

Syllabus A1 Semi-Intensive

German Language and Culture – online Semi-Intensive German Language Beginner A1

Student Profile

This course is designed for the beginner student with no previous knowledge of German.

Course Objectives

Within three weeks, this course will help you to develop basic competences in listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as a basic knowledge of the German culture.

- ✚ By the end of the course, you will be able to deal with everyday situations in a German-speaking environment and to conduct simple conversations.
- ✚ You will have developed reading strategies that allow you to understand simple newspaper and magazine articles as well as short literary texts.
- ✚ In addition, you will learn to write, revise and proofread short texts in German.
- ✚ Finally, you will be able to understand discussions on familiar topics.

Textbook

studio [21] Grundstufe A1: Gesamtband. Das Deutschbuch, Hermann Funk, Christina Kuhn, Laura Nielsen, Kerstin Rische, Cornelsen Verlag, 2015. Will be made available as an e-book. Literary texts and supplemental materials in consultation with the course instructor.

Daily Lesson

In the first week, the course takes place on Wednesday and Thursday. In week 2 and 3, lessons take place Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. In the last week, lessons take place on Monday and Tuesday. The sessions take place from approximately 8am CEST to 12:30pm CEST. Please take into consideration the possible time difference and make sure that you are able to be online during those times.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1			✓	✓	
Week 2	✓	✓		✓	✓
Week 3	✓	✓		✓	✓
Week 4	✓	✓			

Technical Equipment

Working internet connection

Computer, laptop or tablet (we don't recommend the use of smart phones)

Software: Webex Meetings/Webex Training, Blackboard

recommended operating systems: Windows 7 or higher or Mac OS X 10,13 or higher, avoid using a VPN

Attendance

Each class consists of six teaching modules (45 minutes each), split in 3 live online modules and the rest as group- or independent study in the form of tasks on the online learning platform. The coursework corresponds to an on-site course amounting to 72 contact hours. Unexcused absences will negatively impact the student's course grades. Regular attendance is mandatory.

Tasks on the Learning Management System (LMS)

You will need to work on tasks on the LMS platform that your instructor will provide throughout the term independently. You will need to hand in the tasks at specified times. It is essential for your learning progress that you complete these tasks, which is why you will need to complete at least 80% of them throughout the term.

Active Participation

We expect committed and consistent interest in the acquisition of the German language. You will prove this by participating constructively and productively in the lessons and excursions, completing homework assignments and being prepared for every class. Every student is expected to respect the ideas and comments of his/her peers.

Oral Presentation

You will prepare a three-minute oral presentation. It is important that you speak freely rather than reading the oral presentation and that you keep to the time allowed.

Essay

In this course, you will write one essay (font size 12, double-spaced, 100 – 150 words). Your teacher will mark potential errors as such and you are required to correct your essay and hand in a second corrected version. For the first version of your essay, you can obtain a maximum of 100 points; for the second version, you will receive up to 50% of the missing points.

When writing your essay, you will strive first and foremost for clarity (organization and style) and accuracy (grammar and syntax).

Reflective Journal/Blog Entries and Comments

Throughout the term you will write various online journal or blog entries – independently or on given topics – to reflect on certain aspects of your German course and will comment on the entries of the other students. Your instructor will comment the content of your entries. However, no corrections will be made. The aim of the entries is that you learn how to express a critical and self-reflective position in a linguistically creative way.

Tests

You will write one or more tests throughout the duration of the course. Your instructor will inform you about the format and other details after the course start.

Group Project

Together with two or three peers you will prepare a creative and linguistically demanding oral presentation of approximately 10 minutes about your impressions of your German course and the topics discussed in class (funny, bizarre, interesting facts etc.). The projects (sketches, parodies, PowerPoint presentations, movies, songs, poems etc.) will be presented on the last day of class. Most importantly, every group member should play an active role in the presentation, i.e. should receive an equal amount of speaking time during the presentation.

Evaluation

Active participation and homework	200 points
Tasks on the online learning platform	250 points
Oral presentation	100 points
Essay	100 points
Journal/blog entries and comments	100 points
Tests	150 points
Group project	100 points

Maximum score

1,000 points

Official FUBiS Grading Scale

Freie Universität Berlin grading	Recommended US grade	Points
1,0	A	1000 – 970
1,3	A	969 – 920
1,7	A-	919 – 900
2,0	B+	899 – 880
2,3	B	879 – 830
2,7	B-	829 – 800
3,0	C+	799 – 780
3,3	C	779 – 730
3,7	C-	729 – 700
4,0	D	699 – 680
failed (> 4,0)	F	< 680