

GER 1131, Beginning Intensive German II, Spring 2020

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

GER 1131 (Beginning German II) is the second course of the beginning sequence. It concentrates on development of overall skill in language (speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary) and cultural knowledge. The students will continue to learn grammar in the context of a variety of topics/issues that allow them to connect and compare their own cultural environment with that of their German peers. By the end of the semester, they can talk about health, fitness, and popular sports; they will be able to 'virtually' visit German cities, make travel arrangements, and book hotel reservations. They will speak about expectations, dreams, and explore future professions; they discuss living arrangements, finances, and the effects of social media on their own lives and public opinion. Finally, students will talk about global or local environmental problems/issues. After successful completion of this course, we highly recommend the **UF in Heidelberg Program**, which will take place from July to August. Contact UFIC for more information. Program Director for UF in Mannheim 2020 is Dr. Susanne Hill.

1. REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Required:

- Textbook: ***Deutsch: NA KLAR!*** by Di Donato & Clyde, Publisher: McGraw Hill; ISBN: 978-1264004836
- Connect: GER 1131 sections are participating in the UF All Access program for the Spring 2020 semester.
 - Students will have the option to "opt-in" to Connect access through a link provided in Canvas for a reduced price and pay for these materials through their student account. Opting-in by following the instructions provided in Canvas will provide the most affordable option.
 - Please await instructions for when you will be able to purchase the required Connect access through Canvas (if you do not already have it from GER1130). The opt-in portal should be available a few days before start of term.

Recommended: *English Grammar for Students of German* by Cecile Zorach and Charlotte Melin.

Published by the Olivia and Hill Press. It is available from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

2. CLASSROOM AND STUDY APPROACH:

We teach our classes primarily **in German**. Communicative contexts and grammatical guides are introduced in class through a variety of activities. Acquisition is reinforced by interactive use of new structures and vocabulary. **DAILY ATTENDANCE, THOROUGH PREPARATION OUTSIDE OF CLASS, AND PARTICIPATION IN CLASS ARE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE.** Students normally spend **TWO HOURS WORKING AT HOME** (previewing and reviewing) **FOR EACH HOUR IN CLASS** to keep up with the pace of the course. In order to actively participate in class and be prepared for exams and other tasks, it is imperative that you:

- Preview the topics of the day prior to coming to class, including the vocabulary, cultural/language notes, and the related grammar topics.
- Review the content that was covered after each class, complete the corresponding electronic workbook/lab manual (eWBLM) and LearnSmart exercises on Connect, and listen to any of the audio and video segments that accompany the textbook for further listening practice.

There is a listening and pronunciation program included with the eWBLM, which was designed to encourage you to work with German on a **daily, regular basis** and includes a listening and pronunciation program. It is best to work **often for short** periods of time. Regularly making a serious effort in preparing daily for class as well as on completing the eWBLM exercises throughout the semester will provide the best preparation for the exams and other tasks.

3. TESTS AND TASKS:

As a rule, we take two weeks for each chapter. Each chapter will include a written or oral portfolio task according to the theme of a chapter, i.e. your morning routine, your fitness plan, planning a trip to a German city, describing and comparing people or things etc. These will be due every other Friday. Chapter tests are given every other Friday. Students are expected to do ALL activities assigned in Connect and should be completed on a daily, regular basis in order to better prepare yourself for in-class participation. Any Connect tasks submitted after the due date will not be accepted for credit without appropriate documentation. Activities may not be accepted on paper unless specified by the instructor. LEARNSMART tasks are a good review of course content and preparation for exam.

4. CHAPTER EXAMS (30%) AND FINAL (20%)

Chapter exams will test your skills in familiar ways, if you attend class regularly and take your work with CONNECT seriously.

- **Chapter exams** (30%) will be administered online in Connect on the dates noted on the daily calendar. In their content and format, each chapter exam will generally consist of (1) listening and (2) reading comprehension exercises; (3) vocabulary, culture, and grammar sections; and (4) a speaking task.
- **The Final Exam** (15%) is comprehensive and will be in the form of a final portfolio task (GER1131). It includes a **Final Oral Component** consisting of an interview, presentation, or project. Details will be announced in class well in advance.

5. FINAL GRADES:

Participation (10%)
Portfolio Tasks (25%)
eWBLM activities (20%)
Chapter exams (including 1 oral interview) (30%)
Comprehensive Final Exam/Portfolio Task (15%)

6. GRADING SCALE:

A=93-100; A-=90-92; B+=87-89%; B=83-86%; B-=80-82; C+=77-79%; C=73-76%; C-=70-72; D+=67-69%; D=63-66%; D-=60-62; E=below 60%.

S is equivalent to C or better. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences requires that students earn a final grade of C or better (or S) in GER 1130 in order to advance to GER 1131. Note that a C- does not satisfy this requirement; students must earn a C or better in the course in order to move on to the next course and satisfy the language requirement.

According to university guidelines, letter grades will convert to GPA as follows: A = 4.0; A- = 3.67; B+ = 3.33; B = 3; B- = 2.67; C+ = 2.33; C = 2.0; C- = 1.67; D+ = 1.33; D = 1.0; D- = .67; E = 0; WF = 0; I = 0 NG = 0; S-U = 0

CLASS AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. ATTENDANCE and CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION:

Becoming fluent in a language requires extensive, repeated exposure to that language. For this reason, attendance is essential in this class, and is considered mandatory. A SEVERE PENALTY WILL BE IMPOSED FOR EXCESSIVE ABSENCES: After **4 hours of class time missed**, 1% per unexcused absence is deducted from your final grade. Excused absences due to sickness must be documented. **Be advised that attending class is not the same as participating.** Your instructor will not only check your attendance, but also make note of how well and how much you participate in classroom activities and respond to questions. Repeatedly being unprepared to answer or take part in activities, will result in a further reduction of your participation grade. Excessive, consistent tardiness or arriving more than 5 minutes late on 3 occasions will count as one missed class. **Students experiencing difficulties that interfere with class attendance/performance are encouraged to speak with their instructor immediately or contact a counselor:** <https://umatter.ufl.edu/>

2. ELECTRONICS IN CLASS:

Use of electronics for anything other than coursework is distracting to both you and those seated around you and will not be tolerated. It is expected that you will silence all electronic equipment upon entering the classroom and will only use it to consult the eBook and other materials for GER1131. Consultation of anything else, including email, social media or text messages, during class will lower your participation grade. Emergency exceptions should be brought to the attention of your instructor.

A cell phone is not an acceptable device for viewing the eBook. If you have no other device, see your instructor to discuss a solution. Some students find it helpful to have a printed version of the textbook, which is available as a loose-leaf or hard cover from McGraw-Hill.

3. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

The University of Florida statement regarding academic honesty and more specifically “giving and/or receiving unauthorized aid on student’s work” reads as follows: “A Student, independently or with another person or other people, must not without express authorization take, give, transmit, or receive materials, information, or resources in any manner, through any medium, for the purpose of gaining or providing an improper academic advantage to any Student.” <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

Giving information includes, but is not limited to, allowing other students to use or copy work or answers to exam questions while the exam is being given or after having taken the exam. Further, the

taking of information includes, but is not limited to, copying from the answers provided in the book or ancillary materials, copying from another student's paper [...], using information already written in books, [...], or asking anyone, students or not to review and/or correct assignments. Students found in violation of this policy will be referred to the appropriate administration for appropriate action according to the student judicial process.

When learning a language, using a translation service (like Google translate) can be tempting. However, **using translation services or online dictionaries to look up more than a single word is not acceptable and a form of plagiarism.** Instead of abusing the online resources available to you, refer to the textbook, simplify the complex thoughts you are trying to communicate, use cognates, synonyms, and circumlocution with the words and structures that you know to convey what you are trying to say.

4. MAKE-UP EXAMS:

In general, there are **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS!** This policy is strictly enforced; therefore, please do not schedule dental appointments or car maintenance for the days of exams! Medical emergencies will be handled on a case by case basis but require appropriate documentation for consideration. No changes to the **FINAL EXAM** day schedule will be made except for University sanctioned make-up exams (see University schedule for specific policies).

5. RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

Students and faculty must cooperate to allow each person to observe faith. Following UF policy, a student must **inform** the faculty member of the religious observances of his or her faith that will **conflict** with class attendance, with tests or examinations, or with other class activities **prior to the class or occurrence of that test or activity.** **No make-ups will be given after a holiday unless arrangements were made in advance with the instructor.**

6. S/U OPTION:

If you are eligible, you may take GER 1131 on the S/U option, although we discourage most students from doing so because of the strong temptation to neglect S/U courses when under pressure. **Daily involvement with the language is the key to success.** Submit S/U applications directly to the Registrar. Consult the Undergraduate Catalog for further clarification. *Students must earn a C or better in order to earn an S in this course. (A C- converts to a U under university guidelines.)*

7. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

The University of Florida policy related to accommodations for students with disabilities reads as follows: "Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation."

8. COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available at:

<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>