



Study abroad.

SYLLABUS

GERMAN LANGUAGE: BEGINNING AHA Summer program 2010

**Instructors: German Language Instructors alternate each term:
Christina Wenzel; Andrea Borkovec; Karin Obermayr; Thomas Laimer**

Contact Hrs: 50

Language of Instruction: German

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Course Description

This course will enable the student to both develop communication and comprehension strategies in everyday situations as well as provide specialized diction training for singers. The course will teach the fundamentals of grammar and encourage students to speak about themselves and develop a feeling for usage of situational pattern samples. A general introduction to Austrian life, culture and dialectical expressions is an integral part of the course. The course will also help students to understand content, meaning and special expression of German classical music texts. A couple of additional lectures will be held through the 5 weeks specifically regarding diction in musical texts and comparison between spoken language and texts in musical pieces.

Prerequisites

None.

Course Objectives

The goal of the instruction in the German language is to develop oral communication for authentic communicative situations, to get to know everyday life and cultural settings of Vienna, and to improve diction skills for singing musical texts. Chief emphasis is placed on speaking and listening in order to enhance a sense of continuous, enjoyable achievement. Reading and writing German as well as reaching a considerable accuracy of grammar demands additional commitment from the student outside of class.

Syllabus

a. Topics

- Getting in contact (greetings, name...)
- Talking about oneself and others (nationality, studies, profession, hobbies, family...)
- Everyday situation (course, shopping, restaurant, asking for directions...)
- Alphabet, pronunciation, numbers

b. Grammar

- Verbs in present tense (conjugation)
- Nouns (articles, plural)
- Cases (usage of nominative and accusative)
- Negation
- Adjectives
- Personal and possessive pronouns
- Modal verbs

Instructional Methodology

The student is provided with the grammar and vocabulary he/she needs to initiate and sustain meaningful conversations. Grammatical structures and vocabulary are introduced as need arises in conversation and group discussions. The student will regularly acquire new words and phrases, which will contribute to a systematic increase of his/her vocabulary. Students are encouraged to study and use new words, expressions, tenses and so on, independently, but also in small groups in class. Different methods, for example “Lernspiele”, are offered to promote a quick yet solid mastering of the language. The student is encouraged to take over responsibility for his/her own learning progress. Outdoor activities will help to enable the students to handle situations with native speakers. The language of instruction is German; questions about the language itself can be discussed and reflected in English. A couple of additional lectures will deal with use of language in classical music as well as with diction and music related vocabulary.

Method of Evaluation (Grading)

- Written and oral Exams during the course: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Homework: 10%
- Participation in class: 40%

a. Written and oral exams during the course

The tests given during the course of each semester cover topics, grammar and vocabulary presented in the classroom.

b. Final Exam

The final exam covers the entire grammar, vocabulary and topics presented in the classroom.

c. Homework

Students are given a daily homework assignment, which supplies the basis for conversation at the next class meeting and should encourage the student to make rapid and consistent progress throughout the course, Therefore it is very important that the assignments are completed in time.

The work comprises

- Learning new vocabulary and grammatical structures
- Questions and answers, short essays and dialogues
- Writing sentences that incorporate examples of grammar studied

- Studying and preparing texts
- Studying for exams

Extra work will be provided for students who require special assistance or help in acquiring certain aspects of the German grammar or for those who desire in-depth studies of a specific topic.

d. Participation in class

Active participation in the classroom is more than just physical presence. It is absolutely necessary in order to train the four language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) and make progress in German. Dialogues, role-plays and games make the course lively, but only if the student is well prepared and willing to overcome shyness in speaking foreign language. The making of mistakes in this context need not seem counter-productive, but a creative learning process helping the student discover new morphological and syntactical structures.

As participation is an integral part in the language acquisition process, there has to be regular attendance. However, absences impede the learning experience and may therefore affect the course grade considerably.

Material

The students will be provided with handouts and supplementary material according to their needs. A binder to collect the handouts will be provided, too.