

Syllabus A2 Online Semi-Intensive

German Language and Culture – online Semi-Intensive German Language Beginner A2

Student Profile

This course is designed for beginners with basic knowledge of German.

Course Objectives

This course focuses on encounters with various written, spoken and audio-visual texts and exchanges with other course participants. You will continue to develop and expand basic competencies in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and 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

- navigate various everyday situations (in a German-speaking environment) and engage in simple conversations.
- Successfully use reading strategies to understand short newspaper articles and literary texts.
- write short texts on various topics and revise and correct them independently.
- understand, in some detail, features of conversations and lectures dealing with familiar topics.

Textbook

Akademie Deutsch A2+, Sabrina Schmohl, Britta Schenk, Sandra Bleiner, Michaela Wirtz, Jana Glaser, Hueber Verlag, 2020.

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

Technical Equipment

For successful participation in this course, you will need a stable and reliable internet connection and a desktop, laptop, or tablet (we do not recommend the use of smartphones).

Software: Webex Meetings/Webex Teams, Blackboard (Learning Management System)

Course Meetings

Online lessons take place on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from approximately 4pm CEST to 8:30pm CEST. Please take into consideration the possible time difference and make sure that you are able to be online during those times.

Tasks on the Learning Management System (LMS)

You will need to work independently on tasks on the LMS platform that your instructor will provide throughout the term. You are required to hand in the tasks at specified times. It is essential for your learning progress and for successfully advancing in the course that you complete at least 80% of these tasks throughout the term.

Attendance

Each class consists of six teaching modules (45 minutes each): three will be in a video conference format, and the other three will be individual or group work on the electronic Learning Management System (LMS). The coursework is equivalent to an in-person course with 108 contact hours. If you miss 12 modules (unexcused), your final grade will be lowered by one letter grade. Arriving in class more than 20 minutes late equals missing one module. If you are late to class six times (up to 20 minutes), your entire course grade will be lowered by one letter grade, as well. If you miss 30 modules, you will fail the class.

Active Participation

We expect continuous commitment and consistent interest in the acquisition of the German language. You will prove this by participating constructively and productively in the lessons, completing homework assignments, and being prepared for every class. Students are expected to respect the ideas and comments of their peers.

Oral Presentation

You will prepare two five-minute oral presentations. The topics will be selected in consultation with your instructor. It is important that you prepare and explain relevant vocabulary for your presentation beforehand (max. 10) and that you design a specific task for your peers accompanying the presentation. Furthermore, it is important that you speak freely and within the allotted time frame. You are encouraged to visually support your presentations, e.g. by using PowerPoint.

Essay

In this course you will write two essays (font size 12, double-spaced, 150 – 200 words). Your teacher will mark errors which you are required to correct and submit a second version. For the first version of your essay you can obtain a maximum of 50 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 will receive zero points for the essay if you make use of machine translation (e.g. Google Translate) for your essay or parts of it.

Reflective Journal

Throughout the term you will write five journal entries – independently or on given topics – to reflect on certain aspects of your coursework. Your instructor will collect these creative exercises and add comments. However, no corrections will be made. The aim of the journal is that you develop awareness of the language(s) surrounding you.

Midterm and Final Exam

You will take a midterm and a final exam consisting of the following sections: listening comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension and a composition based on course themes. Exams may also include an oral component.

Projects

Together with two or three peers you will be working on two projects (e.g. a video, a PowerPoint presentation, a podcast etc.), in which you reflect creatively in consultation with your instructor on topics and themes that are part of your course. The projects (dialogues, scenes, parodies, songs, poems etc.) will be presented during the video conferences or posted as discussion contributions on the LMS. It is critical that every group member plays an active role in the presentation and receives an equal amount of speaking time.

Evaluation

Active participation	100 points
LMS Assignments	200 points
Presentations (2 à 75 pts)	150 points
Essays (2 à 75 pts)	150 points
Journal entries (5 à 20 pts)	100 points
Midterm exam	100 points
Final exam	100 points
Projects (2 à 50 pts)	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