FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

FUBiS

Syllabus B1 Semi-Intensive

German Language and Culture – Semi-Intensive German Language Intermediate B1

Student Profile
This course is designed for students who have successfully completed the basic level of German and who have a sound knowledge of German at the A2 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
Kontext Deutsch als Fremdsprache B1+, Kursbuch mit Audios und Videos, Ute Koithan, Helen Schmitz, Tanja Sieber, Ralf Sonntag, Anna Pilaski, Ernst Klett Sprachen, 2024. Literary texts and supplemental materials in consultation with the course instructor.

Daily Lesson and Excursion
Lessons take place Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. On two 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 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 for your presentation relevant vocabulary beforehand (max. 5 – 7) and that you give your

peers a specific assignment. Furthermore, it is important that you speak freely rather than read the oral presentation, and that you keep to the time allowed.

Written Assignment
In this course you will write one essay of 200-250 words. Your instructor will mark any errors using correction symbols. You will then revise your essay and hand in a second, corrected version. For the first version of your essay, you can earn up to 150 points; for the revised version, you may receive up to 50% of the points you did not earn on the first version.
When writing your essay, you will strive for clarity (organization and style) as well as 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