

Syllabus B2 Semi-Intensive

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

Student Profile

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed the basic level and the first part of the intermediate level of German and who have a sound knowledge of German at the B1 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

- use new strategies for learning and using the German language.
- participate in conversations and discussions of various topics in a German-speaking environment.
- successfully use reading strategies to understand texts of various levels of difficulty and from a variety of genres.
- write texts of various length on a range of topics and revise and correct them independently.

Textbook

Akademie Deutsch B2+: Intensivlehrwerk. Sabrina Schmohl, Britta Schenk, Sandra Bleiner, Michaela Wirtz, Jana Glaser, Hueber Verlag, 2020. Literary texts and supplemental materials in consultation with the course instructor.

Daily Lesson and Excursion

In the first week, the arrival and the FUBiS Orientation (compulsory attendance) take place. In week 2, class days are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. In week 3, lessons take place from Monday to Friday. In the last week, the course meets on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. On two class days during the term, you will go on a course-related excursion.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1				<i>Arrival</i>	<i>Orientation</i>
Week 2	✓	✓		✓	✓
Week 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Week 4	✓	✓		✓	<i>Departure</i>

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. It is important that you prepare and explain relevant vocabulary for your presentation beforehand (max. 10) and that you give your peers a specific assignment. Furthermore, 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, 250 – 300 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 150 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.

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. 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.

Final Exam

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

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 Berlin (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	300 points
Oral presentation	150 points
Essay	150 points
Reflective journal	100 points
Final exam	200 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