



GERMAN 1

COURSE OVERVIEW

Herr Gray
jgray@tempeprep.org

WHY STUDY GERMAN?

In many parts of the world, knowledge of one or more languages other than one's native tongue is very common. In fact, the study of foreign languages in most other countries begins in elementary school. Acquisition of a foreign language allows you to:

- increase your skills in solving problems and dealing with abstract concepts
- appreciate great literary works in the language in which they were written
- see world events from another perspective
- broaden avenues for future study and work
- escape the ignominy of being monolingual in an increasingly multilingual world

German is spoken by more than 120 million people in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, parts of Belgium, northern Italy and eastern France. It is a key business language in the European Union and one of the most important cultural languages of the world. It was the language of Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Wagner, Strauss and Mahler. Imagine being able to read the following authors, philosophers and scientists in their native German: Luther, Kepler, Kant, Goethe, Schiller, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Freud, Kafka, and Einstein. Did you know that one in ten books worldwide is printed in German? Bottom line? Knowledge of German is key to a wider, richer world. Herr Gray's motto: *Die Welt macht mehr Spass auf Deutsch! (The world is more fun in German!)*

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HOW THIS CLASS WILL WORK

In the classroom, we deal with the four communicative modalities: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Through appropriate attention to each of these areas, you will gradually become better and better prepared to fully enjoy your later German courses in which you will be reading, discussing, and coherently writing about great German literature. You will study grammatical principles through reading of the textbook at home, but I will additionally go over most grammatical points in the classroom for reinforcement and clarification. You will do extra written exercises found in *Kontakte* (K.), as well as other assignments I may devise based on your needs. You will usually do these at home, but occasionally in class. We will utilize class time speaking **only** in the target language. You may find this very frustrating at first, however, a true immersion experience will facilitate

much faster development of your speaking and listening abilities than would otherwise be possible.

REQUIRED TEXT

1. *Kontakte: A Communicative Approach* (5th ed.), Terrell et al., McGraw Hill, 2004 [Must be returned at end of school year]

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

1. Binder for returned homework, classwork, tests, handouts, notes, etc.
2. Notebook paper for homework, notes, etc. [Please do *not* use spiral-bound; the edge is a *hideous mess* when torn out.]
3. Blue or Black pen for homework, partner- and group work
4. Red pen for correcting in-class assignments and class-corrected homework
5. Pencil for note-taking
6. Flash cards -OR- notebook (spiral or other) for recording vocabulary

BEING SUCCESSFUL IN GERMAN 1

At Tempe Prep, we place great emphasis on the attitude you bring to studying all your subjects. Your success is measured not only by homework and test scores, but also by how you approach your subjects each day. This will be particularly true in learning German. Because the material will be completely new, it will take some time to learn some basic ideas. Still, you will be surprised how quickly you will begin understanding—and *speaking* in German!

Keep one thing particularly in mind, however. Learning German at Tempe Prep is more than being able to say correctly, "This morning Frau Schmidt placed the stuffed ferret on the wooden table" or to ask "At what time will the train from Berlin arrive in Düsseldorf?" In essence, it is about trying new things and discovering new ways to say whatever you want. In other words, improvisation and versatility are key.

Your semester evaluation takes into account four standards by which we measure your success: depth of inquiry; sense of wonder; attitude toward the subject; and understanding of the subject matter. Specifically, here is what I will look for to see if you are succeeding:

Depth of Inquiry & Sense of Wonder:

- Do you review your work to improve accuracy? Do you clearly want to do your best?
- Do you regularly volunteer to speak in class—*even when you're unsure of the precise words to use?*
- Do you show curiosity about different ways to say things?
- Do you stay focused on an activity—*even when you may not understand the concept at first?*

Attitude:

- Do you complete even simple exercises with care and diligence?
- Do you pay close attention to explanations of grammar and vocabulary?
- Do you listen thoughtfully to your classmates as they attempt to develop *their* language skills?
- Do you accept correction positively when you make mistakes? Do you try again?

Understanding of the Subject Matter:

- Can you apply grammatical rules to *new* situations?
- Can you show command of the vocabulary?
- Can you read with a grasp of main ideas? With an appreciation for details?
- Can you explain what you have just heard or read in German?

EDUCATION

While I will not take up class time to discuss your current grade, you are always welcome to inquire at other times about your grade and overall progress. In fact, I encourage you to do so frequently. Evaluation will take into account these components:

Class Participation (30%)

You are expected you to be prepared for each lesson, and to contribute frequently in class. You are expected to strive for accuracy, but you will not be penalized for inaccuracies. Instead, you will be rewarded for your consistent effort to speak *in German*. **Important: Because we are utilizing an immersion approach to accelerate your acquisition of the language, using English within the walls of my classroom constitutes a subversive and unacceptable behavior. This means that from the moment you enter the room before class begins until the moment you cross the threshold when leaving, you have exactly two choices: German or silence.** Your faithful adherence to this policy will go a long way toward earning your full participation credit each day. Departure from this policy will inevitably result in a loss of valuable points. Please do not assume that I have not noticed illicit English use just because I have not said anything about it. Covert English speaking will lead to covert point deduction ☺. If you ever *absolutely must* use English in class, then it may *only be with me* and only after having received *occasion-specific permission* to do so.

Homework (30%)

Homework will include one or more of the following: written exercises, vocabulary learning, grammar study, short reading assignments, and small projects. It is expected that you will, on your own initiative, spend a *minimum* of TPA's recommended 30 minutes of home language study *each day* learning German, regardless of whether or not there is a specific homework assignment on a given day. I cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of *consistent daily effort* when learning a new language. Be a self-motivated learner and you will *always* have some German to study.

Exams/Quizzes (40%)

The tentative plan is to have three to four Chapter Exams and one Final Exam *each semester*.

As warranted, I will give quizzes—*never unannounced*—throughout the year. These quizzes could cover, among other things, vocabulary, grammar, or topical written exercises.

DISCIPLINE

Class will be conducted according to the motto: *Ordnung muss sein*. Remember, this is a language classroom and not a playground. Any roughhousing, throwing of objects, defacing of or absconding with personal or school property, using profanity, etc., therefore, will ***automatically result in detention***. Insisting that “so-and-so started it” will never allow a student to escape the consequences of his or her actions.

If a student does anything whatsoever with my personal laptop, that is automatic grounds for detention. Not only is there sensitive information about grades on it, but this simply falls under the heading of “respecting the property of others.”

Cell phones, mp3 players, portable video game devices, etc. are not allowed in my classroom—for the simple reason that their use in the classroom is both disrespectful and disruptive. Please leave them in your locker where they belong during classes. First time offenders will have the device confiscated for the duration of the period, second time and repeat offenders will serve detention and a parent or guardian will need to pick up the device from the front office. NB: you may on occasion be allowed to bring a laptop of your own, but only for working on group projects.

I will not waste class time indulging discussions of whether or not the detention is fair or deserved or whatever, neither will I take class time to actually fill out the slip; I will fill it out later in the day and give the student his or her copy the next day. Any pleadings in one’s own behalf must wait until after class or sometime later in the day. I will listen carefully and do my best to be fair, but again, during class is never the time for this.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

1. **Be enthusiastic!** Try your best. Help your classmates. Laugh. Exaggerate your pronunciation and even your mannerisms while speaking *German*.
2. **Be inquisitive!** If you need help, ask for it. Ask in *and out* of class. I am available for tutoring. Please give me about a day's notice if you would like to be tutored. If we compare our schedules in advance, we can find the optimal time to meet.
3. **Be punctual!** Lateness is disruptive. We only have 55 minutes together each day to absorb the material. Be on time to class. NOTE: Three (3) "lates" to class in any school quarter = one (1) detention. Also, please do not be in a hurry to pack up your things and stand waiting at the end of class. I will dismiss you to do these things in time to leave.
4. **Be in charge!** You have the power to impact your grades—not only while you do homework, quizzes and exams, but also even if you miss doing them. There are opportunities for make-ups. Better late than never and better 50% credit than none at all.
 - a) **Submit your homework on time.** Unless you have been excused when you are late to class or absent for a day, I will check written assignments for completion at the beginning of the class period. Please get it out and ready *as soon as you sit down*; this will save valuable class time. The answers to most exercises are found at the back of the book and you are to use these to correct your own work. Also, I will accept unexcused late assignments, but no later than the day of the next exam. There is *no individual* extra credit to compensate for missed work. Any and all extra points will be available to *all students* and only on quizzes and exams.
 - b) **Schedule your make-up quizzes and exams.** For each day that you are absent, you may have a day when you return to get caught up before taking a quiz or exam that you missed. *But it is entirely your responsibility to speak to me to schedule the make-up work. I will NOT track you down.*

HOMEWORK POLICY

1. If homework is due on a particular day, have it ready to show me at the beginning of class. There might be days, of course, on which I check homework at the end of the hour. *Just have it ready!*
2. Be prepared to turn in corrected homework if I ask for it. You will receive 10 points for fully corrected on-time assignments, 5 points for corrected late assignments, and 0 points for assignments not completed or corrected.
3. On late homework, you must still make corrections to receive credit. Usually a homework assignment will be worth 10 points.
4. Do NOT erase your old mistakes and then write in the corrections. Instead, make your corrections near the original mistakes. When I can see both your mistakes and corrections, I'll be more convinced that you understand why you made the mistakes and are learning from them.
5. Late assignments—anything turned in after when I asked for it, unless you had an excused absence—will receive a grade of no more than 50% of full value. If you left an assignment in your locker or elsewhere, and I allow you to go get it at the beginning of class, **I will still consider it as late.**
6. You may turn in late homework anytime up until the day of the next exam. 50% is better than 0%, so take advantage of this policy if needed, but remember: to ensure optimal learning, *it is always best to stay current with your assignments.*
7. Your handwritten work must be clearly legible. Also, take a stand and risk being incorrect if you are not sure! Transparent attempts to hide lack of certainty, such as writing letters rather vaguely between upper and lower case, or writing *Umlauts* over vowels (ÄäÖöÜü) so faintly that their intended presence or absence could be up for dispute, will not go unnoticed ☺.

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TENTATIVE SYLLABUS FOR ENTIRE YEAR

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The following Tentative Syllabus is meant to be merely a guideline with regard to class content, grammatical concepts to be learned, and general dates. Anything could change. We will be flexible when we have to be.

Herbstsemester

Woche	Kap.	Grammatik und Thema
Aug. 11 - 15	A	instructions/commands; formal imperative
Aug. 18 - 22	A	names; letters and pronunciation; case system; gender
Aug. 25 - 29	A	clothing; colors
Sept. 02 - 05	A	greetings and saying goodbye; numbers 1-100
Sept. 08 - 12	A, B	forms of address; the classroom; definite and indefinite articles; verbs of possession and description
Sept. 15 - 19	B	physical descriptions; parts of the body; plural nouns; pronunciation; the family
Sept. 22 - 26	B	personal pronouns; weather and seasons; pronunciation; origin and nationality; possessive adjectives; pronunciation REVIEW TEST: Einführungen A & B
Sept. 29 - Oct. 03	1	leisure time and hobbies; present tense; expressing likes and dislikes; school and university
Oct. 13 - 17	1	telling time; daily routines; word order in statements; separable-prefix verbs

Oct. 20 - 24	1	personal data; word order in questions REVIEW TEST: Kapitel 1
Oct. 27 - 31	2	possessions; accusative case; negative articles
Nov. 03 - 07	2	gifts; introduction of modal verbs
Nov. 10 - 14	2	clothing and appearance; more possessive adjectives; pleasure activities
Nov. 17 - 21	2	2 nd , 3 rd person present tense of stem-vowel changing verbs; informal singular imperative REVIEW TEST: Kapitel 2
Nov. 24 - 26	3	talents and plans; more modal verbs; responsibilities
Dec. 01 - 05	3	accusative personal pronouns; physical and mental states
Dec. 08 - 12	3	word order in dependent clauses; dependent clauses and separable-prefix verbs. REVIEW TEST: Kapitel 3
Dec. 15 - 18	A-3	FINAL FALL SEMESTER EXAM / End of 1 st Semester

Frühlingssemester

Woche	Kap.	Grammatik und Thema
Jan. 05- 09	4	daily life; perfect tense
Jan. 12 - 16	4	vacation and free time; strong and weak past participles
Jan. 20 - 23	4	birthdays and anniversaries; dates and ordinal numbers
Jan. 26 - 30	4	prepositions of time; inventions and discoveries
Feb. 02 - 06	4	events; past participles with and without the prefix ge- REVIEW TEST: Kapitel 4
Feb. 09 - 13	5	gifts and favors; dative case articles and possessive adjectives
Feb. 17 - 20	5	question pronouns; professions
Feb. 23 - 27	5	verb to express changing conditions things that are normal and not normal;
Mar. 02 - 06	5	the kitchen; location prepositions and personal pronouns

		in the dative case
Mar. 16 - 20	5, 6	REVIEW TEST: Kapitel 5 house and apartment rooms; dative verbs
Mar. 23 - 27	6	prepositions with the dative or accusative
Mar. 30 - Apr. 03	6	places in town; word order—time before place
Apr. 06 - Apr. 09	6	directional prepositions; looking for an apartment
Apr. 13 - 17	6	housework; present and perfect tenses of separable-prefix verbs
Apr. 20 - 24	6	more dative prepositions REVIEW TEST: Kapitel 6
Apr. 27 - May 01	7	geography; relative clauses
May 04 - 08	7	comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and adverbs
May 11 - 15	7	means of transportation; traffic signs
May 18 - 22	7	<i>da-</i> and <i>wo-</i> compounds; travel experiences
May 26 - 27	4-7	FINAL SPRING SEMESTER EXAM / End of 2 nd Semester

**Wer fremde Sprachen nicht kennt, weiß nichts
von seiner eignen.**

He who knows nothing of foreign languages knows nothing of his own.
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)