

Introductory German (Draft Syllabus)
Walter Rankin, Ph. D.
Wednesdays, 2:30-5:00pm
Spring 2014

Contact Information
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Meetings: By appointment
202-687-5400

Course Overview

Introductory German requires no previous background in German and is designed to help students build a foundation in grammar and vocabulary on which to build listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. This course will include cultural elements, short literary pieces in English and German, film excerpts, and web articles in context.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the basic elements of German grammar and vocabulary;
- Write short, focused essays on familiar topics;
- Ask questions, understand answers, and facilitate brief conversations;
- Read and understand news briefs and short literary pieces in German;
- Develop an understanding of some German historical, cultural, and literary figures.

Textbook

Treffpunkt Deutsch: Grundstufe, Sixth Edition. Gonglewski, Margaret, et al.

ISBN 10: 0-205-78335-X

ISBN 13: 978-0-205-78335-9

\$159.39 through Amazon; also available to rent through Amazon and as a digital copy

Grades and Grading

15%	5/6 Vocabulary Quizzes
20%	5/6 Short Essays
30%	5/6 Chapter Exams
15%	Homework
10%	In-Class Exercises
10%	Final Exam

For the vocabulary quizzes, writing assignments, and chapter exams, you can drop 1 out of 6 for any reason; therefore, no make-up quizzes or exams are permitted. The final exam is cumulative and optional. You can use your chapter exam average for the final exam score or take the final exam. I will use the higher of the two scores in calculating your final grade, so there is no downside to taking the final exam.

If you receive a B or lower on a short essay, you will have the option of re-writing it to earn up to 10 additional points on that specific assignment. All re-written essays will be due one week after the original essay has been returned to you in class.

Late and Make-Up Policy

As mentioned above, there are no make-up quizzes, exams, or in-class exercises (65% of the overall grade). Short essays and homework are due by the start of each class session. If you have to miss a class, please make sure to submit your essay or homework via email to me by 5:00pm on the day that

assignment is due. In order to be fair to other students, 10 points will be deducted for each day that the assignment is late.

Attendance

Attendance in language courses is particularly important, as the classroom is the primary place where we can practice active communication, work on pronunciation, and talk through challenges. To learn a foreign language well, you must gradually build a knowledge base of vocabulary, grammar, culture, and context. Additionally, we will have quizzes, tests, and in-class assignments during every session that cannot be made-up at a later time. Multiple absences will therefore have a cumulative, negative effect on your overall grade. More importantly, they will impede your learning and enjoying the language.

Grading Scale

A	100-93	C+	79-78	F	59-0
A-	90-92	C	77-73	NR	Not Reported for Honor Code
B+	89-88	C-	72-70		
B	87-83	D+	69-68		
B-	82-80	D	67-60		

Important Dates

January 18, 2014	Last Day to Drop
January 21, 2014	Last Day to Withdraw with 100% Refund
March 17, 2014	Last Day to Withdraw

Please review the academic calendar at <http://scs.georgetown.edu/academic-affairs/academic-calendar>

Academic Resource Center

Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Resource Center (C129 at 640 Massachusetts Ave., NW; 202 687-8354; arc@georgetown.edu; academicsupport.georgetown.edu) before the start of classes to allow their office time to review documentation and make recommendations for appropriate accommodations (such as extended time on tests). If accommodations are recommended, you will be given a letter from ARC to share with me. Please complete this process officially and in a timely manner. I am not allowed to provide accommodations to students who have not completed this process in advance.

Georgetown University Honor Code

All students are held to the Honor Code of Georgetown University: In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor, and To conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

Working together (collaboration): Language is about communication, and I encourage you to work together on your homework and essays. If you work with another student on a homework assignment or on an essay, make sure to (1) hand-in your own work and (2) list the other student's name on the work that you hand-in. You may not work together on quizzes or exams.

Any suspected act of cheating, plagiarism or other violation of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Council for investigation. Please familiarize yourself with the Honor System at <http://gervaseprograms.georgetown.edu/honor/system/> and within the School at

<http://scs.georgetown.edu/academic-affairs/honor-code>. Sanctions for violating the Honor Code can include receiving a zero on the work, failure of the entire course, and even suspension or dismissal from the University.

Classroom Etiquette and Student Conduct

Please turn off all cell phones or other communication devices while in class. Class discussions should be respectful and considerate of others' views and opinions. Student blogs, email, online portfolios and social media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter) should remain respectful and professional. Students who cause disruptions may be referred to their Associate Dean or the Office of Student Conduct and may be withdrawn from the course/program (without a refund).

Weekly Schedule

15. Januar: Erste Kontakte
22. Januar: Kapitel 1, Jahraus, jahrein
29. Januar: Kapitel 1, Jahraus, jahrein
Wortschatz-Quiz (S. 22-23; S. 50-53); Aufsatz (Essay) 1 Due
5. Februar: Kapitel 2, Freunde
Test on Kapitel 1
12. Februar: Kapitel 2, Freunde
Wortschatz-Quiz (S. 58-59; S. 82-83); Aufsatz 2 Due
19. Februar: Kapitel 3, Familie
Test on Kapitel 2
26. Februar: Kapitel 3, Familie
Wortschatz-Quiz (S. 92-93; S. 117-119); Aufsatz 3 Due
5. März: Kapitel 4, Alltagsleben
Test on Kapitel 3
12. März: Spring Break (No Class)
19. März: Kapitel 4, Alltagsleben
Wortschatz-Quiz (S. 126-127; S. 152-153); Aufsatz 4 Due
26. März: Kapitel 5, Freizeit - Ferienzeit
Test on Kapitel 4
2. April: Kapitel 5, Freizeit - Ferienzeit
Wortschatz-Quiz (S. 160-161; S. 188-189); Aufsatz 5 Due
9. April: Kapitel 6, Ein Blick zurück
Test on Kapitel 5

16. April: Kapitel 6, Ein Blick zurück
Wortschatz-Quiz (S. 196-197; S. 222-223); Aufsatz 6 Due

23. April: Test on Kapitel 6; Review for Final

Final Exam Period
May 3-10