

German Language and Culture: Informed Beginners (A2)

Email Address:	daf-fubest@fu-berlin.de
Live Sessions:	Tuesday, 9 – 11 a.m. CET (Berlin time)
Duration:	Feb. 15 – May 17, 2022
Language of Instruction:	German
Contact Hours:	30
ECTS Credits:	6

Course Description

This course is designed for beginners with some prior knowledge of German. With the help of the books *Akademie Deutsch A1+* and *A2+* as well as additional material, which is primarily dealing with cultural and historical aspects of German(y), you will expand your competences in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, you will be able to deal with everyday situations in a German-speaking environment and to conduct simple conversations. You will expand your reading strategies that allow you to understand short informational and literary texts. In addition, you will improve your writing skills, which means you will be able to write short texts on different topics, revise and proofread them. Finally, you will be able to understand discussions on familiar topics in more details as well as short selections from videos, films or series.

Textbook

Sabrina Schmohl, Britta Schenk, Sandra Bleiner, Michaela Wirtz, Jana Glaser: *Akademie Deutsch A1+, A2+* with Hueber Interaktiv.

Authentic/original material.

Provided online.

Topics

Studying in Germany – campus life – weather, climate, geography – pop culture – shopping online – appearances and character traits, describing emotions – shared housing – cooking and food sharing – hygiene – education system – learning strategies – work life – fairy tales – childhood, talking about the past – apartment search and sharing – city and city life in our times

Structures

subordinated clauses (causal, concessive, conditional, temporal) – sentence structure – comparison – infinitive clauses – indirect questions – declension of articles and nouns – adjective declension – prepositions – verbs with dative and accusative – simple past (including modal verbs) – reflexive verbs – genitive – relative clauses – verbs with prepositions

Competences to be gained

Reception

Listening

Student can understand sentences and frequently used expressions relating to his/her immediate environment or to matters of daily routine. Student can follow simple conversation and understand simple narrations and accounts in broad outline if spoken to slowly. Student can do better if helped by visualization.

Reading

Student can understand simple texts in familiar everyday language. Student can extract the main points from simple factual texts. Student can read simple literary texts when provided with adequate help.

Production

Speaking

Student can communicate in routine situations about daily activities such as studies, leisure activities or the immediate living situation by combining and varying familiar expressions. Student can express immediate needs and talk about immediate past in simple linked sentences. Student is not yet able to keep a conversation going on his/her own.

Writing

Student can write short notes and messages using restricted vocabulary. Student can also write private letters as well as short texts and relate personal experiences of the immediate past in chronological order by combining short sentences.

Reflection

Self-correction

Student can correct him-/herself when choosing vocabulary and endings, especially if provided with hints from the teacher, but is also developing a feeling for judging the correctness of his/her own statements.

Socio-cultural competence

Student is gradually becoming familiar with cultural aspects of the German-speaking countries and their linguistic representations.

Self-reflection

Student can reflect upon the experience of acquiring German using his/her native language and also increasingly in German. Student is aware of strong and weak points in learning German and is able to adjust personal learning strategies accordingly. Student can evaluate his/her learning progress and define individual 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 workspace. 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%)

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

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

Exam(s): 150 Points (15%)

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