

# German 4

## Course Syllabus 2025-26



**Instructor:** Jean Neitzel [jeanmarkneitzel@gmail.com](mailto:jeanmarkneitzel@gmail.com)  
612 272-2985  
**Grade Level:** 10 – 12  
**Course Length:** 2 semesters  
**Credit:** 1 credit  
**Prerequisites:** German 3 or equivalent knowledge of German language

### Description:

German 4 is a fourth-year course intended to continue the student to the language as well as the culture of German speaking countries. Connections will also be made to the German Lutheran heritage in our schools. The student will develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through a variety of activities that are based on authentic media and activities.

### Organization:

This course is administered through the learning platform Passport as part of the textbook activities. This will contain the bulk of the resources needed to learn the content: tutorials, presentations, videos, games, activities, quizzes, flashcards, articles, voice boards, and more!

The course is organized into lessons based on topics. The lessons will include vocabulary, conversations, cultural topics and grammar. A video is included to enhance listening skills. The amount of time you spend on coursework during a class day will vary depending on the current activities. Expect to spend about 45 to 60 minutes each day with the coursework (class time plus 15 minutes of homework). If you ever spend more than an hour and a half, please let me know so that I can adjust the pace of the course work.

The students and teacher will have weekly contact via Zoom. For the students, this allows personal contact for questions; for the teacher, the contact allows specific teaching time and an informal formative assessment.

### Course Goals:

The course goals are based on the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, authored by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL). They are commonly referred to as *The 5 Cs of Foreign Language Learning*.

### *The students will:*

***Communicate in German***

***Gain knowledge and understanding of German-speaking cultures***

***Use German in order to connect with other disciplines and acquire information***

***Develop insight into the nature of language and culture through thoughtful***

## **comparison**

### **Participate in German-speaking communities at home and around the world**

Each objective in the course will directly correlate with one of these goals.

#### **Course Topics:**

- Im Herzen Europas
- Filme gestern und heute
- Was ist dir wichtig
- Spass muss sein
- Österreich
- Was ist ihnen geworden?
- Holidays
- Generationen
- Gesundes Leben
- Lutheran / Christian based authentic materials

**Unique to level 4** will be the use of German movies and literature. **Much more emphasis on reading and writing skills; thinking and answering in the target language.**

#### **Materials**

- **Deutsch Aktuell Level III** \$45 for eText and online study material (Passport) PLEASE CONTACT THE TEACHER TO ORDER BOOK. PAYMENT WILL BE MADE TO THE TEACHER.
- Headphones, microphone, and camera.
- Spiral notebook for notes and vocabulary practice.
- The novel to be announced
- System Requirements - <https://support.carnegielearning.com/help-center/world-languages/technical-help/article/system-requirements-for-passport-wl/>
- Network Allowlisting Requirements - <https://support.carnegielearning.com/help-center/world-languages/technical-help/article/network-allowlisting-requirements-wl/>
- A novel to be announced later

#### **Grading Scale:**

Tests will occur at the end of each lesson and at the end of each semester.  
Quizzes will occur periodically throughout each lesson.

98-100 A+	87-89 B+	87-89 C+	67-69 D+	
93-97 A	83-86 B	73-76 C	63-66 D	0-59 F
90-92 A-	80-82 B-	70+72 C-	60-62 D-	

#### **Feedback:**

Communication is essential in any online course – even more so when you’re learning how to communicate in a new way! If you have any questions, comments, concerns, delays, conflicts, or successes that you need to share with me, you may do so whenever necessary by contacting me at the email address listed at the beginning of this syllabus. I would also request that you complete the feedback submission at the end of each lesson so that I know how to improve the course for you and for students that follow in successive years.

### **Suggestions for Success**

*Immersion:* You will get out what you put into this course. The easiest way to be successful is to continually practice, practice, practice! That is why this course is presented as often as possible in German. Take every opportunity you find to listen, speak, read, or write German. Think of it like a sport or learning a musical instrument – the more you practice, the more you will become comfortable with the language and how it works. Immerse yourself in the language—you can listen to radio stations streaming online. There may also be opportunities to watch some Disney movies in German with German subtitles.

*Responsibility:* Since this course is offered completely online, it will require dedication and responsibility on the student’s part to be successful. There is a given class period for each student every day of the school week. This time is dedicated to German. The penalties for late work are 2%-- minimal, but please respect due dates. With the potential for students from around the country to be enrolled in the course, it is necessary for the instructor to accommodate for varying school and family schedules. Therefore, it is the student’s responsibility to make sure that the work is completed in a timely manner. Set aside one hour of time per day, five days per week for study and practice so that the course does not become overwhelming. (The 60 to 75 minutes is dedicated time to language study. It does not include logging on, etc.)

### **Academic Integrity:**

**EACH STUDENT IS EXPECTED TO DO HIS OR HER OWN WORK.** I will assign a grade to all work that clearly shows that it was completed by the student to which it belongs. Work that shows evidence of copying, using translation engines or other academic dishonesty will receive a 0 for a grade without opportunity for resubmittal. This course is designed so that each activity, assessment, and lesson builds on the last. A student who chooses to cheat chooses to set him or herself up for failure further down the line. In all cases of cheating or plagiarism, the Academic Integrity policy of the student’s school will be referenced and enforced.

### **AGVA Policies:**

AGVA policies are listed in the [Student Handbook](#), available on the [AmazingGraceVA.org](http://AmazingGraceVA.org) website under [Resources, Handbooks](#). This includes policies on non-discrimination, anti-harassment, student expectations, attendance, academic honesty, student discipline, student grades, course add/drop, etc.

Please note the policy on **attendance** that states in part:

***“Even if a student’s local school does not have school on a particular day (snow day, teacher’s conference, quarter break, choral fest, class trip, etc.) AGVA courses will continue to meet and students are expected to complete required work on time.”***

If students are not full-time students at AGVA, they also fall under the policies of the school where they attend as a full-time student. When applicable, that school's policies will also be applied to enrollment in AGVA courses.