German Language and Culture

Course Outline
2025

Course Date	26 May – 6 June 2025 (online)
Class Hours	The course consists of 15 contact hours, including online German language classes and an online presentation, as well as 70 self-study hours including time spent in Germany gathering information for the final presentation and self-reflection for preparing the final presentation.
Lecturer(s)	TBD
Course Description	The focus of the course is to provide a brief introduction to the German language and culture. The topics that will be discussed include: 1. **Basic German Vocabulary**: Common words and phrases for everyday use. 2. **German Grammar Fundamentals**: Introduction to sentence structure, verb conjugations, and noun genders. 3. **Pronunciation and Phonetics**: How to correctly pronounce German sounds and words. 4. **Basic Conversation Skills**: Simple dialogues and common expressions for basic communication. 5. **Reading and Writing**: Understanding and forming basic sentences in written German. 6. **Cultural Insights**: Overview of German-speaking countries, their cultures, and customs.
Learning Outcomes and Task	By completing this course, students will be able to: 1. **Understand Basic German Vocabulary**: Recognize and use common words and phrases in everyday contexts. 2. **Apply Fundamental Grammar Rules**: Construct simple sentences using correct verb conjugations, noun genders, and basic grammatical structures. 3. **Pronounce German Words Accurately**: Demonstrate proper pronunciation of German sounds and words. 4. **Engage in Basic Conversations**: Participate in simple dialogues and use common expressions for basic communication. 5. **Read and Write Basic German**: Read and comprehend simple texts and write basic sentences in German. 6. **Gain Cultural Awareness**: Appreciate and understand cultural aspects of German-speaking countries.
Course Method	The course will be taught online using a combination of teaching methods: 1. **Lectures**: Virtual sessions to introduce and explain key concepts, vocabulary, and grammar rules. 2. **Workshops**: Interactive online sessions where students can practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing in German.

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	3. **Group Activities**: Collaborative exercises and discussions conducted through online platforms to enhance learning through peer interaction. 4. **Case Studies**: Practical examples and real-life scenarios to apply the language skills in context. 5. **Multimedia Resources**: Use of audio, video, and online tools to support language learning and improve pronunciation.
Course Materials	The course will use a variety of materials and sources, including: 1. **Textbooks and E-books**: Recommended German language textbooks and e-books for structured learning. 2. **Online Articles and Websites**: Selected online resources for additional reading and practice. 3. **Audio and Video Files**: Recordings of native speakers, pronunciation guides, and video lessons to enhance listening and speaking skills. 4. **Flashcards and Apps**: Digital flashcards and language learning apps for vocabulary reinforcement. 5. **Cultural Content**: Articles, videos, and multimedia content related to German culture and customs. Availability of Course Materials: • **Learning Management System (LMS)**: All course materials, including textbooks, e-books, online articles, audio and video files, flashcards, apps, cultural content, and online games, will be uploaded to an online learning management system where students can access them at any time. • **Email**: Important documents and updates will also be sent directly to students via email. • **Online Libraries and Databases**: Links to external resources and recommended readings will be provided through the LMS or course website. • **Interactive Platforms**: Multimedia resources and interactive exercises will be accessible through dedicated language learning platforms or apps integrated with the course.
Credits	Students will earn 6 ECTS upon successful completion of the course.
Assessment	The course learning assessment will be conducted through a final presentation to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of students' language proficiency and understanding. The final presentation will be conducted within two weeks of completion of the in-person summer university. The presentation should be 5 – 10 minutes in length and should include a comparison of everyday life in Germany with life in their home country.

	Examples could include: university life, supermarkets, public transportation, interactions with German-speakers, and any general observations about daily life in Germany.
Grading	Students will be graded on the following factors: participation in the online German language classes and completion of the final presentation. Students are encouraged to include as many German vocabulary words and phrases as they can in their final presentation, which should serve as a culmination of their language learning during their two weeks in Germany.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Assessment and Credits

Upon successful completion of the summer course, students will be awarded ECTS points. A single ECTS point is defined as the equivalent of 25-30 hours of student workload, which includes class hours, readings, preparation for class activities, as well as an assessment measure. Learning will be assessed at the end of the summer course. Lecturers will inform students about the assessment measures at the beginning of the summer course. Students will receive a Transcript of Records showing their grades earned in the course. This document can be presented to their home institution for credit.

Grading

Grades will be awarded based on the German grading system:

German	Sehr gut 1,0-1,5		Gut 1,6-2,5		Befriedigend 2,6-3,5		Ausreichend 3,6-4,0		TN Teilnahmeschein	LN Leistungs-nachweis	Nicht bestanden 5,0/ 6,0
	very good		good		satisfactory		pass		Non exam paper	Exam/paper	not passed
Americas	A 1,0-2,3			B 2,4-3,0		C 3,1--3,5		D 3,6-4,0	participated	passed	failed
European	A 1,0-1,5	B 1,6-2,0	C 2,1-3,0		D 3,1-3,5		E 3,6-4,0				FX/F 4,1-5,0

Email and campUAS Online Learning Platform

Students are encouraged to use campUAS, our E-Learning Platform. Using campUAS enables students to access course materials and stay informed about extracurricular activities. We also expect students to check their emails on a regular basis.

Class Participation

Class participation is considered a requirement for successfully completing the program. Student questions, answers, comments, and insights over the course will not only benefit the whole class, but it will also ensure that students have a better understanding of the class material and contribute to their overall academic success.

Attendance

Students should attend each class. Students also need to inform their lecturer if they need to miss class. This can be done in person or via email.

Academic Honesty

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will fail, at our discretion, either the assignment in question or the entire program.