

German 103-203: Intensive Elementary German/ Intensive Intermediate German

Textbook, Workbook, Lab Manual, Audio CD: *Deutsch Na Klar! 5th Edition*
DiDonato, Clyde & Vansant. McGraw-Hill Publishers.

103: Chapters 1-7
203: Chapters 8-14

Video and technology:

Deutsch Na Klar! Video - Language Lab, Jimenez 1202

Audio CD for Deutsch Na Klar! – available through your course site on www.elms.umd.edu

Course Emphasis and Goals

In Intensive Elementary German and Intensive Intermediate German, the foundation is set for linguistic accuracy contextualized through contemporary cultural themes such as family and friendships; academic training and professional life; travel and geography; and current issues of significance such as the environment and political systems (past and present) and Germany's place in the European Union. Within these topics, both historical and current perspectives are emphasized. In developing fluency in German, creativity, breadth of vocabulary, and stylistic accuracy all contribute to effective communication. Through collaborative and individual work, each student will learn to express personal experience and to develop personal interests *in German* through a variety of materials and tasks.

Approaches to Skill Development in German 103 and 203

The simultaneous development of writing, reading, listening and speaking ability is made possible through tasks and materials accessed in and outside of class. Some use of the World Wide Web and video is included in and out of class. Through reading a variety of text types, students will become familiar with fiction and nonfiction through poetry, news and documentary pieces, personal biography, and media language.

Speaking: Classwork will emphasize communicative accuracy and fluency. Consistent participation in all individual and group-oriented activities ensure the development of fluent speaking. Students will have several formats for demonstrating progress, from daily interactions to more formal presentations. Students will be interviewed informally at the midpoint of the semester, and will be evaluated formally through a partnered class presentation and a brief one-on-one interview at the end of the semester.

Writing: Daily written work is an essential component for developing accuracy and self-expression in German. Periodic extended writing assignments are theme-based, with clear guidelines given in advance, and progressing from description and narration to more structured argumentation and analysis throughout the semester.

Reading: Reading skill is developed both in class and in outside assignments, practiced informally through group readings in class and formally as brief components on major exams. In addition, a few extended pieces will be read, e.g., short stories or fairy tales, in order to learn closer reading and analysis of authentic text.

Listening: The ability to hear and comprehend German is essential to the development of speaking skill, and also contributes to overall fluency in the language. Listening skill is emphasized in a communicative teaching framework, through video and audio work in and out of class, and as brief components on major exams.

Culture: Understanding German culture is also important to your understanding of the language, and is therefore an important component of the course. Periodically, you will have a “Kulturtag” on the syllabus so that your instructor can introduce you to specific cultural topics that relate to your current chapter themes. You will also be expected to develop an original, culture-based project with a partner to present to the class.

Course Assessment

Homework & Quizzes – 25%: Written work outside of class is a major aspect of language learning, and much of the real work is accomplished through individual study time. For this reason, homework is assigned daily. It is to be completed before class and turned in at the beginning of the class hour. Each assignment must be self-corrected using a different color pen. Full credit is given only when the instructor sees that the assignment is on time, self-corrected, and complete. NO late assignments will be accepted for a grade.

Homework is graded as follows: 5 points for a (-), 7 points for a (√), 10 points for a (+) - . Please check Blackboard daily for homework updates – not all assignments are listed in the syllabus. You are responsible for staying up-to-date on every assignment.

Your instructor will also be giving you lab assignments to go with the chapter’s written work. Listening skill is considered an integral part of your progress, so these assignments are also collected and graded.

Your instructor may also assign journal writing, which is to be figured into the 25% allotment for homework.

All written work is evaluated for language and style, as well as organizational (discourse-level) accuracy and coherence. Longer assignments may include rewrites. As tests and quizzes are generally designed to follow homework activities, it is to your benefit to complete these assignments carefully and consistently.

Your instructor will periodically quiz the class on items that need special attention. The lowest *earned* quiz grade may be dropped. NB: If you did not attend class when the quiz was announced, your instructor is not obliged to inform you of the upcoming quiz. Quizzes cannot be made up due to absence or tardiness.

Chapter Exams – 30%: A comprehensive exam will follow every 2 chapters, incorporating grammar, vocabulary and cultural content. Each exam will balance written skill with some listening and/or reading. Exams are only to be given at the appointed time and place. Any possible make-ups are up to the instructor if s/he determines that the student has been working in good faith, the reasons are legitimate, and the circumstances are discussed in advance of the test.

Final exam (20%)

This comprehensive exam will include short answer and essay formats, covering grammar and the chapter themes, as well as extra reading selections. Heavy emphasis will be placed on the last chapter covered in the course (for which there was not a separate exam).

NB: The date of the final is listed on your syllabus and in testudo. NO alternate arrangements will be made to accommodate your travel, so please plan accordingly!

Oral Interview – 5%: You will have an interview at the end of the semester with an instructor from another section of your course. The format and content will be discussed with you, and will be a reflection of the kinds of conversations you have had in class throughout the semester.

Culture Presentation – 5%: One partnered presentation will focus on prepared speaking skill (more formal than conversation), targeting a cultural theme from a German-speaking country. The instructor will assist the students in choosing an appropriate topic. These presentations will take place during class time, and include an audio-visual component.

Class Participation -15%: Consistent attendance and lively participation is essential for learning a new language. Your progress depends on what you put in to this course on a daily basis. For this reason, absences will count against your final participation grade as follows: after 3 absences, a point (1%) will be subtracted for each absence. If you come more than 10 min. after the hour, your tardiness will count as an absence. If you are absent, YOU are responsible for getting missed information, quiz announcements, homework assignments, etc.

Course Expectations

- ✚ **Communication is Key:** Students should not expect to spend the class period discussing grammar – this is a communicatively-oriented class. In order to use class time effectively, students are expected to read the assigned lesson in their textbooks prior to the class period, complete all homework assigned for that segment, and be prepared to ask questions in class. During class time, the instructor will provide *brief* explanations of the target structures, then move to applied exercises that emphasize language use, not discussion *about* the language. Please let your instructor know if you do not understand the material, or if you are struggling with any aspect of the course!
- ✚ **Religious Observance:** Students must notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester regarding planned absences due to religious observances, and make arrangements with the instructor to make up the work. Further information on University policies on religious observances can be found at <<http://www.faculty.umd.edu/teach/InstructionalGuide.htm>>
- ✚ **Learning Disabilities, etc:** The Department of Germanic Studies is committed to assisting students with disabilities. If you have a documented learning disability or special circumstance, please let your instructor know in the first week of class so that accommodations may be made.
- ✚ **Learning Assistance:** If you experience difficulties keeping up with the academic demands of this course, please contact the Learning Assistance Service, 2201 Shoemaker Bldg, 301-314-7693. Their educational counselors can help with time management, reading, note-taking and

exam preparation skills. If you feel you are struggling in the course, please see your instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made. Your instructor cannot be expected to assist you if s/he does not hear anything until time for the final exam!

- ✚ Students are expected to remain in the classroom for 15 minutes in the unlikely event that an instructor should be late. After 15 minutes, it can be assumed that class will not be held.

Grading Scale: The Dept. of Germanic Studies language program adheres to the following scale for +/-:

A+ = 98 and above	B+ =88 and above	C+ =78 and above
A = 93-97	B =83-87	C =73-77
A- = 90-92	B- =80-82	C- =70-72 etc...

All courses adhere to the Code and Procedure of Academic Integrity at the University of Maryland. See Appendix F in your undergraduate catalog for this resolution.

As of Fall 2001, every exam or paper shall include the following pledge, written and signed by the student: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination or assignment."

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On collaboration with native speakers:

Native German speakers constitute a valuable educational resource, and the Department of Germanic Studies encourages students to seek out native speakers in order to improve linguistic competence. However, when related to written work, the Department does not accept work that has been the product of collaboration between a student and native speaker other than the course instructor, unless previous authorization has been granted by the instructor. In this manner, the authenticity of the work is maintained within the framework of academic honesty.

Possibility for research study participation

Please be aware that you may be asked to participate in research studies conducted by graduate students in collaboration with faculty members. Involvement in these studies is completely voluntary and independent from the course itself. Students who willingly choose to participate in such research will receive no special treatment, nor will their participation affect their grade in this course. Under all circumstances, the volunteers' identities will be kept confidential and anonymous according to the rules on human subjects at the university. Subjects reserve the right to ask questions and withdraw from the study at any time and without penalty.

This document was prepared by Prof. Alene Moyer, Language Program Director and TA Supervisor, Germanic Studies.