

German Language and Culture: Intermediate 2 / B2

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 aims to systematically improve your writing and reading competences. It focuses on your acquisition of complex linguistic structures and your consistent self-correction. It will help you further develop effective reading and listening strategies by using texts and listening examples that extend beyond everyday communication. In-class discussions will be based on the weekly reading of literary and non-literary texts that will motivate you to exchange information, ideas, and opinions. In addition, these texts will provide important cultural and historical background information. Grammar revision is just one of the foci of this course; yet, you will expand and deepen your knowledge of German grammar through specific exercises.

Learning Objectives

In this course you will expand your competences in speaking and writing while emphasizing self-correction. Furthermore, this course will help you to increase your vocabulary, to deepen grammar usage, and develop effective reading and listening strategies. In addition, you will analyze and interpret cultural, political, and historical topics in German speaking countries and compare them with your own cultural background. By the end of this course you will have developed and regularly use new strategies for language acquisition. You will be able to engage in detailed discussions on above mentioned topics. Furthermore, you will have developed reading strategies that will allow you to understand different text types in detail. In addition, you will improve your essay writing skills, i.e. you will be able to write texts on different topics, revise and proofread them.

Textbook

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

Birgit Braun et al.: *Kompass B2.1* with Learning Management System.

Authentic/original material.

Provided online.

Topics

Society and politics

Globalization

Banks and Finances

Urban life and planning

Health (care)

(Digital) Technologies and Social Media

Climate Change and Sustainability

Structures

tenses, temporal adverbs – sentence order – temporal, causal, modal and spatial expressions – passive tense – declension of adjectives – participles I and II as attribute – verbs and cases – morphology – infinitive clauses in present and past tense

Competences to be gained

Reception		
<i>Listening</i>		<i>Reading</i>
Student can follow a standard conversation and grasp the main points even if it goes beyond familiar matters. Student can understand the main topics of a television or radio program, when spoken clearly and at reasonable speed.		Student can understand longer and more complex texts dealing with contemporary subjects. Student can comprehend the arguments and the views of the author. Student can understand a short prose text provided it is using standard language.
Production		
<i>Speaking</i>		<i>Writing</i>
Student can understand most of the everyday situations encountered in a German-speaking environment such as work, living, leisure, etc. Student can produce simple connected narratives and express wishes, hopes, dreams and feelings. Student can use reason and give explanations regarding opinions and plans. Student can follow the plot of movies and books and give a brief summary.		Student can produce simple structured texts on familiar topics. Student can write about experiences and impressions and write short stories in past tense. Student can use reason and give explanations regarding opinions in writing.
Reflection		
<i>Self-correction</i>	<i>Socio-cultural competence</i>	<i>Self-reflection</i>
The feeling for the language has developed so that self-correction is more prevalent, and correction from the teacher is needed less.	Student has gained deeper insight into aspects of German society and history. Is increasingly aware of the subtlety and nuance of language.	Critical self-reflection accompanies language acquisition. Student can express his/her educational aims, can recognize his/her own strengths and weaknesses and implement individual learning techniques.

Student Prerequisites

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