

**University of Alabama at Birmingham
School of Arts and Humanities
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures**

407 Humanities Building / 900 13th Street South / 205-934-4652
www.uab.edu/foreignlang/

**GN 101 – INTRODUCTORY GERMAN I
FALL 2009**

Section 1B: MWF 9:00-9:50am
HB 429

**Instructor of German:
Erika Hille Rinker, MA
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HB 402
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**Office Hours
M 2:00-3:00 PM
W 12:00-12:45 and 2:00-3:00PM
And by appointment.**

SYLLABUS
Revised August 2009

Course description: This course will concentrate on the essentials of language needed for proficient communication and will include basic exercises in listening comprehension, speaking, writing, and reading. German 101 requires no previous German and seeks to develop the four language skills in a cultural context with a focus on fluency in speaking and accuracy in writing.

Objectives and goals: In order to develop communicative and cultural competence without de-emphasizing formal and structural patterns in the language, German 101 will

- occur in a low-anxiety, highly motivating environment offering students ample opportunity to practice the language,
- be instructed in the target language – models will be provided and translations will be avoided, and
- expose students to authentic materials and authentic language – students should not expect to comprehend every unfamiliar structure and vocabulary word in an authentic text.

You will become accustomed to managing your own learning by inducing grammar from many provided examples, taking risks with the language, and utilizing all resources at your disposal: the instructor; your textbook; and supplementary print, audio, and on-line materials.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, each student should be able to perform the following tasks *in German*:

- To greet one another formally and informally.
- To formulate simple questions and appropriate answers as well as formal and informal commands addressed to individuals and to a group.
- To speak and to write simple sentences in the present tense, including a description of oneself, based on chapter topics and vocabulary.

- To recognize gender, number, and case (nominative and accusative) inflections.
- To discuss (in German and, in greater depth, in English) the ethnic and linguistic diversity of German culture as well as the similarities and differences of German and American culture.

Required Texts and Materials

- Lovik, Guy, and Chavez. *Vorsprung*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007. 2nd edition.
- *Note*: The textbook package contains an in-text, audio- program CD and an **online Quia workbook**. This online workbook serves as your self-guided tour through the material in the textbook. The assigned activities are required and may be repeated.

Grades

- Class participation: 10%
- Homework: 20%
- 4 Chapter exams: 40%
- Oral Midterm: 15%
- Oral Final Exam: 15%

Grading scale:

90-100 = A // 89.9-80 = B // 79.9-70 = C // 69.9-60 = D // 59.9 and below = F

Attendance policy: The University of Alabama at Birmingham recognizes that the academic success of individual students is related to their class attendance and participation. The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures complies with the official UAB Attendance and Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduate Programs and therefore allows, with anticipated proper official documentation, absences due to jury or military duty as well as absences due to participation in specific university-sponsored activities.

UAB Attendance and Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduate Programs:

http://www.app.uab.edu/policy_change.asp#Attendance%20and%20Excused%20Absence%20Policy

GN 101 is a collaborative class. All students and I will be working together and learning together. Regular attendance is necessary to build a successful collaborative learning atmosphere. Repeated absences, tardiness, passivity, and silence will be reflected in your course grade. To that end, in addition to the UAB Attendance Policy, the Attendance Policy of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will be in effect and is as follows: **2% from the final grade will be deducted for each unexcused absence above 4, and more than 9 absences will result in an automatic "F."**

Class participation: Participation will count for 10% of your grade. In addition to simply attending class, you will be graded on the following factors:

- Being alert, well-prepared, and respectful of the instructor and fellow students,
- Making *positive* contributions to the class, and
- Recycling concepts from previous chapters.

Homework will be assigned daily in the textbook (*Lehrbuch*) and/or in the online workbook (*Arbeitsbuch*). This work should be completed each day before you come to class. A foreign language is best learned with repetition and regular work each day rather than hurriedly just prior to an exam. When you complete your homework, make every effort to comprehend the information and make sense of it for yourself. If you have questions, bring these immediately to my attention, either in class or via e-mail.

To complete homework assignments properly, attend to the words *lernen* and *schreiben*. *Lernen* means “to study.” When you are assigned pages with grammar points to study, read these carefully, analyze the examples provided to see the new structure in use, and break them down so that they make sense to you. You do not need to complete any of the associated activities.

Schreiben means “to write.” Those activities assigned with the verb *schreiben* always need to be completed, either online or on a separate piece of paper to be turned in for correction.

Please note: All students must attend a minimum of two cultural events – at least one of which is related to German – in order to complete the homework component of the course. Attending Stammtisch (our German language table) twice is required and may be counted as one cultural event. The cultural credit received will be 2% of the final grade.

Cultural Event Report Guidelines

All students must attend a minimum of two (2) cultural events – at least one (1) of which is related to German – in order to complete the homework component of the course.

You only have five (5) days after the event to turn in your **1-page, double-spaced, typed,** cultural event reports, no more. I strongly suggest that you do not wait until the last month of classes to attend events. This way you will have choice and options.

Each cultural event report must include, but is not limited to, the following elements:

- Title, date, and location of the event
- Duration of the event and duration of time you spent at the event
- Name of event organizer(s)
- Stated purpose of the event
- Your expectations before attending the event
- Your general impressions of the event
- An assessment of how the event represented concepts from the course, if at all

The above elements must be incorporated into complete, grammatically correct sentences. You may write in English, but *do not submit a list of the above elements in place of a well-written report.*

Mauerfall (9. November 1989) In preparation for our discussion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, all students must view the films *Das Leben der Anderen* and *Good Bye Lenin!* before November 9, 2009. Both movies are available on the FLMS computers and to be checked out from the FLMS.

Exams must be taken on dates and at times indicated. There will be NO make-ups, except with a documented medical excuse and an official UAB excused absence.

Other class policies:

Please turn off your cell phone when in class and put it in your bag/purse. **No use of cell phones** is permitted in class. Laptop computers are only allowed for note taking.

UAB Honor Code: UAB expects all members of its academic community to function according to the highest ethical and professional standards. Academic misconduct undermines the purpose of education. Unacceptable behaviors such as abetting, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and misrepresentation are serious violations of the UAB Academic Honor Code and are punishable by a range of penalties. Any form of plagiarism or cheating in this class will result in serious consequences for your grade. For more information, please visit the UAB website: http://www.catalog.uab.edu/UAB-Catalog2004-2006/progress_toward_degree.pdf

UAB Disability Services: UAB is committed to making its academic programs and services accessible to students with disabilities. Qualified students with disabilities are protected from discrimination based on their disability, as guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you are registered with Disability Support Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability but have not contacted Disability Support Services, please call 934-4205 or visit DSS at 516 Hill University Center. For more information about DSS, please visit the UAB web site: <http://students.uab.edu/services/>

Early Alert System (EAS): EAS is designed to help students be more successful academically at UAB. If you receive an email with EAS in the title, please open it, read it and take advantage of the support that UAB offers to all students. UAB is committed to ensuring that students receive academic support and are aware of the resources available that will help assist them in successfully completing their degree program.

Additional Information:

FLMS (Foreign Language Media Services) is a computer lab for Foreign Languages students located on the 4th floor of the Humanities Building (HB 402).

For more information about **foreign language courses and study-abroad opportunities**, please visit our UAB Department of Foreign Languages homepage:
<http://www.uab.edu/foreignlang/>

International Scholars and Students Services offer a variety of international programs that you may be interested in. Please check their website and click on ISSS Calendars and Activities:
<http://www.uab.edu/iss>

For more information about **free screenings of foreign films at UAB**, please visit the UAB Foreign Film Series webpage: <http://www.uab.edu/foreignlang/Foreign-Film-Series-2008-9.html>

**Tentative schedule
Änderung vorbehalten!**

Mittwoch 19. August	Wie heißen Sie? (Wie heißt er / sie?) Einführung
Freitag 21. August	Kapitel 1: Fangen Sie bitte an Anlaufertext I: Annas Altraum – S. 2
Montag 24. August	Der Imperativ – S. 7 Wissenswertes Vokabeln: <i>Aktivitäten im Klassenzimmer</i> – S. 7
Mittwoch 26. August	Anlaufertext II: Annas Traum – S. 9
Freitag 28. August	Nominativpronomen + das Verb <i>sein</i> – S. 15 Das Verb <i>heißen</i> – S. 17
Montag 31. August	Wissenswertes Vokabeln: <i>das Alphabet, die Zahlen, und das Aussehen</i> – S. 18-21
Mittwoch 2. September	Fragen – S. 23-24 Nominativ – Genus und Nummer – S. 25
Freitag 4. September	Wissenswertes Vokabeln: <i>das Klassenzimmer/der Hörsaal</i> – S. 25, <i>Die Farben</i> – S. 27 Nominativ – bestimmte und unbestimmte Artikel – S. 26-28
Montag 7. September	Labor Day Holiday – Der Unterricht fällt aus.
Mittwoch 9. September	Wissenswertes Vokabeln: <i>Länder und Nationalitäten</i> – S. 29 Nominativ – Pronomen – S. 34
Freitag 11. September	Wiederholung
Montag 14. September	1. Prüfung (Kapitel 1)
Mittwoch 16. September	Kapitel 2: Familie und Freunde Anlaufertext: Anna Adler stellt sich vor – S. 39 Wissenswertes Vokabeln: <i>Annas Familie</i> – S. 39
Freitag 18. September	Wissenswertes Vokabeln: <i>die Familie und die Verwandten</i> – S. 44
Montag 21. September	Das Verb <i>haben</i> – S. 46-48 (Wiederholung: <i>sein, heißen</i>)
Mittwoch 23. September	Wissenswertes Vokabeln: <i>Studienfächer</i> – S. 48 Die Ausdrücke <i>gern haben</i> und <i>nicht gern haben</i> – S. 49-50
Freitag 25. September	Das Präsens – S. 51-52 Das Adverb <i>gern</i> – S. 53 Wortstellung – <i>gern</i> und <i>nicht gern</i> – S. 53

Montag 28. September	Der Akkusativ – bestimmte und unbestimmte Artikel – S. 54 Das schwache Maskulinum (Masculine N-nouns) – S. 55
Mittwoch 30. September	Abprungtext: Anna schreibt eine E-Mail – S. 56 Wissenswerte Vokabeln: <i>die Monate</i> – S. 59 Subjekt-Verb-Wortstellung – S. 60
Freitag 2. Oktober	Wissenswerte Vokabeln: <i>die Wochentage, Zeitausdrücke, und die Uhrzeit</i> S. 61-63 Verben mit trennbaren Präfixen und Zwei-Verben-Wortfügung – S. 65
Montag 5. Oktober	Wissenswerte Vokabeln: <i>der Alltag</i> – S. 66 Die Negation – S. 67 Wortstellung – <i>nicht</i> – S. 67
Mittwoch 7. Oktober	Wiederholung
Freitag 9. Oktober	2. Prüfung (Kapitel 2)
Montag 12. Oktober	Mündliche Zwischenprüfung
Mittwoch 14. Oktober	Mundliche Zwischenprüfung Last day to withdraw
Freitag 16. Oktober	Fall Break – Der Unterricht fällt aus.
Montag 19. Oktober	Kapitel 3: Was gibt es in Heidelberg und Mannheim zu tun? Anlaufertext: Was halten wir von Anna? Was hält sie von uns? – S. 75 Sprache im Alltag: <i>bestimmt, sicher, wahrscheinlich, und wohl</i> – S. 77
Mittwoch 21. Oktober	Stem-changing verbs (starke Verben) – S. 80 Das Verb <i>wissen</i> – S. 83 Sprache im Alltag: <i>es gibt...</i> – S. 84
Freitag 23. Oktober	Nominativ – Possessivpronomen – S. 84 Koordinierende Konjunktionen – S. 86 Die Partikel <i>lieber</i> – S. 87
Montag 26. Oktober	Das Modalverb <i>möchte</i> – S. 88 Wissenswerte Vokabeln: <i>Lebensmittel</i> – S. 89 Sprache im Alltag – S. 91-92
Mittwoch 28. Oktober	Abprungtext: Heidelberg und Mannheim – S. 93-97
Freitag 30. Oktober	Wissenswerte Vokabeln: <i>Freizeitaktivitäten</i> – S. 99
Montag 2. November	Das Modalverb <i>können</i> – S. 100 Akkusativ – Pronomen – S. 101

Mittwoch 4. November	Das Verb <i>kennen</i> – S. 103 Akkusativ – Possessivpronomen – S. 103 Der Plural – S. 104
Freitag 6. November	3. Prüfung (Kapitel 3)
Montag 9. November	Mauerfall <i>Das Leben der Anderen</i> <i>Good Bye Lenin!</i>
Mittwoch 11. November	Kapitel 4: Unterwegs Anlaufertext: Mutters Ratschläge – S. 116 Sprache im Alltag: <i>wohl</i> und <i>wahrscheinlich</i> – S. 120
Freitag 13. November	Wissenswerte Vokabeln: <i>das Gepäck</i> – S. 122
Montag 16. November	Der du-, ihr-, und wir-Imperativ – S. 124-128 Die Partikeln <i>bitte</i> , <i>doch</i> , und <i>mal</i> – S. 127
Mittwoch 18. November	Die Modalverben <i>können</i> , <i>mögen</i> und <i>möchte</i> , und <i>sollen</i> – S. 129-133 Absprungtext: Fahrrad fahren – S. 134
Freitag 20. November	Die Modalverben <i>dürfen</i> , <i>müssen</i> , und <i>wollen</i> – S. 139-142
Montag 23. November	Wissenswerte Vokabeln: <i>Eigenschaften</i> – S. 146
Mittwoch 25. Nov. – Sonntag 29. Nov.	Thanksgiving Break – Der Unterricht fällt aus.
Montag 30. November	Die Akkusativpräpositionen <i>durch</i> , <i>für</i> , <i>gegen</i> , <i>ohne</i> , <i>um</i> – S. 148 Wiederholung
Mittwoch 2. Dezember	4. Prüfung (Kapitel 4)
Mittwoch 9. Dezember 8.00 – 10.30	Mündliche Abschlussprüfung