

GRMN 101 Elementary German I Autumn Semester 2018

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Magdalena Bechter

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Office Hours: Mo 12 -1pm, Wed 12 - 2pm and by appointment

This course meets on MTWR 10 – 1050 pm (LA336)

Textbooks:

Robert Di Donato, Monica D. Clyde, and Jacqueline Vansant. *Deutsch: Na klar!* Seventh Edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Jeanine Briggs. *Workbook to Accompany Deutsch: Na Klar!* Seventh Edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Course Level

Willkommen! Welcome to German 101, Elementary German I. This course is designed for students who are at the *beginning* level of learning German. It is not assumed students have had prior experience with the German language upon entering class. If you have had previous language experience with German in formal coursework or otherwise, you may want to consult your instructor and/or take the MCLL language placement exam to see if this course represents the appropriate level for your needs and interests. It is your responsibility to make sure you are in the correct level of German.

Course Overview

GRMN 101 is a four-skills course that teaches listening, speaking, reading, and writing with a focus on communication and every day, useful situations. You will learn how to communicate in German about such topics as your friends and family, your studies, where you live, your leisure-time activities, as well as your likes and dislikes. At the same time, you will be investigate the rich diversity of culture in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

This course meets four times a week and is intended to give you as much of an immersion experience as possible. You will not understand each word, and, at this stage – you are not supposed to. Try to follow by focusing on the context, not each individual word. Pick out words you may recognize to be able to find the meaning. Your instructor will use gestures, pantomime, images, and other clues to get the message across. You will find that your comprehension increases as the course progresses.

Grammatical structures and vocabulary are a key component of the course; they will be presented as they fit into the chapter themes. We will also work on your ability to make educated guesses in German given known contexts, cognates (words similar to English), and vocabulary. As you learn the structure of German, your understanding of English will also increase.

Learning Goals and Course Outcomes

This course is oriented toward helping develop your ability to use the four basic elements of German: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The last two are emphasized (though not exclusively) in homework assignments and in chapter tests. Listening and speaking are emphasized in the classroom. You will learn German vocabulary and grammar in an incremental fashion beginning with simple phrases, eventually working toward sentences with different types of verbs, objects, and other elementary parts of speech, based on topics tailored to acquaint you with basic aspects of German-speaking culture. In addition to the textbook and the workbook, you will encounter a variety of selected texts and materials that will allow you to practice your skills of listening and reading comprehension along with speaking and writing. Course materials will help familiarize you with cultural basics in German-speaking countries and to apply that acquaintance in conversation and activities.

Participation

Participation is a crucial element in learning a language, and you can only participate if you attend class (see **Attendance Policy** below). Expect to speak and interact with others every class period. Your participation grade is calculated according to the following: Do you volunteer in class? Are you speaking in German during pair work and group activities? Does your participation involve effective use of material covered in class and in the homework? Do you complete exercises and activities? Do you work and engage with a variety of students?

Homework

Homework will consist of exercises from the workbook and from the textbook as well. When turning in homework, please staple pages together before class and turn in neat, legible homework. Do your best and note assignments you are not certain about. We can discuss them in class, or you can bring them to me during my office hours. In general, assignments from the workbook will follow the sections of the chapter we're currently discussing. It is very important to keep up with homework as it is assigned. An important component of any assignment is learning from not always getting things right.

Quizzes

At least once per chapter there will be a brief quiz on vocabulary and grammar. The "Wörter im Kontext" sections of the book will be discussed in each chapter segment and there is a vocabulary list of new words in each chapter at the end of that chapter. Be sure to review those terms for both tests and quizzes.

Tests

Tests are given at the end of each chapter. While they will focus on material from a given chapter, they will also include some previous material, reflecting the cumulative nature of language learning. Tests can only be made up with advance notice unless a sufficient and documented excuse is provided.

Final Examination

The final for all sections of GRMN 101 will take place on Monday, December, 10th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in LA 11. It will be cumulative.

Attendance Policy

As mentioned above, attendance in a language course is essential; it is important that you **attend regularly** in order not to fall behind. Excused absences may be allowed, but they must be specific and verifiable. Excused absences include illness, family emergencies, athletic or university-sponsored activities that can be verified by an administrator or official organization, and religious holidays, among others. If you have an excusable absence it is up to you to contact me either beforehand or within two sessions after your absence. For extended emergencies, exceptions can be made. Otherwise your absence will be considered unexcused. You will be allowed **four (4)** unexcused absences for the course without grade penalty. Thereafter you will be assessed a **twenty (20)**-point demotion for every absence. **Twelve (12)** unexcused absences may become grounds for failing the course solely because of absences.

Note that both the instructor and the students are responsible for maintaining a climate of consideration and respect for everyone participating in the course. Please conduct yourself with the presence of others in mind. You will likely find that you will learn a lot from what your classmates have to share and offer. Take down the phone number or e-mail address of other classmates so that you can inquire about homework, should you miss class.

Grading

Final grades will be calculated in the following way:

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Participation | 150 pts (1 x 22, 4 x 32) (20 %) |
| • Homework and Preparation | 150 pts (5 x 30) (10 %) |
| • Quizzes | 100 pts (5 x 20) (10 %) |
| • Tests | 400 pts (4 x 100) (40 %) |
| • Final Exam | 200 pts (1 x 200) (20 %) |

1000 points

Please note: there will be no extra-credit assignments. Please do the homework assignments as given.

Electronic Devices (Cell Phones, Laptops, Music Players, etc.)

If you bring a cell phone to class, please set it either on vibrate or mute. Unless specified or needed for a class activity, personal computers, music players, and messaging devices are not to be used in class.

Students with Disabilities

This course offers equal opportunity in education for all participants, including those with documented physical and documented learning disabilities. For information regarding documentation of disabilities, approaching your instructor with pertinent information, and establishing guidelines for potential accommodation, you may consult the [Disability Services for Students \(DSS\)](http://www.umt.edu/dss/website) [http://www.umt.edu/dss/website.] Please note that accommodations can only be established via consultation with DSS and take effect only after the instructor has been informed. The DSS Office is located in Lommasson 154; the phone number is 243-2243.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

Please refer to the [Student Conduct Code of the University](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php) [http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php] as it pertains to your responsibility to hand in work and/or perform activities assigned to be your own as indeed representing your own efforts and work.

COURSE SCHEDULE

MTWR

Mon Aug. 27	Begin Einführung (Introduction)
Mon Sept. 3	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS
Tues Sept. 4 – Mon Sept. 10	Einführung with Quiz at the End (Sept. 10)
Tues Sept. 11– Wed Sept. 26	Kapitel 1
Thurs Sept. 27	Test on Kapitel 1
Mon Oct. 1 – Wed Oct. 17	Kapitel 2
Thurs Oct. 18	Test on Kapitel 2
Mon Oct. 22 – Wed Nov. 7	Kapitel 3
Thurs Nov. 8	Test on Kapitel 3
Tues Nov. 13 – Tues Nov. 20	Kapitel 4
Wed Nov. 21–23	Travel Day and THANKSGIVING Holiday
Mon Nov. 26 – Mon Dec. 3	Kapitel 4
Tues Dec. 4	Test on Kapitel 4
Wed, Thurs Dec. 5, 6	Review for Final
Mon Dec. 10 @ 7:00pm-9:00pm	FINAL in LA 11

NOTE: The Final Exam is a common final for all sections of the German 101 and does not correspond to the exam schedule for the individual classes.