

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2019-2020 German 111 A1, 2, 3, 4, X01: Beginners' German I
(Fall Term)**

Instructor: _____
Office: _____
Office Hours: _____
E-Mail: _____

Time: _____
Place: _____

Course Prerequisite and Placement: This is an elementary German course intended for students who have **little or no** prior knowledge of German. Students who have taken German in high school (less than German 30) or have some native background may be admitted, but they need to consult the Acting Coordinator of the German Language Program (Crystal Sawatzky, 239-A Arts Building; email: csawatzky@ualberta.ca) about a placement test, since students with too strong a background will not be allowed to receive credit for this class. Native speakers may not enroll in this course. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course. For questions about higher level German courses or the German program, please contact the German Undergraduate Academic Advisor Dr. Carrie Smith (200 Arts Building; email: carrie.smith@ualberta.ca).

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.? Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved

Community Service Learning component
 Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (*please specify*)
- NA

Course Description and Objectives: *Willkommen!* German 111 is an introduction to the German language and German-speaking cultures. The main goal of this course is to help you develop basic communication skills in German. We will focus on listening comprehension, speaking, reading, writing, and cultural literacy.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases
- engage in brief conversations on everyday topics
- read and understand simple short texts
- write short texts (dialogues, descriptive paragraphs)
- recognize and describe some cultural aspects of the German-speaking countries

Course Format: The learning outcomes for this course will be achieved through a combination of instructor-led presentations, group- and pair-work, working with the textbook and other audiovisual materials.

Required Texts:

H. Funk & C. Kuhn, *studio [express] Kompaktkurs Deutsch A1*. Cornelsen, Berlin, 2017.

Additional Course Fees

- Yes No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 3, 2019
Add/Delete Date: September 16, 2019
50% Withdrawal Date: October 3, 2019
Withdrawal Date: November 29, 2019
Last Day of Class: December 6, 2019
Final Exam Date (if applicable): Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019 at 9am

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:
<https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations> (Exams)

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

Grading Policies and Required Work: Evaluation of your performance in this course will take several forms. The evaluation system is designed to reflect your ability to actively and effectively participate in a wide variety of language related activities, both in and out of the classroom. You are expected to come to class every day, be prepared to interact in German in a variety of situations, keep up with the material, complete and hand in assigned homework, and take exams and quizzes.

We believe that learning a foreign language is the development of a skill, not the acquisition of a body of knowledge. It can be compared with learning to play a musical instrument. You begin with the very basics and through study and practice you advance to ever more complex music. The key word is practice, or learning by doing, and therefore this course is designed to allow you to take an active part in each class, to hear, respond to, read, and speak a lot of German. As a result, the quality of the education you receive in this class will depend on the amount and quality of your own effort, as well as that of the other students.

Grade Distribution:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|---|
| Participation/Attendance | 10% | |
| Homework | 10% | |
| Compositions (3x5%) | 15% | |
| Mini-Quizzes | 15% | |
| Midterm | 20% | (Oct. 10, 2019) |
| Oral Final Exam | 10% | (Nov. 29 – Dec. 6, 2019) |
| Written Final Exam (cumulative) | 20% | (date set by the General Faculties Council; Dec. 10, 2019 at 9am) |

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Participation/Attendance 10%: In-class participation is vital to your success in this course. It will be evaluated several times during the semester. In-class participation includes not only evidence of individual preparation and attention, but also contributing to group work. You are also expected to attend class regularly and punctually. If you must miss a class, contact another student (or the instructor) to find out what you missed. It is your responsibility to make up work and learn the material for classes you miss. For more detail, please consult the section *Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components* below.

Homework 10%: Your instructor will assign homework on a daily basis. Homework consists mostly of written exercises, but may also be reading a text or studying for a quiz or some type of oral preparation. You cannot learn the material and make good use of class time without daily preparation. Plan to spend about half an hour every day on practicing German (doing homework, studying grammar, learning vocabulary, etc.). Your instructor will review your homework and provide you with feedback.

Compositions 15% (3x5%): During the semester, you will write three compositions. Your instructor will provide you with the exact due dates. You will receive feedback on your compositions.

Midterm 20% and Quizzes 15%: There will be one midterm in this semester (worth 20%). The midterm is designed to assess a variety of skills, which are practiced during the course of study, including listening comprehension, reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar structures, writing, and cultural information.

In addition, instructors will administer several quizzes (total worth of 15%) at their discretion. The midterm and quizzes can only be made up if your instructor is informed prior to the test date and decided to excuse your absence.

Oral Final Exam 10%: This oral exam is designed to assess your communicative abilities in German. The exam takes ca. 10 minutes and will take place outside of class time. The exam will resemble the oral activities that you have done in class to that point. You will receive details about signing up and preparing as we approach the exam. The oral final exam will be done individually, and will be administered in the last weeks of classes.

Written Final Exam 20%: The final exam is cumulative, and similar in format to the midterm. It will assess, reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar structures, writing, and familiarity with cultural topics. No exceptions will be made for “planned holidays” or “I bought my plane ticket long time ago”, etc. It is written on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019 at 9am.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale

| Descriptor | Letter Grade | Grade Point Value | % |
|---|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students. | A+ | 4.0 | 97-100 |
| | A | 4.0 | 93-96 |
| | A- | 3.7 | 90-92 |
| Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students. | B+ | 3.3 | 87-89 |
| | B | 3.0 | 83-86 |
| | B- | 2.7 | 80-82 |
| Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course. | C+ | 2.3 | 77-79 |
| | C | 2.0 | 73-76 |
| | C- | 1.7 | 70-72 |
| Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter. | D+ | 1.3 | 65-69 |
| | D | 1.0 | 60-64 |
| Failure. | F | 0.0 | 0-59 |

Use of German

This is a German course, therefore it will be taught in German. However, the instructor may occasionally use English if it is deemed pedagogically appropriate. Furthermore, to benefit from this course and to acquire a greater understanding of the language, students are expected to speak German as much as possible in class.

Useful Expressions for the German Classroom

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ich habe eine Frage! | I have a question! |
| Ich verstehe das nicht! | I don't understand that! |
| Langsam, bitte! | Slowly, please! |
| Noch einmal, bitte! | Once again, please! |
| Entschuldigung, ... | Excuse me, ... |
| Was ist das? | What is that? |
| Wie sagt man ... auf Deutsch? | How do you say ... in German? |
| Wiederholen Sie, bitte! | Repeat, please! |
| Lesen Sie, bitte! | Read, please! |
| Schreiben Sie, bitte! | Write, please! |
| Bitte öffnen Sie Ihre Bücher! | Please open your books! |
| Hören Sie bitte zu! | Listen, please! |
| Wie schreibt man das? | How do you spell that? |

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University calendar.”

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of [the Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy has been or is being violated to:

- * Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- * If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular daily attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result. Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, GERM 111, students are expected to attend class daily, be prepared to interact in German in a variety of situations, keep up with the material, complete and hand in assigned homework, and take exams and quizzes.

Absence from Term Work:

In cases of potentially excusable absences (emergency conditions, incapacitating mental and/or physical illness, severe domestic affliction, legitimate University-related business, or for circumstances as described in the University's Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy), students may apply for an excused absence for missed term work (such as quizzes, presentations, or exams) to receive the opportunity to make-up the missed term work. Please note:

- For an absence to be considered excused, instructors will request adequate documentation to substantiate the reason for the absence (i.e. in the form of a “Medical Declaration Form for Students” (https://uofa.ualberta.ca/arts/-/media/arts/student_services/documents/medicaldeclarationformforstudents.pdf)).
- Providing any kind of document(s) does not imply an automatic approval; it will be at the discretion of the instructor to accept or decline a document and/or grant the student’s request for an excused absence.
- A student must inform the instructor within two working days following the term work which was missed, or as soon as the student is able, having regard to the circumstances underlying the absence.
- For missed exams or term work, **no extension will be given after this deadline has elapsed and a grade of ZERO will be assigned.**
- For an excused absence where the cause is religious belief, a student must contact the instructor(s) within two weeks of the start of Fall or Winter classes; and within three days of the start of Spring or Summer classes.

Absence from Classes:

Regular daily attendance and active participation in class are essential for optimal performance in a foreign-language course. Attendance will be recorded on a daily basis. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to make up the missed material. Students are encouraged to communicate with other students (or with the instructor by email or in office hours) to keep up with missed classes. Do not expect your instructor to go over material in class again because you were absent.

Participation will be evaluated several times during the semester. If you are not in class, you cannot participate. Please be aware that unexcused absences will negatively impact your participation grade.

Absence from Final Exams:

A student who has missed a final exam because of incapacitating mental and/or physical illness, severe domestic affliction or for circumstances as described in the University's Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy (including religious belief) may apply for a deferred exam. Students must present supporting documentation pertaining to the absence to their Faculty office within two working days

following the scheduled date of the exam missed, or as soon as the student is able, having regard to the circumstances underlying the absence. Deferred examinations cannot be granted by instructors. For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

Policy for Late Assignments:

Assignments are normally due on the day originally announced. Your instructor, *if consulted in advance*, may consider extensions in special cases before deducting grades or refusing to give credit. Your instructor will spell out the details of how he or she deals with late assignments. In general, you can expect to receive a late assignment back *corrected* but with the mark diminished due to unacceptable lateness.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

Copyright: Claudia Kost, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta 2019