



GRMN 0100: BEGINNING GERMAN I SYLLABUS

Lecturer:	Office:
Email:	Office Hours:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

German 0100 is designed for the beginning student with no previous knowledge of German. This course seeks to build your language development with the ultimate goal in mind: to communicate effectively and in personally relevant ways. By continuously drawing your attention to the purpose of language, you become accustomed to viewing communication in relation to your intended audience. An active engagement with diverse genres enhances your growing awareness of cultural products, practices and perspectives. As you advance throughout the course, opportunities for metalinguistic and cultural reflection will help you to grow into a critical language learner by asking you to consider your own language(s) and culture(s), thereby allowing you to meaningfully engage with the products, practices, and perspectives of others. Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Interpret the main messages communicated across a range of genres, including personal interviews, feature film clips, short stories, newspaper articles, and infographics.
- Communicate effectively with others in German on a variety of topics such as self, family and friends, university life, nutrition and living spaces, and fitness.
- Negotiate meaning across language and culture.
- Implement learning strategies when engaging with media and texts
- Create oral, written, and digital presentations that demonstrate your growing awareness of culture, audience, language functions, and form.
- Draw comparisons between German-speaking cultures and those of your own culture(s).

COURSE TEXTS & MATERIALS

Required

- TBA (course material cost may range between \$50.00-150.00)

Recommended

- Online dictionaries: [Linguee \(English-German\)](#), [dict.cc \(English-German\)](#), [Duden \(German-German\)](#)
- Electronic Library Sources: [A Usage Dictionary English-German](#), [Pocket Oxford German Dictionary](#)
- Any English-German Dictionary (e.g., Langenscheidt, Oxford, Collins) with a min. of 50,000 words

MASKING POLICY

Consistent with Penn guidelines (7/11/22), masks are optional in the classroom. Masking is always an option for anyone who chooses to wear a mask for any reason. Students who are unvaccinated are strongly recommended to wear masks.

STUDENTS RESOURCES

PLC Language Direct Peer Tutoring

The Penn Language Center, PLC, offers free peer-tutoring: <http://plc.sas.upenn.edu/requesttutor>

Weingarten Center

At the Weingarten Center, the *Office of Learning Resources* provides consultations for developing academic skills, such as time management and study strategies. The *Office of Student Disabilities Services* provides comprehensive, professional services and programs for students who self-identify with disabilities: <https://wlrc.vpul.upenn.edu/>

CAPS

Counseling and Psychological Services, CAPS, offers confidential and free professional mental health services to all Penn students. <https://caps.wellness.upenn.edu/>

Student Wellness Programs

Please refer to Student Wellness for many more resources at Penn: <https://www.college.upenn.edu/wellness>

ASSESSMENT & GRADING POLICIES

1. Attendance and In-Class Participation

Attendance and active participation are a vital part of your performance in this course. If you miss class, you are responsible for making up missed assignments and for knowing the material covered.

You are permitted four (4) absences for any reason (two late arrivals equal one absence). Starting with the fifth absence, your course grade drops 1/3 letter grade for each additional absence (i.e., from an A to an A-). A maximum of ten (10) absences results in failing the course. All absences should be reported in Path@Penn as *Course Action Notices*. In case of extended absences, contact me, your advisor, and/or a [CaseNet advisor](#) in the College Office to determine your ability to complete the course.

Active participation means:

- Being prepared for class by completing online assignments on time
- Volunteering regularly with constructive comments in group and plenary discussions
- Listening to and respecting the ideas and comments of your peers
- Coming regularly to office hours

Because our class represents a diversity of individual beliefs, backgrounds, and experiences, every member of this class must show respect for every other member of this class. Together, we will create, promote and sustain an inclusive and supportive learning environment where diversity and difference are recognized as a source of strength.

2. Participation on Canvas (Homework)

All assigned work in Canvas must be prepared in advance and will be incorporated into the content of each class session. The content of the Canvas online platform includes discussion forums, grammar exercises, audio-visual material, and a reflective journal.

3. Summative Assessments (Mein Blickwinkel)

You will create four (4) summative assessment pieces that highlight your oral and written communication skills. These assessments range from individual collages and essays to group inquiry-based projects. You will receive feedback on written assignments and submit a revision.

4. Modul Quizzes

You will complete four (4) quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes consist of highly structured activities (e.g., multiple-choice or fill-in the blank responses) as well as your thoughtful engagement with the course themes in brief written responses.

5. Oral Exam

You will conclude the semester with a one-on-one conversation in which you will apply your spontaneous oral communication skills.

Evaluation

All assignments are due on the day assigned. Missed assignments and quizzes cannot be made up unless excused beforehand by your instructor due to extenuating circumstances.

Grade distribution

In-Class Active Participation	300 points
Participation on Canvas	290 points
Summative Assessments (4@65)	260 points
Quizzes (4@25)	100 points
Oral Exam	50 points

Grading scale

990 – 1000 = A+	780 – 799 = C+
940 – 989 = A	740 – 779 = C
900 – 939 = A-	700 – 739 = C-
880 – 899 = B+	680 – 699 = D+
840 – 879 = B	630 – 679 = D
800 – 839 = B-	0 – 629 = F

Academic Integrity

Using the ideas, data, or language of another without specific and proper acknowledgement constitutes plagiarism. Furthermore, the use of any machine translation, as well as consulting friends or family to correct or change your work are considered forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may result in further disciplinary action, which may include receiving a failing grade for the course. If you are at all unsure about the appropriate form of acknowledgement in a particular situation, it is your responsibility, as stated in [Penn's Code of Academic Integrity](#), to consult with your instructor to clarify any ambiguities.

I wish you all the best for a productive and engaging semester. Should you have concerns about the course, please contact the Language Program Director, Claudia Baska Lynn cblynn@upenn.edu or call 215-898-7053.