

German 101

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GUIDELINES



Objectives of German 101-102:

This is a two-semester four-skills course. This means that we emphasize listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. The fifth skill of culture is also incorporated into the process. After the second semester of this course you should be able to:

- perceive all the sounds of German and distinguish them from one another
- pronounce German accurately enough to be understood by a native speaker
- express ideas in simple sentences using vocabulary from the textbook
- read and understand simple, non-technical German prose
- guess intelligently at new vocabulary items
- write a paragraph in German both with and without a dictionary about topics covered in the text without any major errors.

You will also have been introduced to important aspects of everyday culture in the German-speaking countries, for example, climate and geography, family life, school and university life, jobs, and urban life, and how they differ from North American culture. You will also gain insights into cultural and historical differences between the Federal Republic, Switzerland, and Austria and gain an elementary knowledge of some more problematic aspects of contemporary German life such as nationalism.



accompanying the textbook ("In-text" Audio CD). The bundle available at the bookstore contains the CDs with these files.

You will also need access to a second set of audio files, called "SAM" files (SAM - Student Activity Manual). These files will be provided via the German department website and/or the library's website.

Video Programs:

- As part of every chapter, we shall view segments of the new *Neue Horizonte* video.

Course Policies

Your instructor may elaborate and amend these.



(a) Daily Attendance and Participation:

Regular attendance is crucial to your success. Tell your professor (if possible, ahead of the missed class) if you must miss class for illness or family emergency, and be in touch afterwards for help so you can catch up. Your level of participation and preparation constitutes a significant portion of your grade. Please be in close communication with your instructor if you must, for any reason, miss class. If you accumulate 4 unexcused

absences, you may be asked to withdraw from the course. Also, please note:

- Please **silence all cell phones** in the classroom. Laptops are not ideal here. Use a traditional notebook for class work, but feel free to write homework assignments on your computer.
- Please do not chew gum in class.
- Please do not eat during class. Drinks in spill-proof containers are fine, but please finish breakfast before arriving.



(b) Homework:

The date noted in the left column of the syllabus is the day on which the assignment is due. It is important for your progress to complete assignments on time (otherwise you easily fall behind). Please write homework legibly in ink (never pencil, please) and leave a blank line between each line of text. Of course, you may also type homework and print it out. Your textbook includes instructions on the proper use of Umlauts in German. These are crucial for German orthography. On each assignment, please give your name and identify the assignment (e.g., p. 67/D) at the top of the page.

(c) Workbook:

Familiarize yourself with the Workbook/Laboratory Manual [AH=Arbeitsheft]. Annotations in the margins of *Neue Horizonte* coordinate the textbook with exercises in the Workbook and Lab Manual. Assignments in the Workbook and Lab Manual are usually self-correcting (we will distribute answer keys) reinforce new material. Some students prefer to do them after reading new grammar; others prefer to do them after working with the new material in class. Find the method that works best for you, but whatever you do, do not leave all the workbook assignments for one sitting.

The completed workbook exercises are due the day of the chapter test. **Please collate the workbook section and the lab section, correct it in a different color ink, staple and hand in when due.**

Your care in correcting errors is more important than the errors themselves. We are interested in which exercises and topics pose difficulty, and we pay attention to your own effort and progress in this independent segment of the course. We correct those sections (*Diktat* and random others in the AH) for which you have no answer key.

Note: You can **review** the semester is to work through the *Zusammenfassung und Wiederholung* [Summary and Review] sections 1 and 2 in the *Arbeitsheft*. These short grammar presentations are followed by self-correcting exercises.

(d) Tests:

All tests and quizzes are administered under the honor code. Please keep in mind that the two sections may have quizzes at different times. There will be 8 short vocabulary (*Wortschatz*) quizzes [abbreviated *Wq*] and 7 chapter tests (ca. 40 minutes) throughout the semester. They are noted on the syllabus. Do not discuss this material with students in other sections who may not yet have taken the tests and quizzes. There is no midterm exam.

The Registrar will schedule our final exam. The time and room will be announced as soon the information is available. As part of the final work, you will be given an oral interview that will be scheduled individually during Reading and Exam Period with your instructor.

Grading:

Semester grades are based on the following point distribution. Progress during the course will be taken into consideration.

Class participation (see below)	100
Chapter Tests (7 x 100)	700
Vocabulary quizzes (8 x 30 points)	240
Final work: Scheduled Final Exam	300

Point total for semester: **1340**

- Class participation and preparation: This grade reflects your willingness to speak in class and participate actively in pair and group work. It also takes into account the consistency of your preparation for class. Although letter grades are not given for daily written homework assignments, they are marked with a system of checks: check = expected level or higher; check minus = below expectation); or zero if an assignment is not received.

(e) Having Problems?

Don't hesitate to come to your instructor about any aspect of the course that is a cause of concern. We will try to help you with particular aspects of the language and will suggest study skills. There is also peer tutoring available through the Learning and Teaching Center (LTC). Your instructor will set you up with a tutor if this is advisable.