

German Language and Culture: Intermediate 1 / B1

Instructor: tba

Email Address:	daf-fubest@fu-berlin.de
Live Sessions:	Slot A: Tuesday, 9 – 11 a.m. CET (Berlin time) Slot B: 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 to strengthen and expand your communicative competences in listening, speaking, reading and writing, and to deepen your understanding of German-speaking cultures in the context of Berlin. With the help of the book *Netzwerk B1* and additional material, which is primarily dealing with cultural and historical aspects of German(y), you will develop your individual language skills. One of the foci of the course is placed on Berlin and its surroundings. Therefore, you will increasingly work with authentic material in class.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, you will be able to interact in most everyday situations in a German-speaking environment and to conduct conversations about familiar topics. You will be familiarized with the German university system, the arts, the media, and current social trends with a focus on Berlin. You will be able to talk about the past and the future, to draw comparisons, to describe persons and things in detail, and to talk about your studies and your plans and wishes. You will have developed reading strategies that will allow you to understand newspaper and magazine articles as well as short literary texts. Through text production, you will also expand on the basics of independent text revision, employing a larger vocabulary and thus enlarging your metalinguistic knowledge. You will be able to understand the main information contained in standard language oral texts.

Textbook

Stefanie Dengler et al.: *Netzwerk B1* with Learning Management System.

Authentic/original material.

Provided online.

Topics

Discovering Berlin's (urban) history, culture(s) and social developments

Concepts of time – life events

(Digital) Technologies

Health(care)

(Protection of the) environment, sustainability

Structures

(verbs with) prepositions – declension of adjectives – relative clauses – transitive/intransitive verbs – weak masculine nouns – infinitive with *zu* – tense and temporal expressions – subjunctive II – morphology – word order

Competences to be gained

Reception

<i>Listening</i>	<i>Reading</i>
Student can understand major conversation points when they are made slowly and clearly in standard language and about familiar topics like work, leisure time, family, travels, and school.	Student can understand short informational excerpts without assistance. Student can gather important information from a newspaper article or other non-fictional source. Student can read simple poems and literary works (excerpts).

Production

<i>Speaking</i>	<i>Writing</i>
Student can handle most normal daily situations in German. Student can lead conversations about familiar things like personal interests, hobbies, family, or past events. Student can express things like wants, needs, intentions, and feelings. Student can explain opinions and viewpoints and reasons behind them. Student can initiate and contribute to a simple conversation in German.	Student can write simple excerpts about familiar topics, experiences and impressions. Student is able to compose personal as well as simple formal letters. Student can describe past experiences. Student can expound and argue his/her opinions and explanations.

Reflection

<i>Self-correction</i>	<i>Socio-cultural competence</i>	<i>Self-reflection</i>
Speaking ability has developed far enough that student corrects him- or herself in conversations that are structured and directed. Only now and then does he/she need a “push” from the teacher when writing/speaking freely.	Student has gained many insights into the aspects of post-war German society. Student can identify the role of linguistic reflection in different texts and literary genres.	Student can reflect critically on his/her learning experiences and advancements. Student can articulate his/her learning goals in German and appropriate strategies for accomplishing them.

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 through the course website: 250 Points (25%)

Group Project(s) 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