



Study abroad.

## SYLLABUS

### **GERMAN LANGUAGE: INTERMEDIATE**

**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**

### **Content**

This German language course is designed to develop accuracy, flexibility and fluency in language production and to increase understanding of topics beyond immediate survival needs. 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 reasonably fluent, spontaneous, grammatically and culturally accurate, and easily understood by a native speaker of German. The students will gain more confidence in communicative situations with native speakers and they will learn to comprehend authentic texts on a wider range of topics. Moreover the course will broaden the knowledge of Austrian and European culture, the way of life, politics and media. The students will also acquire useful learning strategies and techniques to reflect their language learning progress.

### **Objectives**

#### Listening

Understanding the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc.

Understanding the main points of many radio or TV programmes on current affairs or topics of personal or professional interest when the delivery is relatively slow and clear.

#### Reading

Understanding texts that consist mainly of high frequency everyday or job-related language.

Understanding the description of events, feelings and wishes in personal letters.

#### Spoken Interaction

Dealing with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Conversation on topics that are familiar, of personal interest or pertinent to everyday life (family, hobbies, work, travel, school and current events)

#### Spoken Production

Connecting phrases in a simple way in order to describe experiences and events. Giving reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

#### Writing

Writing simple connected texts on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Writing personal letters describing experiences and impressions.

## **Instructional Methodology**

Training in listening and reading comprehension will take an important part of the lessons. Much emphasis is put on conversation practice in slightly advanced dialogues and speeches to promote interaction in the classroom. The students will produce texts according to patterns that encourage to flexibility and they will practise writing of elementary compositions and personal letters. 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 for understanding oral or written texts, dialogues or discussions.

The language of instruction is German. \*However, questions about the language itself (grammar problems etc.) or intercultural issues will be discussed and reflected in English.

As autonomous learning plays an important role in the students learning progress the instructor will encourage the students to promote individual learning techniques.

A language portfolio which traces and documents the linguistic achievements of language learners will help the student to identify the most appropriate learning approaches to meet different language learning demands, to monitor learning progress and to record learning activities.

Various excursions and 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.

## **Course Outline**

### Topics:

#### 1. Personal Identification

- identifying and describing oneself and the immediate environment
- family and friends
- hobbies and personal interests

#### 2. Language learning & learning strategies

- language background
- language learning strategies
- personal preferences in learning a language

#### 3. Media

- newspapers and magazines
- TV and radio
- internet

#### 4. Everyday life

- student life
- free-time activities
- daily routines
- travel

#### 5. Vienna/Austria

- city life
- cultural life

### Grammatical Content:

Review of elementary grammar: Present Tense (conjugation), nouns (articles, plurals), definite and indefinite articles (in the nominative and accusative), basic structures of simple sentences and questions, negation, pronouns, modal verbs;

Time and tenses: Present Tense (focus: separable verbs, Past Tense (Perfect and the auxiliary verbs and the modal verbs in the Simple past), Future Tense

Determiners and reflexive pronouns

Prepositions (two-way-prepositions; frequently used prepositions taking the accusative or dative)

Sentence and clause structures: Accusative and dative complements, Verbal bracket (separable verbs, Perfect T., Future T.), Main clauses and coordinating conjunctions (und, aber, denn), Main clauses and subordinate clauses (subordinating conjunctors: dass, weil, wenn, obwohl)

Adjectives before nouns (adjectival declension)

Comparison of adjectives

**Materials**

The students will be provided with handouts and supplementary material. A binder to collect the handouts will be provided at the beginning of the semester. A language portfolio will accompany the course and will help to monitor the language learning progress. The course is not based on a specific textbook but the students will be given a learners handbook as need arises.

**Method of Evaluation**

1. Written exams: 40%
2. Participation in class: 40%
3. Homework: 20%

The written exams given during the course cover handouts, grammar and vocabulary presented in the classroom. In general the tests consist of the following parts:

- Listening Comprehension
- Reading Comprehension
- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Writing

Active participation in the classroom is more than just physical presence. It is absolutely necessary in order to train the four language skills and make consistent 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 a 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.

The students are given a daily homework assignment that should encourage the student to make rapid and consistent progress throughout the course. The work comprises: learning new vocabulary and grammatical structures, questions and answers, short essays and dialogues, writing sentences that incorporate examples of grammar studied, preparing texts and studying for exams. Very often the home exercises supply the basis for conversations at the next class meeting and therefore it is very important that the assignments are completed in time. 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 on a specific topic.

**Prerequisites:**

Basic skills required (Breakthrough – Level A1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference)