

# German Language and Culture: Absolute Beginners (A1)

Instructor: tba

Email Address:	daf-fubest@fu-berlin.de
Live Sessions:	Tuesday, 7 – 9 p.m. CET (Berlin time)
Duration:	Aug. 31 – Nov. 30, 2021
Language of Instruction:	German
Contact Hours:	30
ECTS Credits:	6

## Course Description

This course is designed for the beginner student with no prior knowledge of German. It aims to develop your communicative competences in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The book *Netzwerk A1* and additional material, which is primarily dealing with cultural and historical aspects of German(y), will help you develop your individual language skills. One of the foci of the course is placed on Berlin and its surroundings, so you will work with authentic material.

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to deal with various everyday situations in a German-speaking environment and to conduct simple conversations. You will have developed reading strategies that allow you to gather specific information from factual texts, newspaper and magazine articles, and short literary texts. In addition, you will learn to write and revise short texts and, by doing so, assemble metalinguistic knowledge. Finally, you will be able to understand discussions on familiar topics.

## Textbook

Stefanie Dengler et al.: *Netzwerk A1* with Learning Management System.

Authentic/original material.

Provided online.

## Topics

Greetings – Introducing oneself – hobbies

In the city – means of transportation – sights – numbers

In the restaurant – eating/drinking – shopping

Daily routine – telling time/appointments – work and studies

Friends, acquaintances – leisure activities

## Structures

personal pronouns (accusative/dative) – possessive articles – sentence structure – nouns and articles – verbs: conjugation, government, prefix – declension of articles and adjectives (nominative/accusative), negation – prepositions with dative/accusative – perfect tense – simple past of *haben* and *sein*

## Competences to be gained

### Reception

#### Listening

Student can understand familiar, simple, and everyday expressions and questions, if the other person speaks slowly and clearly and provides help by repeating and circumscribing expressions.

#### Reading

Student can understand simple adapted texts as well as basic information given in posters, schedules, forms, housing ads, websites of museums and other material in everyday language. Student can extract relevant information from texts (if they contain illustrations/international words).

### Production

#### Speaking

Student can introduce him-/herself and others in simple sentences and answer questions about personal details and everyday life. With frequently used expressions that he/she knows by heart, he/she can interact in routine matters such as shopping, going to a restaurant, seeing a doctor, and travelling, provided the other person adjusts themselves to his/her limited language skills.

#### Writing

Student can provide simple, everyday information in written form (e.g. postcards). Student can fill out forms (from administrative bodies, hotels, universities) with personal data. Student can connect simple sentences to write about his/her immediate environment, daily routines, and family and friends.

### Reflection

#### Self-correction

Student can correct vocabulary use and conjugated forms in structured dialogues, if the teacher provides hints.

#### Socio-cultural competence

Student has a basic knowledge of some cultural aspects in German-speaking countries like greetings, dealing with time, behaviour in public, or responding to personal invitations.

#### Self-reflection

Student can reflect, in his/her native language, on experiences in learning German. Student can also increasingly reflect on personal learning strategies as well as strong and weak points in studying German. Student can assess progress and define his/her own learning goals.

## Student Prerequisites

Participation in this language course requires adequate language skills. After having been admitted, students will need to complete an online test provided by the program that will determine the participant's German language abilities. Should these not meet the requirements for this level, we will discuss switching levels or a withdrawal from the course with the student. Students should have completed at least three semesters of higher education when the course starts.

## General Requirements

Attendance of the weekly live sessions is mandatory (for the specific time slot, see above). These live sessions will be combined with recorded video lessons and intensive work through the online course platform, both individually and in groups. Altogether, this course awards credits for 30 contact hours and 90 hours of additional workload as well as completion of the [Portfolio Intercultural Awareness \(PIA\)](#). Please see course requirements for the various formats and weight of the course assignments as well as forms of assessment.

This course features a certain amount of independent coursework and thus expects you to be able to set up a self-disciplined study routine. We recommend that you make sure to have a quiet and appropriate working space. To ensure a comfortable learning environment for all, please adhere to our [Code of Online Conduct](#).

## Technical Requirements

Stable internet connection.

Fully functional device, such as computer, laptop or tablet (use of smart phones is not recommended) with camera and microphone, headset recommended.

Recommended operating systems: Windows 7 or higher or MacOS 10.13 or higher. Avoid using a VPN.

Software: Webex Meetings.

## Course Requirements

Live Online Attendance (min. 75% required) & Participation: 150 Points (15%)

Video Lessons and Assignments: 100 Points (10%)

FU-BEST Extended Classroom Videos: 50 Points (5%)

Reading, Writing, and Listening Exercises: 250 Points (25%)

Group Project incl. Online Presentation: 150 Points (15%)

Exam(s): 100 Points (10%)

Essay: 100 Points (10%)

Student Blog/Journal/Forum discussions: 100 Points (10%)

## Grading

FU Grade	Points of 500	Points of 1,000
1.0	490-500	980-1,000
1.3	475-489	950-979
1.7	450-474	900-949
2.0	425-449	850-899
2.3	400-424	800-849
2.7	375-399	750-799
3.0	350-374	700-749
3.3	325-349	650-699
3.7	300-324	600-649
4.0	250-299	500-599
5.0	< 250	< 500