – K1 – in class First Session of Week: 1st essay – version 1: Profile Last Day: 5-minute in-class writing</p>
<p>Woche 6 October 7 – 11</p>	<p>Kapitel 2 – Besitz und Vergnügen Clothing and Looks Pleasures</p>	<p>Possessive determiners Present tense of stem-vowel changing verbs</p>	<p>First Session of Week: 1st essay – version 2: Profile Last Session of Week: Last Session of Week: Mein Zimmer-Padlet – Part A Last Day: 5-minute in-class writing</p>
<p>October 17</p>	<p>Midterm Date: Time for feedback, but we do NOT have a midterm exam.</p>		
<p>Woche 7 October 14 – 18</p>	<p>Kapitel 3 – Talente und Pläne Talents and Plans Duties</p>	<p>Modal verbs Accusative case for personal pronouns</p>	<p>October 17 – Midterm Date First Session of Week: Chapter Review Quiz – K2 - in class Meine Zimmer Padlet Part B: Comments Last Day: 5-minute in-class writing</p>
<p>Woche 8 October 21 – 25</p>	<p>Kapitel 3 – Talente und Pläne Services. Physical and mental state</p>	<p>Word formation: feminine pronouns Dependent clauses</p>	<p>Last Day: 5-minute in-class writing</p>
<p>Woche 9 Oct. 28 – Nov. 1</p>	<p>Kapitel 4 – Ereignisse und Erinnerungen Daily workday Vacation and leisure time</p>	<p>Talking about the past: the Perfect Tense</p>	<p>First Session of Week: Chapter Review Quiz – K3-online First Session of Week: 2nd Essay – version 1 – NYC Last Day: 5-minute in-class writing</p>
<p>Woche 10 November 4 – 8</p>	<p>Kapitel 4 – Ereignisse und Erinnerungen Birthdays and holidays Events</p>	<p>Prepositions: um, am, im Dates and ordinal numbers Word Formation: feminine words -ung</p>	<p>First Session of Week: 2nd Essay – version 2 – NYC Last Day: 5-minute in-class writing</p>
<p>November 4 + 5</p>	<p>Election Day + Academic Holiday</p>	<p>No classes on November 4 and 5</p>	
<p>Woche 11</p>	<p>Kapitel 5 – Geld und Arbeit Providing Services</p>	<p>Dative verbs Question Pronouns: wer, wen, wem</p>	<p>First Session of Week: Chapter Review Quiz – K4 – in class</p>

November 11 – 15	Professions	Expressing change: werden	First session of the week: 3 rd essay version 1: Past events Last Day: 5-minute in-class writing
Woche 12 November 18 – 22	Kapitel 5 – Geld und Arbeit The workplace In the kitchen	Word formation: Masculine nouns in -er and feminine nouns in -in Location: in, an, auf + dative Dative Case: Personal Pronouns	First Session of Week: 3 rd essay version 2: Past events
Woche 13 November 25 – 29 See below	Kapitel 6: Wohnen House and apartment Around the town Looking for a place to live	Dative Verbs Location vs. Destination: Two-way prepositions Word order: Time before place Direction: in/auf vs. zu/nach	First Session of Week: First Session of Week: Chapter Review Quiz -K5 – in class <i>-could also happen earlier?</i> Last Day: 5-minute in-class writing
November 27, 28, 29	Thanksgiving Holiday	No classes on these days.	
Woche 14	(Kapitel 6: continued)		
December 2 – 6	Review Week	Review of Chapters A-6	
Woche 15 Monday only, Dec. 9	Review	Review of Chapters A-6	
Final Exam Slot:	Traditionally, German language finals for 3-day courses take place from 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon on the first Friday of exam and on the following Monday for 2-day evening courses, but note: Exact Exam Dates / Places are not published by the University until after midterms. We will use those dates for the oral final; however, students will only need to come for 20-minute slots.		