

GERM 101: Elementary German I

Instructor: Dr. Brandy E. Wilcox, she/her/hers (they is ok!)

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Office: Old Knox Jail 26, ext. 7157

Drop-In Hours: TBD

Meeting times and location

Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursday, Fridays, 2:40-3:50pm

Room: GDH 201a

Red Room Tutor: Kaitlyn Pierce (knpierce@knox.edu)

Tutoring Hours:

Course Description, Objectives, and Learning Outcomes

Willkommen! German 101 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 use German as much as possible because this is the most effective way to learn a language. Therefore, the course places a strong emphasis on the development of your communicative ability in 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. Alongside our class meetings four times a week, you will complete the online lessons independently, on your own time. Most of the online lessons have a quiz component attached to them. You are responsible for completing the quizzes for the week by class time on Friday, but each quiz will open AFTER class on the day it is assigned (IE: we will do Einheit 1.1 in class on a Wednesday and you will have access to the Einheit 1.2 quiz when class is over that day). You will have 2 attempts to complete each quiz.

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 rewarding process. Take a moment to reflect on your motivations and goals for this class. This course requires regular attendance, participation, and effort, as well as continual review and practice in and out of class. The course is designed to allow you to take an active part in each class and 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 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 or have some background may be admitted, but they need to consult with me or Dr. Todd Heidt (theidt@knox.edu) about a placement test. 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 Dr. Heidt.

Required Texts and Materials

- Open Educational Resource (i.e. free!) e-textbook: *Willkommen: Deutsch für alle* (available here: <https://openeducationalberta.ca/willkommen-deutsch/>)
- *Neue Schule, neue Freunde* (available to buy here: <https://www.tprsbooks.com/shop/neue-schule-neue-freunde/>)
- Google Classroom
 - Classroom is Google's equivalent of Moodle. This will be a repository for important class documents (like this syllabus) and other assignments. You must sign up for Classroom.
 - <https://classroom.google.com/c/NTI0Mjc0NTE1NzE2?cjc=wx36b5o>
 - When the e-textbook says to submit something on "eClass," we'll be using Classroom to submit the assignment instead.
- Moodle
 - We will just be using this as a platform for the at-home quizzes that accompany the e-textbook. When the end of a section directs you to take a quiz, go to the corresponding Moodle quiz and *not* the link in the e-textbook. Moodle will be available sometime in the first week.
- Handouts will be provided in class and/or on Google Classroom
- Recommended: Use the [Oxford German-English Dictionary](#) accessible via the library's website! In a pinch, I like to use dict.cc (and there is an app you can download on your phone)

Electronic devices are playing an ever-larger role in our everyday lives and changing the way we learn (and the way I teach). **For class time, in general, I ask that cell phones or other devices be put away when they are not being used in an intentional way for classwork.** I want you to speak and listen with the people around you while working with our texts.

Cell phones, iPods, tablet PCs and all personal electronics are not to be brought with you to exams. This is a college-wide policy.

Regarding Academic Integrity, Plagiarism and Cheating:

Please read the Knox Honor Code: <http://www.knox.edu/academics/honor-code.html>

A few items of guidance and advice:

1) Copying work from online translation engines or from an answer key is an attempt to receive credit for work that you did not create. This is precisely the definition of plagiarism and a clear violation of academic honesty. If you find yourself reaching for these tools because you have run out of time, don't understand the material, or for any other reason, please reach out to me instead and we can work together to get you caught up.

2) While seeking the advice of native or expert speakers seems helpful, this sort of help often becomes simply providing answers, which is also a form of "cheating" and therefore has dire consequences. When working on an assignment or project to be turned in, **you should not seek help from anyone except your instructor or the Red Room tutor.**

Most importantly: Neither of these will help you actually learn the language. Cutting corners on homework assignments designed to prepare you for upcoming papers, tests, and presentations will actually *decrease* your grades for these (much more important) assignments. If I am convinced that a student has handed in work that they could not possibly produce without outside assistance I feel obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Honor Board. Before this unpleasantness occurs, please discuss this matter with any tutor(s) and with me. No cell phones or digital devices of any kind during exams!

Policies on Grading, Attendance, and Required Work

Evaluation of your performance in this course will take several forms. This evaluation system reflects the different components of language learning and your ability to participate in several types of language-related activities. You are expected to **come to class every day**, be prepared to interact in German in a variety of situations, keep up with the assigned material, complete and hand in homework, take daily quizzes, and prepare for oral and written assessments. Things to keep in mind:

- 1) Class time is precious and in short supply
- 2) The primary language of communication during class will be German
- 3) Mistakes are a natural part of language learning
- 4) You are responsible and ultimately accountable for your own learning. Do your homework, participate in class, and seek help from your instructor/tutor when needed

I understand that it can be difficult to open up when you're working in a foreign language! I encourage you to analyze how you can best show that you are participating and putting effort into our meetings, remain communicative with me, and reflect on the work you put in.

Useful Expressions for the German Classroom

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

Components of Course Grade

Participation/Attendance	15%	Films and Readings	10%
Quizzes and Homework	20%	Oral Assessments	10%
Tasks	25%	Written Final Assessment	20%

Participation/Attendance 15%:

Active in-class participation is crucial for learning a language. For German 101, this means we will meet four times weekly. In-class participation includes not only evidence of individual preparation, attention, and punctuality, but also interacting with me and your classmates and contributing to group work.

You are expected to attend class daily and punctually. All absences – regardless of how well motivated – have a negative effect on your ability to get the most out of the course. If you are ill and cannot attend class, please notify me prior to class by email. If you need to miss class due to a documented academic or athletic commitment, it is your obligation to inform me **before** the absence in order to be excused. Unexcused absences are reflected in the attendance/participation grade you receive – if you do not attend, you cannot participate. It will also affect any assignments that are not handed in or completed correctly as a result. If you must miss a class, contact another student (or the instructor) to get homework assignments. It is *your responsibility* to make up work and learn the material for classes you miss.

Quizzes and Homework 20%:

After each online lesson you need to complete a quiz on Moodle. 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. You must complete all quizzes for the week before class time on Friday.

Each day there will be a homework assignment assigned from the online lessons which you will need to bring to class. These are graded on completion.

Tasks 25%:

Each unit in the e-textbook involves the completion of a task, which may consist of oral presentations and/or written assignments. Specific information about each task is provided in the e-textbook as well as on Google Classroom where you submit those tasks.

Films and Readings 10%:

In addition to material from the e-textbook, we will be watching two required films (plus two of your choice) and will be reading a short book (*Neue Schule, neue Freunde*). In addition to viewing the films and reading the assigned chapters, respectively, you are responsible for accompanying comprehension questions and short written responses that are assigned.

Oral Assessments 10%:

The oral exams are designed to assess your communicative abilities in German. They are structured as brief, natural exchanges between two people. They will resemble the oral activities that you have done in class to that point and closely tied to chapter content. You will receive details about signing up in pairs and preparing as we approach the exams. We will also have “mini” oral assessments--a kind of check-in--to be done as homework using Flipgrid.

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 is a “take-home” assessment, and it must be submitted on Classroom during the final examination period.

Red Room Tutor

The Red Room Tutor for German does:

- provide support and extra help in the evenings in the Red Room.
- undergo training from CTL and Modern Languages to provide tutoring guided by research, the goals for the class, and best practices.

- provide support for you even when you are so confused that you don't know exactly what to ask.

The Red Room tutor for German does not:

- know the content of tests or other assessments, nor do they assign any grades for this course.
- get paid to be available 24 hours a day.

If you cannot make Red Room tutoring hours and you cannot come to my drop-in hours, I understand. Please contact me to arrange for another time when we can meet.

Disabilities and accommodations

All students are welcome in this class, and I wish to fully include everybody. Students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodations upon request. If you have a learning or other disability—or if you suspect that you have a disability—you should contact Stephanie Grimes (sgrimes@knox.edu). Federal law requires that your privacy in this matter be protected. If you qualify for services through the Office of Disability Support Services, please note that it is your responsibility to work with the office and to provide written documentation supporting this need.

It is the instructor's responsibility to make the course as accessible as possible for all students. You are encouraged to do whatever you need to make the class environment a place where you can engage successfully, including bringing food and/or drink, moving around, using assistive technology and/or fidget devices, etc. Please talk to me as soon as you can about your individual learning needs and how this course can best accommodate them; I welcome any information that you feel is pertinent for me to know about your participation in class. Students do not require documentation from the Office of Disability Support Services to **request** accommodations, nor are they required to disclose any diagnoses or other personal information when making a request. All accommodation requests are confidential.

Diversity and Inclusion

This course addresses diverse communities and seeks to be inclusive of all cultures, ethnicities, religions, disabilities, races, genders, sexualities, and classes. You are expected to behave respectfully at all times in class discussion by listening attentively, acknowledging that differences of opinion are not judgements on each other, and being sensitive in your own responses. Hate speech will not be tolerated.

Pronoun Usage:

In this course, we respect the pronouns of our fellow students, colleagues, and classmates. German is a very gendered language, and gender-neutral pronouns are being built from the bottom up (you need 28 forms for a new pronoun!). There are many options for gender-neutral pronouns in German, and if you'd like to use a different gender-neutral pronoun than what we discuss in class, we will work together to find what is right for you. Please email me or come to drop-in hours so we can talk about it!

Stay in touch!

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions, comments, or concerns. You can do this through email (bewilcox@knox.edu), by messaging me on Google Chat if I am available, or by attending my Drop-In Hours. I will check all of these means regularly, although if you want a quick reply, my drop-in hours and directly before/after class will guarantee it. That said, please know that it may take me several hours to respond to email, depending on my own workload. I aim to respond by the end of the next business day (ie: if you email/message on Friday at 2pm, you should plan to hear back by Monday at 5pm).

And most importantly: **viel Spaß!** [Have fun!] Language learning is *fun* in addition to the myriad other great things it can do for you.