

Syllabus C1 Semi-Intensive

German Language and Culture - German Language Semi-Intensive Advanced 1

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

studio: Die Mittelstufe. Deutsch als Fremdsprache C1, Christina Kuhn, Britta Winzer-Kiontke, Cornelsen Verlag, 2015.

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

Daily Lesson and Excursion

In the first week, the course takes place on Thursday and Friday. In week 2 and 3, lessons take place Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. In the last week, lessons take place on Monday and Tuesday. On two class days during the term, you will go on a course-related excursion.

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

Attendance

Each class consists of six teaching modules (45 minutes each). If you miss 8 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 20 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 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.

Outline for Research Paper

In preparation for your final paper, you will compose an outline of your paper, which you will revise in the course through peer editing as well as through individual feedback by your instructor. You can obtain a maximum of 100 points for the outline. This reflective process combined with your instructor's suggestions and comments will help you to write your 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 three to 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:

- You will first write an outline, which will be revised in the course through peer editing and commented upon by your instructor.
- Subsequently, 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	100 points
Outline for Research Paper	100 points
Reflective journal	100 points
Midterm exam	150 points
Final project	250 points (200p Final paper + 50p presentation)
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