

GERMAN 101 COURSE SYLLABUS

The University of Alabama
Instructor:
Office location:

Fall 2003
Office Hours:
Phone:

Prerequisites: None.

Texts: *Kontakte* and the accompanying *Arbeitsbuch*, 4th edition, and the *Graded German Reader*, available at all campus bookstores. Bring *Kontakte* and the workbook to class each day. The class covers the Introduction (*Einführung A*) through chapter 5 in the textbook and workbook. Read the “To the Student” section in the beginning of the main text. There is also an accompanying audio CD with *Kontakte*. This contains material from the main text. The objectives of each chapter cover *communication, language structure, and culture*. *Graded German Reader* by Crossgrove and Crossgrove.

Supplementary material may be provided by the instructor.

Educational objectives: Upon successful completion of the course, students will have a basic understanding of German grammar and will have acquired a core vocabulary. Students will be able to read, write, speak, and understand spoken German at a simple level pertaining to everyday situations. Students will gain cultural awareness of the German-speaking world. Successful completion of GN 101 and 102 fulfills the foreign language requirement of the core curriculum.

Learning a foreign language, and about the culture(s) associated with the language, can dramatically open up awareness of the world. It gives the student access to different perspectives and traditions which they would otherwise not have. It opens up a mode of meaningful communication with others from across the globe. It allows students to better understand their own culture and language in contrast with that being learned. It helps us to have a better understanding and respect for the phenomenon of *language*, a faculty which sets us apart from all other species, and thus teaches us something about what it is to be human.

Attendance: Class attendance is important and therefore reflected in the final course grade. Students are responsible for obtaining information about work missed during absences. It is highly recommended that students exchange phone numbers in class for this purpose.

Extended absences of more than two consecutive class meetings should be reported to the instructor by phone or by leaving a written message in the instructor’s box. Students with an excused absence are allowed to make up the missed work. Medical or other official documentation is typically required to establish an excused absence.

Any absences beyond 4 (for the M-F courses) or 2 (for the M-W) result in a lowering of the class grade. Each absence beyond those numbers will reflect a 10% grade reduction

for the attendance portion of the semester. A student who misses class too often disrupts the course. As such, those missing a total of **10** classes (for the M-F courses) or **5** classes (for the M-W) cannot receive higher than a grade of “D” for the total course (no matter what the other grade components are). The instructor’s records are the sole authority in determining student attendance.

Students who arrive late should be sure to inform the instructor if role has already been taken. Please do this after class is dismissed. If the instructor deems being late or leaving early as disruptive, these instances will be considered the same as absences.

Student conduct: Cheating is not tolerated. Cheating on an assignment will result in an “F” for the assignment grade, and the student may be suspended from class.

Disabilities: Please notify the instructor immediately if special accommodations may be arranged for your success in the classroom.

Mechanics of the course:

Homework: Homework is assigned each class meeting, and will not be accepted late. The homework assignments are noted on the board each meeting. Expect to spend up to 2 hours on homework outside of class for every one hour you are in class. Be prepared to orally respond about previous work in class. Please check over your returned homework. Errors may have been marked, but not corrected for you. It is your responsibility to come up with the correct answers. It is a good idea to monitor your own work after you complete it to the best of your ability.

Language Resource Center: Students are responsible for going to the LRC to do the lab exercises in the workbook. It is best to break up the work assigned into several lab visits, since cramming too much at one time is not beneficial. These exercises will be taken up and graded at the end of each chapter section.

Tests: A test will be given upon completion of each chapter except for chapter 5. It will cover work done in class as well as homework. Make-up exams will not be given; however, the lowest test may be dropped in figuring the final course grade.

Test dates:	Einführung A	Aug. 28
	Einführung B	Sep. 10
	chap. 1	Sep. 26
	chap. 2	Oct. 14
	chap. 3	Oct. 30
	chap. 4	Nov. 14
Quiz:	chap. 5	Nov. 25

For Monday-Wednesday evening class:

	Einführung A	Aug. 27
	Einführung B	Sep. 10
	chap.1	Sep. 24
	chap. 2	Oct. 13
	chap. 3	Oct. 27
	chap. 4	Nov. 10
Quiz:	chap. 5	Nov. 24

Quizzes: Additional quizzes will be given at the instructor's discretion.

Final exam: This is required for the course. There should be no surprises on it. It is comprehensive, covering all materials in the course. It contains an oral component worth 10% of the whole exam. The oral will be given at a time TBA. The written final exam is administered during the time noted in the official schedule of classes. This can be found on the tideguide website. **THE FINAL MUST BE TAKEN AT THE SCHEDULED TIME.**

Grade breakdown:

- 15% Lab work and homework
- 20% Participation and attendance
- 10% Quiz performance
- 30% Chapter tests
- 25% Final exam

Scale: 100-97 A+, 96-93 A, 92-90 A-, 89-87 B+, and so forth. Contact the instructor ahead of time about an excused absence to make arrangements if a test is planned.

Students must pass GN 101 with a grade of "C-" or better to be able to enroll in GN 102. Students with a year or two of high school German but who have not placed into GN 102 should seriously consider enrolling in GN 111, the accelerated language course which uses the same text. Otherwise it is likely that you are wasting your time.

The class routine:

The instructor will speak German in class. At times you will not understand every word. Do not be distressed by this. It is normal. Simply keep listening for words that you recognize. Most of the time these words will provide you with the cues you need to understand what is going on. Gradually you will understand more and more when you make the effort to listen carefully. A good language learner is a willing guesser who accepts the uncertainty of not knowing every single word.

The activities in the classroom are mainly concerned with the acquisition of active communication skills. Students are therefore encouraged to prepare oral assignments carefully in order to be able to participate freely in discussions. In addition, it is a good

idea to try out newly learned phrases on classmates or other German-speaking acquaintances. You should bear in mind that even the most conscientious learning of all grammar concepts and vocabulary, which is also important, will not suffice; meaningful practice (i.e. real communicative situations) is of major importance. Consequently, working regularly with a partner is very helpful--and can be enjoyable.

Aside from the regular written material/books you have, you are responsible for the words and phrases which the instructor puts on the board. You should have a vocabulary notebook which you review on a regular basis. This will make your life simple. One of the greatest keys to acquiring a foreign language is to make it a habit. Make your vocabulary review a somewhat brief but frequent habit.

Willkommen in Deutsch 101!

