

## German 1: Elementary German I Course Outline: Fall Semester 2011

<i>Section</i>	<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Contact Information</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>
German 1-01	Sandra Niethardt	sandra.niethardt@duke.edu	W + Th 10-11am (and by appointment)

*Welcome to the Department of German Languages and Literature at Duke! Congratulations – you have chosen to learn a new language, and therefore to embark on a journey into a new world. This world does not consist of words and structures alone – it also opens up vistas into different ways of life. It is our endeavor to make this linguistic and cultural experience as fascinating and enjoyable as possible for you!*



### **Course Goals:**

German 1 is an introductory course for students who have not previously studied German. The course aims to teach students to communicate in German and at the same time develop a structural awareness of the German language. Since the goals of communicative and grammatical competence are ultimately inseparable, the students are guided towards using German as accurately as possible.

By the end of the course you should be able to understand and respond appropriately to simple questions and statements in German. You should also be able to read and converse about a variety of German texts, as well as talk and write in German about yourself, your family, and your life at university.

During this semester you will also learn more about the Federal Republic of Germany today, its climate, landscape, foods, education system, work realities, ways of traveling, and city life. You will find out about the common origin of German and English, and the distribution of the German language.

The course places a large emphasis on students gradually becoming autonomous learners. Regular discussion and practice of grammatical structures will help you monitor your own spoken and written output, as well as develop useful language learning strategies.

### **Requirements:**

Learning a foreign language requires regular practice, both in class and individually, and a willingness to experiment with new patterns of sounds, words, and structures, much of which can only be done in the classroom. Therefore, attendance is a vital part of your commitment to this course, as well as daily review of course material and preparation for class.

German language classes at Duke stress active use of the spoken language. Come to class prepared to speak! You will often be working in groups of two or more on a common task. This group work provides everyone with more speaking time in class and gives you the chance to use German actively in conversational situations. At first, it may feel artificial to be speaking with classmates in a language that's foreign to all of you, but think about it as a joint venture into a new world. The more you get into it, the easier and more enjoyable it will become.

### **Required Texts:**

- Terrell, Genzmer, Nikolai, and Tschirner. *Kontakte: A Communicative Approach*. 6<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: McGraw Hill, 2008 – Textbook and ONLINE Workbook (*Arbeitsbuch*)
- Felix & Theo. *Oktoberfest* (Langenscheidt)

**Library Guide:** <http://guides.library.duke.edu/german>

**Assignments:**

Homework is assigned at the end of each class period. In the interest of continuous learning, you are required to complete your homework assignments when they are due. No homework will be accepted after the due date noted on the schedule or stated in class.

*As a general policy, no late assignments will be accepted and no make-up tests will be given.* The exceptions are for off-campus university representation, recognized religious holidays, and notification of the instructor by your academic dean. It is at the discretion of the instructor as to how you will complete the missed assignment. If you are unable to complete academic work (tests, exams, papers, or scheduled graded assignments) as a result of short-term illness, you may appeal to your instructor using the Short Term Illness Notification Form <http://www.aas.duke.edu/trinity/t-reqs/illness/>. If you must miss class when an assignment is due but have no compelling excuse for your absence, send the work to class with a classmate or turn the work in to your instructor in advance and it will not be counted as late.

There are graded and ungraded homework assignments. All graded homework assignments have to be submitted for comments from the instructor. A reworked version, stapled to the original, is required for the complete assignment. If there is recording to be done, record the second version only.

Students are required to keep both an electronic and a paper copy of each assignment.

The use of machine translators (aka computer translation) such as BabelFish is strictly prohibited. Any assignment that is determined to have been translated from English by a computer will receive an F.

**Weekly Blog**

Part of the homework assignments will be a short weekly blog handed in electronically every Sunday by 5pm. Students will be asked to write 3 to 5 sentences *before* the fall break and between 8 and 10 sentences *after* the fall break. The short texts will not be graded, but rather offer students the possibility to practice writing in German regularly in a more informal setting. Students are free to write whatever they want: about an experience during the week on or off campus, about the German class, another class, extra-curricular activities etc.

**Portfolios:**

During the semester, students will begin building a portfolio of their work in German. Three items are required for the first semester, a postcard, a dialogue modification and a portrait of a famous person or city from German-speaking countries, using Internet or other resources. More detailed information about each assignment will be given well prior to the due dates. You are encouraged to review portfolio items with your instructor during office hours. Written assignments must be handed in on a separate sheet of paper. In order to leave room for your instructor's comments and corrections, please leave a generous margin and type double-spaced.

**Workbook Assignments:**

The course book, *Kontakte*, is accompanied by an *Arbeitsbuch*, available online. You are expected to finish the exercises for each chapter by the due date stated in the syllabus.

### **Culture Activities:**

Part of your grade for participation and homework is the participation in **three** cultural activities related to German class, such as film screenings, lectures or cultural events. Your attendance must be documented with the sign-up sheet and handed in to your instructor. Any events you attend beyond the three required ones will count towards X-tra Credit.

You will have many opportunities to use your German in real communicative situations outside of class. The Language Program organizes multiple events, and the German Club and German Honors Society (Delta Phi Alpha) organize social events, lectures, film evenings, etc. in which you should participate as much as possible. You may also wish to connect to German students on campus, or in Germany through email contacts (see your instructor for more information). Participating in any of these activities will improve your German. If you know of any events in the area, e.g. an exhibition, film screening, German fest, please let me know about it and I will add it to the program.

### **Audio Components:**

The audio components of *Kontakte* are an integral part of the course and you are expected to use it to improve your aural and verbal skills. The audio exercises of the AB will help you improve your pronunciation of certain sounds. I also recommend a German speaking practice website: <http://www.iub.edu/~sprechen/german.html>. The exercises on this website focus on specific sounds and are aimed at improving both your listening comprehension as well as pronunciation of these sounds as distinct from American English. This website, although recommended, is not mandatory. Bear in mind, however, that your pronunciation will be continually evaluated during this course, so any and all practice may help you in this respect. You are also encouraged to make use of other conversation opportunities to increase your fluency in speaking.

### **Exams:**

There will be five written exams, one at the end of chapters A & B, the others at the end of chapters 1,2, 3 and 4. A comprehensive final exam is given at the end of the semester, which includes a written as well as an oral examination. Additionally, pop-quizzes testing you on vocabulary or grammatical topics will be given.

### **Attendance:**

Regular attendance is vitally important to your success in learning a new language. You may miss class twice if announced via the Short Term Illness Notification Form. Any absences beyond this will lead to deductions from your final grade (one letter grade per absence). It is your responsibility to make up the work for classes you miss and to be prepared for the next class.

### **Participation:**

Participation is graded according to the following guidelines:

*A: You participate actively in free conversation without waiting to be called on. You have prepared grammar drills well at home and almost always answer correctly.*

*B: You wait to be called on in free conversation, but then respond. You have prepared grammar drills at home and usually answer correctly.*

*C: You wait to be called on in free conversation and sometimes are unable to respond. You have not prepared well and only sometimes answer correctly.*

### **Grading:**

The course grade recorded at the end of the semester will be based on the following:

- *Participation and Homework Assignments, Weekly Blog* 20%
- *Portfolios and re-writes* 20%
- *Arbeitsbuch* 10%
- *Exams (5)* 30%
- *Final exam* 20%

**NOTE:** All scores on tests and homework count towards your final grade; no scores will be dropped. No make-up tests or exams for unexcused absences.

### **For extra practice and fun:**

You will also have some assignments that are marked as optional. Most of these are Internet sites of interest, and fun online activities for practicing your language skills. The computers in the Language Labs also contain a number of interactive German programs for your learning pleasure.

The German Club and German Honors Society sponsor a weekly “Kaffeestunde” for students to practice their German in an informal setting, as well as a film series. Watching German films (most have English subtitles) is a good way to practice your listening comprehension, and learn more about cultural differences and similarities. Lilly Library, as well as the East and West campus Language Labs, has a host of German films which you can watch any time.

### **Honor Code:**

As a student of German, you are expected to strictly adhere to the [Duke Undergraduate Honor Code](#). According to the Duke standards of academic integrity, you are expected to refrain from cheating, including plagiarism, refrain from lying, respect shared intellectual property and resources, and promote the importance of the honor code in all your interactions.

In general, you may use any study aid or outside help on *ungraded* exercises, as long as they help you learn. However, you may neither give nor receive aid (from tutors, classmates, family, professors, friends and acquaintances, or online translators) in the completion of exams, essays, or any other *graded* work prepared outside of class that is not specified as a collaborative activity with classmates. Violation of this policy will result in a failing grade for the assignment, and maybe even for the class.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is **not acceptable**. You will receive an F for any assignment that is deemed to be plagiarism, and maybe even for the class. Additionally, the case will be reported to the your academic dean. For details please consult the following sites: <http://library.duke.edu/research/citing/plagiarism.html> and <http://trinity.duke.edu/academic-requirements?p=academic-integrity>.

### **Study Tips:**

Learning a foreign language is a matter of **frequent and regular exposure and practice**. The more you are exposed to the language, and the more you use it, the better you will be at acquiring it. There is no such thing as “I have no talent for language.” Everyone is born with a talent for learning language; it is only those who never use or practice it on a frequent and regular basis who don’t acquire it.

This course is set up to give you as much exposure to and practice actually using the language as is possible in an undergraduate program. Remember, **you are expected to spend a minimum of one hour outside of class every day**. (Sometimes you will need more, sometimes less.) This will be easier if you write this time into your daily schedule, rather than leaving it to the last minute.

Since much of the material is taken directly from authentic German-language sources that you would encounter if you were living in a German speaking country, you are likely to encounter vocabulary not “covered” by the chapter. **Do not be frustrated by this!** You will not be held responsible for this vocabulary, nor will it be essential for you in order to complete whatever task has been assigned to you. Learning another language requires a lot of guesswork (often you will be able to guess meaning from context), and an ability to deal with uncertainty. If you wish, however, you can keep a dictionary handy and look up unfamiliar words that seem important for completing the assigned tasks.

Please feel free to ask your instructor for extra help or for materials for extra practice! It is absolutely essential that you let your teacher know if you are having problems, feel overwhelmed (or underwhelmed, i.e. bored!). We are aware that students have different learning needs and different learning styles. Learning a second language requires a certain amount of memorization and repetition.

However, **let your instructor know if you feel that certain exercises are not of benefit to you.** Your teacher will gladly replace these with assignments more suited to your individual needs.

Remember, the more you “bombard” yourself with the language, the more you will be able to just “pick up,” naturally. If you like reading, watching videos, or browsing the Internet in your spare time, try to do it in German! (Surf through the “German Links” on the German Department Website: <http://www.german.duke.edu>) Your instructors can point you to the right sources at the right level. Anything “extra” you do is likely to improve your German, not to mention your grade!

#### **Nützliche Internet-Adressen:**

<http://www.nthuleen.com/teach/grammar.html>: here you find explanations and worksheets with solutions for all sorts of grammar issues.

[www.dw-world.de](http://www.dw-world.de) (German news, radio, and TV online)

[www.tagesschau.de](http://www.tagesschau.de) (German news with TV clips)

[www.campus-germany.de](http://www.campus-germany.de) (If you plan to study in Germany...)

[www.spiegel.de](http://www.spiegel.de) (leading political magazine, with a link to the “Gutenberg-Projekt”, the largest online collection of German literature)

[www.faz.de](http://www.faz.de), [www.zeit.de](http://www.zeit.de), [www.sueddeutsche.de](http://www.sueddeutsche.de) (Leading German newspapers)

#### **Disabilities:**

If you have, or suspect you may have, any learning disabilities, please do not hesitate to speak with your instructor about it so that we may better work in class with your learning styles. Federal law requires that your privacy in this matter be protected, so do not worry about being singled out in front of others in the class. Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements must qualify for those services. Feel free to talk to me about this matter; I will be happy to refer you to the Office of Disabilities or the Clinical Director of the Academic Resource Center (or you can contact them by your own discretion).

#### **Educational Environment:**

We aim to create a safe and comfortable environment in the classroom that encourages students to participate freely. To facilitate that, we value all forms of diversity and promote and foster an inclusive classroom experience. If at any point you feel concerned about the classroom climate or feel that there are issues you would like to address, please feel free to contact your instructor.

**If you have questions or concerns at any point during the semester, please contact your instructor. Should you feel there are issues you wish to discuss with someone else, please contact the Language Program Director Dr. Corinna Kahnke ( [corinna.kahnke@duke.edu](mailto:corinna.kahnke@duke.edu) ). Plan on attending office hours at least once during the semester, even if it is just for an informal visit.**

**I hope that your study of German will be stimulating, productive and enjoyable and wish you a successful semester! – I am looking forward to working with you!!! ☺**

**Weekly Schedule:**

<b>Woche</b>	<b>Montag</b>	<b>Dienstag</b>	<b>Mittwoch</b>	<b>Donnerstag</b>
<b>29. August-01. September</b>	Syllabus Einführung A	Einführung A	Einführung A	Kulturtag <i>Geographie &amp; Sprache</i>
<b>05.-08. September</b>	Einführung B	Einführung B	Einführung B	Kulturtag <i>Europa</i>
<b>12.-15. September</b>	Einführung B	Wiederholung A'buch A&B	<b>EXAMEN E A&amp;B</b>	Kulturtag <i>Magaziñübung</i>
<b>19.-22. September</b>	Kapitel 1	Kapitel 1	Kapitel 1	Kulturtag <i>Schule/Uni</i>
<b>26.-29. September</b>	Kapitel 1 PORTFOLIO 1	Kapitel 1	Kapitel 1	Wiederholung A'buch 1
<b>03.-06. Oktober</b>	<b>EXAMEN K 1</b>	Kapitel 2	Kapitel 2	Kapitel 2
<b>10.-13. Oktober</b>	<b>Herbstferien</b>	<b>Herbstferien</b>	Kulturtag <i>Filmbesprechung: Im Juli</i>	Kapitel 2
<b>17.-20. Oktober</b>	Kapitel 2 PORTFOLIO 2	Kapitel 2	Wiederholung A'buch 2	<b>EXAMEN K 2</b>
<b>24.-27. Oktober</b>	Kapitel 3	Kapitel 3	Kapitel 3	Kulturtag <i>Jugendschutz</i>
<b>31. Oktober-03. November</b>	Kapitel 3	Kapitel 3	Wiederholung A'buch 3	<b>EXAMEN K 3</b>
<b>07.-10. November</b>	Kulturtag <i>Feiertage und Bräuche, Lektüre Oktoberfest einführen</i>	Kapitel 4	Kapitel 4	Kapitel 4
<b>14.-17. November</b>	Kapitel 4 PORTFOLIO 3	Kapitel 4	Wiederholung A'buch 4	<b>EXAMEN K 4</b>
<b>21.-24. November</b>	Kapitel 5	Kapitel 5	<b>Erntedankferien</b>	<b>Erntedankferien</b>
<b>28. November-01. Dezember</b>	Kapitel 5	Kulturtag <i>Arbeiten in D, Beroobi</i>	Kapitel 5	Kapitel 5
<b>05.-09. Dezember</b>	Wiederholung A'buch 5	Wiederholung	Wiederholung/ Oral Exam	Oral Exam
<b>12.-15. Dezember Examenswoche</b>	<b>Reading Period</b>			

**Written Final:  
Donnerstag, den 15. Dezember, 2-5 Uhr**

**Upcoming Culture Events this semester:**

- November 03: guest lecture on Cowboys and Indians in the (East)German Context by Dr. June Hwang, University of Rochester, part of the series Auf Deutsch, bitte...! (at this time scheduled for 7.00 pm)
- November 07-12: German language campus week: "Do Deutsch" – Bunte Republik Deutschland?! 'Multikulti' und Minderheiten in der Berliner Republik
- December 08: Semesterabschlussfest (6.00-8.00 pm)

**Kaffeestunde, Filmreihe, Aktivitäten des Deutschclubs**

**The Instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus during the semester.**

## Acceptance of Syllabus

*Please sign and return this page in the first week of class.*

I have received a printed copy of the syllabus for German 1, and have read and understood it. All of the course provisions and requirements as described in the syllabus are clear to me.

In particular, I have understood and agree to:

- the course content and goals
- the Honor Code provisions, including consequences for violations
- the late assignment and short-term illness notification policies
- the class schedule and the provisions for evaluation and assessment, including the class participation grade

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(Print Name)

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(Signature)