

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2020-2021 German 111 A1-4: Beginners' German I
(Fall Term: Remote Delivery)**

Instructor: _____

Time: _____

Office: _____

Place: _____

Office Hours: _____

E-Mail: _____

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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 Coordinator of the German Language Program (Dr. Claudia Kost, email: ckost@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. Claudia Kost (ckost@ualberta.ca).

Technology Requirements (minimum): It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course. Please check out the university's requirements for remote learning: <https://www.ualberta.ca/information-services-and-technology/services/software-hardware-vendors/technology-requirements.html>

In order to participate in German 111 this fall, you need a computer/laptop/tablet with Internet access, a microphone and a camera for participation in class.

Experiential Learning Component

this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

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

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, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes: *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. To do so, we will get you to use German as much as possible because this is the most effective way to learn a language. Thus, the course places a strong emphasis on the development of your communicative ability in relation to the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing, as well as cultural literacy. All aspects of language (e.g., vocabulary, structures, etc.) will be presented and used within specific communicative situations and the goal is for you to carry out activities and tasks using the language you have learned.

This course follows a blended-learning model, a combination of in-class, face-to-face instruction and interaction, and online self-paced, individual learning. Following the university's announcement that the majority of classes in Fall 2020 will be delivered remotely and online, our face-to-face classes will take place remotely during scheduled class times (on Bear Tracks, these times are listed as your regular class

times). During these classes you will meet and communicate with your instructor and interact with your classmates via video conferencing (Zoom). You will complete the online lessons independently, on your own time (on Bear Tracks, these are listed under Labs). Your instructors will guide you through these online lessons and will advise on when these need to be completed.

Learning outcomes:

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

- understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases
- interact with others about familiar topics in a simple way
- understand simple short oral and written texts
- write short texts (dialogues, descriptive paragraphs)
- recognize and describe some cultural aspects of the German-speaking countries

Learning a language is a complex, long-term and highly rewarding process. It is important that you identify your own motivations and objectives in undertaking this course. This course requires regular attendance, participation and effort, as well as constant review and practice in and out of class. The 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. It is also important for you to explore the ways in which you learn best and to find opportunities for outside practice according to your interests. The strategies you develop for dealing with spoken and written language are as important to communication and language acquisition as is your knowledge of the language itself. Your constant personal involvement both in and out of class will be essential to your success.

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 e-textbook and other audiovisual materials.

Required Texts:

Free e-textbook: *Willkommen: Deutsch für alle* (<https://openeducationalberta.ca/willkommen-deutsch/>)

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

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

First Day of Class: September 1, 2020

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: October 2, 2020

Fall Term Reading Week: November 9-13, 2020

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2020

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2020

Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Participation/Attendance	10%	
Quizzes	20%	
Tasks	40%	
Oral Assessment	10%	(Oct. 30-Nov. 5, 2020)
Written Final Assessment	20%	(during final exam period)

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Participation/Attendance 10%: Active in-class participation is crucial for learning a language. This is true whether we meet in a physical room or remotely like this Fall term. For German 111, this means we will meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays via Zoom video conferencing. During the video conferencing sessions, you are expected to participate just like in a regular classroom: interacting with your classmates and the instructor, doing a variety of activities. You will need a microphone so that everyone can hear you and we also encourage you to switch on your camera (because nobody wants to talk to a black screen 😊).

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.

Quizzes 20%: After each online lesson you need to complete a quiz on eClass. The quizzes are 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.

Tasks 40%: Each unit in the e-textbook entails the completion of a task (which may consist of oral presentations and/or written assignments) and is worth between 5-7.5%. Specific information about each task is provided in the e-textbook as well as on eClass where you submit those tasks.

Oral Assessment 10%: This oral assessment is designed to assess your communicative abilities in German. The assessment takes ca. 10 minutes (outside of class time) and it will resemble the oral activities that you have done in class up to that point. You will receive details about signing up and preparing as we approach the assessment date. The oral assessment will be done individually and will be administered between Oct. 30 and Nov. 5, 2020.

Written Final Assessment 20%: The written final assessment is cumulative and will assess reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar structures, writing, and familiarity with cultural topics. It will be administered during the final exam period.

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](#).

Language and Translation Courses:

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.](#)

Sexual Violence Policy:

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 via video conferencing, be prepared to interact in German in a variety of situations, complete online sessions between in-class sessions, and submit various assignments.

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 they deal 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.

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