FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

FUBiS

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 written work that meets the basic requirements for academic writing.

Textbook
Kontext Deutsch als Fremdsprache C1, Kursbuch mit Audios und Videos, Stefanie Dengler, Ute Koithan, Anna Pohlschmidt, Daniela Schmeiser, Helen Schmitz, Tanja Sieber, Ernst Klett Sprachen, 2025. 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. 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 read the oral presentation, and that you keep to the time allowed.

Written Assignments
In this course you will write two essays. The first essay should be two pages in length. 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 100 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.

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 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 consists of a second essay and a five-minute presentation. The essay should be two pages in length and meet the basic standards of academic writing. In terms of content, this means that a specific topic must be examined systematically and the results presented in a logically structured manner. Formally, you must use a consistent citation style and provide complete references for every source you use.
The essay should be completed at the beginning of the last week of class. During class, you will review your work together with your classmates, checking for both content-related and formal issues. You may revise the text again before the final submission deadline.

On the last day of class, you will summarize the key results of your written work in a five-minute presentation. It is important that you speak freely rather than read your presentation, and that you keep to the time allowed.

Evaluation

Active participation and homework	300 points
Oral presentation	100 points
Essay I	150 points
Reflective journal	100 points
Midterm exam	150 points
Final project (Essay II + presentation)	200 points (150 + 50 pts)
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