



Study abroad.

SYLLABUS

GERMAN LANGUAGE: ADVANCED

Instructor: German Language Instructors alternate each term:

Mag. Wenzel, Christina & Mag. Borkovec, Andrea; Karin Obermayr; Thomas Laimer

Contact Hrs: 50 per Quarter/60 per Semester

Language of Instruction: German

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

1. General course description

The aim of this course is to further develop the students' already existing knowledge of the German language.

Speaking and understanding German will be practiced intensively by reading texts, by listening to radio broadcasts in German language as well as watching and discussing scenes from Austrian and German films in original version.

Thus the students will learn more about the political, social and cultural life in German speaking countries, with emphasis on Austria.

The course is designed to develop accuracy, flexibility and fluency in language production and to increase understanding of topics. Equal emphasis will be given to all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The students will learn to speak and write German that is fluent, spontaneous, grammatically and culturally accurate. They will gain more confidence in communicative situations with native speakers and they will learn to comprehend authentic texts on a wider range of topics.

2. Prerequisites

Students, attending this course, ought to be familiar by this time with parts of the German grammar, such as:

- The Definite and Indefinite Articles
- The Nouns and their declination
- The Adjectives, the Pronouns and their declination
- The Conjugation of the Verbs in the Present and Past tense
- The Prepositions and Conjunctions
- The German Syntax (Basics)

The participants will be encouraged to converse about their interests in work, study and current social, political and cultural events as well as about their hobbies, travels and other leisure activities.

3. Objectives of the course

The aim of the Advanced Language course is to make significant progress in speaking, reading and comprehension skills. By the end of the instruction the students shall acquire the ability to express in the German language the following:

- Narrate a written text or a radio/TV broadcast, and make statements of opinion
- Describe events, real or fictitious
- Give an account of a short literary work
- Elucidate and comment on diverse plans, actions and events
- Describe a journey – real or imagined
- Actively participate in conversation with native speakers
- Scan longer texts in order to locate desired information; gather information from different parts of the text, or from different texts in order to fulfill a specific task
- Summarise and state her or his opinion about a short story, article, speech, discussion, interview, or documentary and answer further questions in detail

The lessons shall proceed in German language entirely.

The usage of a German-English/English-German dictionary is highly recommended to ensure the individual learner's progress. Such dictionaries are available and may be purchased in most Viennese bookstores. Further details shall be specified in the first lesson.

4. Syllabus

a) Topics

Excerpts from Austrian and German newspapers as well as radio (listening comprehension) or TV broadcasts and films about current and historical topics

Excerpts from works by important Austrian and German 20th century writers

b) Grammar

Emphasizing the difference between the usage of the Simple Past and the Past Tense

The Future Tense

The Passive Voice (Introduction)

The Indirect Speech (Introduction)

The Syntax (main and subordinate clauses)

Revision of grammatical skills the students have previously acquired (see above)

5. Methodology of teaching

The instructor will provide the students with all the necessary course materials except a dictionary. The students will receive sheets with grammar explanations and exercises. The texts to read during the course or at home will be given to the students as well.

The intensity of learning will be adjusted according to the students' needs. Texts or broadcasts will be repeated several times to guarantee full comprehension.

For a substantial progress homework accomplished on a regular basis, is a must. In the case of some of the texts or broadcasts the students shall have to spend time after the lessons to look up new words in the dictionary. Coming to class on time and well prepared is a requirement.

Much emphasis is put on conversation practice in advanced dialogues and speeches to promote interaction in the classroom. The students will produce texts according to patterns that encourage to flexibility. The development of skills in German is based on authentic texts (audio, video and written), reconstruction of dialogues, role-plays, interviews, etc.

Grammatical structures and vocabulary will be introduced as need arises.

Out-of-class activities will take place in order to enable the students to handle situations with native

speakers and to bring them in contact with everyday life in Vienna.

6. Testing and evaluation

- 1) Homework (30%)
- 2) Written exams during the course (20%)
- 3) Participation in class/Conversation skills (30%)
- 4) 10 minutes oral presentation (10%)
- 5) Written final exam (10%)

1) Home work

Written homework shall be given at least twice a week. It is expected that the homework is accomplished and submitted by the student at the next class. The homework may consist of grammar exercises or a text to read including looking up previously unlearned words.

2) Written exams during the course

Written tests on the current topics discussed at the course and the grammar will take place at least every two weeks. The students will be informed about an upcoming written exam and the subjects of examination at least two lessons prior to each exam.

3) Participation in class/Conversation skills

Presence in the class is mandatory. Mere attendance does not substitute for active participation. The students shall have to answer questions about texts and fully participate in grammar exercises.

4) 10 minutes oral presentation

Towards the end of the course the students will have to read on their own an additional text not presented previously in the class. This text shall be related to one of the topics that have been discussed during the course. The oral presentation ought to be no longer than 10 minutes and is to be held freely; however a sheet with a few notes shall be permitted.

5) Written final exam

During the final written exam the students will have to write a short essay about one of the topics that have been presented during the course. They will have the possibility to select from three offered subjects. The final exam will also include a test about the grammar that has been covered in the course.

The description of this course is based on the information about the level „B1“ („Threshold“) given by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Mag. Karin Obermayr

I have been working as a German Language instructor since 1998 and I teach German as a Second Language with Cross Cultural Competence and Crosscultural Communication in Vienna. I was born in Lower Austria and graduated in Philosophy and German Philology at the University of Vienna. My special subjects are Sociolinguistics and auditory skills. I am a Ph.D. candidate in the field of Sociolinguistics at the University of Vienna, Faculty of German Linguistics.