

Syllabus C1 Semi-Intensive

German Language and Culture – Semi-Intensive German Language Advanced C1

Student Profile

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed the intermediate level of German and who have a sound knowledge of German at the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Course Objectives

This course focuses on encounters with various written, spoken and audio-visual texts and exchanges with other course participants. You will further develop and expand your competencies in listening, speaking, reading and writing, as well as your understanding of German culture while being enabled to learn reflectively and strategically. The course addresses cultural, political, and historical aspects of the city of Berlin and the German-speaking countries, which you will analyze and compare with your own background and experiences. At the end of the course, you will be able to

- regularly employ new strategies for learning and using the German language.
- participate in conversations and discussions of various topics in a German-speaking environment while being aware of the appropriate linguistic register.
- read and understand texts of various length and from a variety of genres without difficulties
- to write, independently revise, and correct term papers that meet the basic requirements for academic writing.

Textbook

Kompass DaF C1. Deutsch für Studium und Beruf, Ilse Sander, Daniela Schmeiser, Birgit Braun, Nadja Fügert, Friederike Jin, Klaus F. Mautsch, Andreas Wiebel, Klett Sprachen GmbH, 2021.

Literary texts and supplemental materials in consultation with the course instructor.

Daily Lesson and Excursion

Lessons take place Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. On four class days during the term you will go on a course-related excursion.

Attendance

Each class consists of six teaching modules (45 minutes each). If you miss twelve modules (unexcused), your entire course grade will drop by one grade. Coming more than 20 minutes late counts as missing a module (this also applies to excursion days). If you come late to class six times (up to 20 minutes) your entire course grade will also drop by one grade. If you miss 30 modules, you will fail the class.

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 five-minute and a ten-minute oral presentation. You are also required to prepare a handout for your peers listing unfamiliar vocabulary (max. 20) and posing questions. Furthermore, it is important that you speak freely rather than reading the oral presentations and that you keep to the time allowed.

Essay

In preparation for your final paper, you will compose an essay in 12-font and double spaced (300-350 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). You are encouraged to incorporate complex constructions, but please concentrate on syntactic and grammatical accuracy.

In addition, you will write a journal entry reflection on your essay and the writing process. This reflection together with your instructor's suggestions and comments will help you to expand your essay into a research paper for the final project.

Reflective Journal

Throughout the term you will write various journal entries – independently or on given topics – to reflect on certain aspects of your stay in Berlin, e.g. question personal impressions, compare historical or contemporary phenomena, reflect on certain topics discussed in class, etc. Your instructor will collect these creative exercises and comment the content. However, no corrections will be made. The aim of the journal is that you learn how to express a critical and self-reflective position in a linguistically creative way.

Midterm Exam

You will take a midterm exam consisting of the following sections: listening comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension and composition based on course themes.

Final project

The final project will be a four-page written research paper (font size 12, double-spaced) and a five-minute in-class presentation. The final paper has to meet the standards of academic writing. In terms of content this means that a certain topic has to be investigated systematically and the results have to be presented in a structured and logical way. In terms of form it means that you keep to one single citation style and that you include all the sources you used for your research paper in a reference-list.

You will complete your final paper by executing the following steps:

- Based on your essay you will write an outline, which will be commented by your instructor.
- Then you will write your final paper, which will be due by the beginning of the final week of the course.
- In class you will proofread your final paper together with your peers and check for errors in terms of content and form.
- You will have the opportunity to revise your final paper before handing it in.

At the last day of class, you will present your results in a five-minute presentation. It is important that you speak freely rather than reading your presentation and that you keep to the time allowed.

Evaluation

Active participation and homework	300 points
Oral presentation (2 à 50 pts)	100 points
Essay	100 points
Reflective journal	100 points
Midterm exam	150 points
Final project (200 final paper + 50 presentation)	250 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