

DREXEL UNIVERSITY  
[Modern Languages Homepage](#)  
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Course Objectives and Syllabus  
German 101

**Term: Spring 2014**

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**Office Hours: Thursday 8.30-9.00 am or by appointment**

Room: see Drexel Master Schedule

**Description:**

German 101 meets four hours per week. German 101 is the first trimester of Drexel's first year German sequence. The goal of the sequence is to give students a solid foundation in the fundamentals of the German language. As is the case of all language courses at Drexel, this course will use the four skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) in a communicative format. Students should be prepared to actively participate in class and to use the learned grammar structures in small group activities and other communicative tasks.

**Texts:**

*Wie geht's?* Thompson/Heinle. 10th edition, 2015.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**1) Drop policy:**

**Drexel University allows students to drop a course through the end of the sixth week of the term.** This means that you will not be allowed to drop a course, even if you are failing, after the sixth week of the term. The number of times you have already been absent, the status of your lab hours and, above all, the result of your midterm testing and other evaluations (chapter tests, quizzes, homework) are your best guide to decide whether or not you should drop the course.

**2) Attendance policy:**

Since learning a foreign language is a participatory endeavor, attendance is mandatory at all class meetings. Students are allowed to miss **no more than four classes** during the term. Students who exceed the maximum number of allowable absences will find that their final grade will be adversely affected.

**3) Final exam:**

**Please note:** The scheduling of final exams is done by SRC on a University-wide basis. The final exam date **cannot** be changed and may not correlate to the class meeting time/days. **Final exam week runs Monday through Saturday. If you miss your final exam, your instructor is under no obligation to provide you an alternate time to make-up the exam.**

## EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOME

This course will provide students with a fundamental understanding of the German language in several core competencies. Specifically, the five areas of assessment are: listening, reading, spoken interaction, spoken production, and writing. Below is a table intended to clarify the expected learning outcome for students of this German 101 course, which align with the ACTFL standards for language learners at the “Novice Low/Mid” level. For more information on these metrics, please see the [ACTFL standards online](#).

Listening	Reading	Spoken Interaction	Spoken Production	Writing
The student can recognize familiar words and very basic phrases concerning themselves, their family and immediate concrete surroundings when people speak slowly and clearly.	The student can understand familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example on notices or posters or in catalogues.	The student can interact in a simple way, provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at a slower rate of speech and help the student to formulate the intended thought. The student can ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics.	The student can use simple phrases and sentences to describe where he or she lives and people such as friends or family.	The student can write a short, simple postcard, for example sending holiday greetings. The student can fill in forms with personal details, for example entering name, nationality, and address on a hotel registration form.

As well as gaining a fundamental understanding of the German language, this course will provide you with tools to understand cultural differences and the basics of intercultural communication with a focus on the German culture. We will focus on the three essential areas of competence: openness, knowledge, and adaptability. Below you will find a table explaining the basic level of intercultural communication skills that you are expected to obtain in German 101.

Level 1 - Basic Intercultural Communication Skills	
<b>Overview Of Competence</b>	I am willing to interact with people of other cultures. I can easily pick up cultural nuances through learning languages but I still don't have the experience to deal with intercultural situations in general. I tend to respond to events rather than plan for them. At this stage, I am reasonably tolerant of the values, customs, and practices of other cultures, although I may find them odd, surprising, or I may disapprove of them.
<b>Openness</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) When uncertainty arises due to cultural differences, I try to keep a positive attitude as long as the issue is not sensitive to me.</li> <li>2) I sometimes jump to conclusions about different behaviors that I later realize were not entirely correct.</li> </ol>
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) I have some knowledge about the cultures of those to which I am introduced. This knowledge may consist of facts that have been misconstrued and are not always truly characteristic of that culture.</li> <li>2) I learn from intercultural experiences and build on my previous knowledge.</li> <li>3) Although I tend to find cultural behaviors different from my own curious, I try to be tolerant.</li> </ol>

<b>Adaptability</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) I continue to learn the best ways of behaving, but I still do not have a firm grasp on the underlying principles and I do not have a plan for reacting to events. When an intercultural situation becomes confusing, I tend to take a passive role.</li> <li>2) I take events as they come, doing what seems right at the time.</li> <li>3) When people try to communicate with me in a way that I am unfamiliar with, I try to take part but I hope that they will eventually adapt to my communication style.</li> <li>4) I understand that others may communicate in ways that I am unfamiliar with.</li> </ol>
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## GRADING

### Grading Rubric

Class Participation	:	20%
Quia Exercises	:	20%
Assignments and Quizzes	:	10%
Oral exams	:	10%
Written midterm and final exams	:	40%

#### **Class Participation (20%):**

In order to participate in class and to fulfill your obligation to others during group and pair activities, attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken every day. This grade will reflect both the quantity and quality of your participation. A detailed description of each letter grade for participation follows.

**A:** Arrives to class on time with homework assignments completed and ready for the lesson. Participates actively in all classroom activities. Volunteers frequently and readily contributes to group work. Uses German, both when asking questions and when working in a group.

**B:** Usually arrives to class prepared, but occasionally misses a homework assignment or neglects to learn the material. Occasionally a bit late for class. Participates in classroom activities on a regular basis. Sometimes volunteers, but usually waits for the teacher's cue. Contributes to group activities, but sometimes breaks out into English so that the task may be completed with greater ease. Tries to ask questions in German (when reminded) but often resorts to English to facilitate communication.

**C:** Does not always arrive to class prepared and this lack of preparation affects ability to participate in classroom activities. Often late for class, thereby missing important instructions and practice time. Contributes to classroom activities occasionally, but usually only when asked to do so by teacher. Sits quietly during group time or resorts to English. Rarely attempts to use German as a medium of communication- uses English to ask questions and to ask for clarification.

**D/ F:** Always arrives to class unprepared and is frequently absent. Rarely participates in classroom activities unless asked to do so by the teacher. Does not become involved in group activities. Never uses German as a medium of communication.

#### **Quia (20%)**

QUIA is an online homework component. You **MUST** purchase QUIA to complete your homework requirement. If you buy a new textbook from the Drexel bookstore it will come with a code. If you buy a used textbook you must buy QUIA directly from the publisher [www.cengage.com](http://www.cengage.com)

#### **Assignments and Quizzes (10%):**

You are required to purchase QUIA (see above) in order to complete the materials assigned. The *Wie geht's?* program is based on the notion that you will study grammar outside of class in preparation for using it as a tool for communication in class. As a result, you need to get in the habit of preparing for each and every class.

Homework will be assigned on a nightly basis. Some exercises may be collected while others may be randomly verified for completion by the instructor using the online program. **Late homework will not be accepted.** All assignments **MUST** be turned in on the day they are due. If you are absent that day, you must turn in assignments on the day you return to class. It is your responsibility to make sure that you have received the weekly homework assignment sheet.

Quizzes may consist of announced or unannounced in-class exercises or written out-of-class assignments. **No make-up quizzes will be given unless the instructor is advised of the reason for the missed quiz.** However, I will drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the term.

#### **Oral Exams (10%):**

Both the midterm and the final exam will have an oral component. Specific dates and times will be arranged. **Failure to appear at the appointed time will result in a grade of F.**

**Written midterm and final exams (40%):**

Exams will be communicative in nature -- writing short paragraphs, responding to a short audio selection or reading a short passage in German. There will also be a small discreet grammar section to both the final and the midterm.

**Please note:** Final exams are scheduled by SRC on a University-wide basis. Final exams may be scheduled at any time, Monday through Saturday of final exam week. The Foreign Language programs must abide by the time and day assigned to them by SRC.

**OTHER RESOURCES:****The Conversation Network:**

Through the English Language Center, located on the first floor of the Language and Communication Center, German language students may sign up for a conversation partner. The Conversation Network is designed to give Drexel students an opportunity to meet and converse with a foreign student who has come to Drexel to learn English. This program is not designed to replace daily preparation for class, but rather can provide a forum for informal student interaction. Students may sign up for the Conversation Network by stopping by the English Language Center, or sending an e-mail to: [Conversation.Network@drexel.edu](mailto:Conversation.Network@drexel.edu), or by phoning them at (215) 895-2022.

**Drexel University encourages all students to study and/or work abroad as part of their academic program.**

Available options include:

**1. Intensive Language Study Abroad:**

Various programs are available, primarily in the summer. Information is available on the Study Abroad website: <https://drexel.studioabroad.com/> and also at the Modern Language Programs office (Language & Communication Center 210) <http://www.drexel.edu/culturecomm/lang/>, in the IAS Office (MacAlister 2024) <http://www.drexel.edu/ias/>, and in the Office of International Programs (Randell 230) <http://www.drexel.edu/international/>

**2. Co-op and Internships Abroad:**

Drexel Abroad programs in languages and the liberal arts are administered by the director of International Area Studies and include study-internship programs in Europe and intensive language programs in China, Japan and Russia. They require junior status, with a 3.0 average (3.5 for pre-juniors), completion of level 203 of the target language (except in London), and at least two upper-division courses in history, politics and sociology. Internships in Belgium are with the European Parliament, and in other countries with multinational corporations or with organizations and agencies in a variety of disciplines. <http://www.drexel.edu/scdc/coop/abroad/>

**3. International Programs:**

The Office of International Programs offers a number of discipline-specific programs abroad (most of which do not require substantive language skills), including the opportunity for Drexel students in a variety of majors to study/co-op in London. Information is available on the Study Abroad website: <https://drexel.studioabroad.com/>, by emailing the Study Abroad office at: [studyabroad@drexel.edu](mailto:studyabroad@drexel.edu) or by contacting Daniela Ascarelli, Study Abroad Director at (215) 895-1704.

**TYPICAL COURSE CALENDAR FOR GERMAN 101** (updates to be provided)

<b>Week</b>	<b>BOOK</b> (pages)	<b>TOPICS</b>
Week 1	Schritte 1-5	Greetings
		Colors & Seasons Family and Friends <i>Familie, Länder und Sprachen</i>
Week 2	Kapitel 1	Present Tense and Nominative Case Sentence Structure <i>Deutschland in Europa</i>
Week 3	Kapitel 1,2	<i>Lebensmittel und Geschäfte</i> Present Tense of <i>sein</i> and Accusative Case Sentence Structure Coordinating Conjunctions
Week 4	Kapitel 2	<i>Geschäfte und Einkaufen</i> Rollenspiel
Week 5	Kapitel 3	Midterm <i>Im Restaurant</i> Eating out, meals at home Verbs with Vowel Change Dative Case
Week 6 (Last week to drop course)	Kapitel 3,4	Dative Prepositions  <i>Man ist, was man isst.</i>
Week 7	Kapitel 4	<i>Feiertage und Feste</i> Holidays & Vacations Past Tense Past Tense (cont.)
Week 8	Kapitel 4,5	Subordinating Conjunctions Coordinating Conjunctions <i>Da macht das Feiern Spass!</i>
Week 9	Kapitel 5	<i>In der Stadt</i> Personal Pronouns Personal Pronouns (cont.) Modal Verbs, Sondern vs. Aber
Week 10	Review	
Week 11	Last day of class	
Final		Final exam

**WS= Wortschatz**

**S= Seite**

**Academic Policies**

Please review the following applicable policies and statements regarding classes at Drexel University.

- [Office of the Provost: Policies on Academic Misconduct](#)
- [Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards: Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Office of Disability Services: Students with Disability Statement](#)
- [Office of the Provost: Course Drop Policy](#)

### **Course Change Policy**

This syllabus is designed to provide students with ample understanding of course expectations, so that meeting these expectations is a clear and attainable goal. Changes may be implemented at any time, before or during the course, at the instructor's discretion. In the event of any changes to the syllabus, students will be provided with an updated copy via email.

### **Grade Scale**

This course uses the plus/minus system for determining grades. Details follow.

98-100%	=	A+
93-97%	=	A
90-92%	=	A-
87-89%	=	B+
83-86%	=	B
80-82%	=	B-
77-79%	=	C+
73-76%	=	C
70-72%	=	C-
67-69%	=	D+
63-66%	=	D
60-62%	=	D-
<60%	=	F