



Web site for the course: <http://www2.mcdaniel.edu/german/1101>

**Required books:** Optimal A1 Package (Textbook/ Workbook with CD and Glossary)

**Recommended books:** English Grammar for Students of German, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. by C. Zorach and C. Melin.

Collins: German-English-German Dictionary (or any other dictionary)

Welcome to German 1101! It is the first course in the two semester sequence at McDaniel College. The main focus of this course is to provide you with an introduction to German grammar, speaking, listening, reading, and writing. You will also familiarize yourselves with some aspects of contemporary German culture. In class, you will practice your skills through group activities (role playing, graffiti, etc.), individual presentations, and discussions of short texts, video clips, and songs.

Learning a second language is a challenge and should be a combination of hard work and fun. In order to be successful, you should spend a **minimum of eight hours per week** perfecting your language skills outside of class (two hours for each credit hour (4 credits x 2 hours).

Don't expect to understand everything your instructor says. He/She will speak most, if not all the time, in German so that you get used to hearing that. You must take risks when you use your language skills. The more you try using the language, the more mistakes you'll make, but also the more comfortable you'll be with German. After a while you'll lose your fear and gain more confidence in your language skills.

Please, ask your instructor to repeat what he/she has just said if you didn't understand that. Ask questions in German: **„Wie sagt man ... auf Deutsch?“** (How do you say ... in German?), or **„Ich verstehe das nicht.“** (I don't understand that.), or **„Würden Sie das bitte wiederholen!“** (Would you please repeat that.). Be curious, alert, and very active. Remember how you learned your first language as a child!

### **General goals for German 1101:**

1. **The development of proficiency and fundamental skills:** You will review/learn the basic vocabulary and grammatical structures necessary to communicate at an elementary level with speakers of German.
2. **Learn the use of available technology used by German speakers and learners:** You are required to type up your homework using a word processor during the semester, and are expected to include typed Umlauts and other diacritical marks not generally used in English. You will make use of the textbook's website (<http://www.langenscheidt.de/optimal>) and also use the audio CD for your homework assignments.
3. **Learning about other disciplines through the language:** reading selections included in the textbook and Internet activities assigned by your instructor will explore the world using the German language;
4. **Understand original texts and ways of thinking in the German language and cultures:** You will read original documents, magazine articles, recipes and advertisements in German and discuss them in class.
5. **Compare and analyze the culture and language of the German-speaking world and compare it with your own:** Your instructor will introduce you to the German-speaking world through personal experiences, the Internet, short films and other media. You will discuss differences among cultures in the German-speaking countries and similarities/differences with the culture(s) and language(s) you have inherited.

**Specific course objectives:** After successful completion of the course students will be able to:

- pronounce all of the sounds of German accurately;
- select the correct form of personal pronouns for direct address of other people (“du,” “ihr,” “Sie”);
- express short sentences in the present tense and narrate events in the past;
- use certain idiomatic expressions correctly;
- comprehend basic ideas expressed in German within the framework of the learned vocabulary;
- introduce themselves and introduce others;
- find their ways in a German-speaking city as a student or tourist on a basic level;
- describe their daily schedule and lead simple dialogues about that in German
- learn how to invite guests and how to read menus in restaurants
- write paragraphs in German about familiar topics such as one’s family, daily routine, etc.

The **Honor Code** will be strictly enforced. Students must **write out** and **sign** the honor pledge at the end of all assignments, tests and essays. The honor pledge is posted in every classroom.

**Plagiarism** is using another person’s words or ideas in a direct or indirect way without proper acknowledgment. Whenever using two or more important words, they must be placed in quotation marks.

If you have any **special needs**, please share them with your instructor so that he/she may accommodate them as directed by Student Academic Services. Please give your instructor the written notice from that office outlining these accommodations by the end of the first week of classes. Thank you!

**Tutoring is available.** Hours and name of the tutor will be announced in class.

**Attendance** is mandatory. Three (3) unexcused absences will lower the final grade by 3%, four (4) by 6% and so on. Excused absences are at the discretion of the instructor. Absences caused by college related activities or religious holidays are only excused if the instructor is made aware of them in advance. Please provide a written excuse for each class hour missed.

**Classroom Deportment:** In order to have an optimal teaching and learning environment, please keep the following guidelines in mind: arrive promptly and dressed properly for the classroom; treat everyone in the class with courtesy; turn off your cell phones before class; give the instructor your complete attention.

**Important:** Do not ignore problems. Ask questions. Do not fall behind. My office hours are posted on my office door. Talk to me or send me an e-mail if you have problems meeting any deadlines or need help or more time to finish a certain paper.

You must save all **graded work** until you receive your final grade at the end of the semester.

**Please join the German Club and support it by attending cultural events sponsored by both.**

**Changes to all aspects of this syllabus are at the discretion of the instructors.  
We reserve the right to amend the terms and conditions of this syllabus  
as we see fit at any point during the semester.**

Grading:		Grading Scale:	
Chapter Tests and vocabulary quizzes	40%	A+ 97 – 100%	C+ 77 – 79%
Homework, Participation & Daily Preparations	30%	A 93 – 96%	C 73 – 76%
Oral Presentations	10%	A- 90 – 92%	C- 70 – 72%
Final Exam	20%	B+ 87 – 89%	D+ 67 – 69%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	B 83 – 86%	D 63 – 66%
		B- 80 – 82%	D- 60 – 62%

## Requirements

**Chapter Tests:** You will have five (5) announced chapter tests based on the textbook. There will also be some vocabulary quizzes. The chapter test and the vocabulary quiz with lowest grade will be dropped. **Missed chapter tests or vocabulary quizzes may not be made up, and will be recorded as zeros unless a valid excuse is presented to the instructor.**

**Homework:** Homework will include all assigned exercises in the workbook. Homework should always be prepared and handed in when it is due. Due dates are on the syllabus. Listening to the CD's that you purchased for this course is also a required part of your regular homework. Your conscientiousness in this area will be measured by short conversations with the instructor in German. **Please keep in mind that you are expected to practice German eight hours per week outside of class.**

**Language Lab Recordings:** You will record yourself six times in the semester using Audacity in the foreign language laboratory. Speak loudly and clearly into the microphone. Export your recordings as MP3 files and save them onto the Foreign Language Server. Your scores for these assignments will be recorded under the category of homework.

**Recording 1:** Introduce yourself saying as much as you can in German. Where are you from, how old are you, what you study, where you live, with whom, how many brothers and sisters you have, etc. Use what we have learned so far. Try to speak freely without reading anything from the book. However, you may write down a few talking points in German. Make sure that you use the vocabulary that you have studied in chapters 1 & 2. **Due on September 8.**

**Recording 2:** Talk about your hobbies, and what you like to do in your free time. Also talk about your favorite music band, what kind of music, names of musicians, songs, where they are from, etc. Make sure that you use the vocabulary that you have studied in chapter 3. **Due on September 22.**

**Recording 3:** Describe your daily schedule: When you get up; what you eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner; what classes you have; what you do in your free time; what is your favorite restaurant and why, etc. Make sure that you use the vocabulary that you have studied in chapters 4 & 5. **Due on October 6.**

**Recording 4:** This recording has two parts. In the first part, talk briefly about your learning habits. How many hours you spend studying for your classes, when you do your homework, how often you study vocabulary or grammar, how often you read texts, listen to German music or German TV. In the second part, describe in detail a trip you have taken in the summer or at the end of your high school years. Make sure that you use the vocabulary you have studied in chapters 6 & 7. **Due on October 27.**

**Recording 5:** Describe where you live on campus and at home. Make sure that you use the vocabulary you have studied in chapter 8. **Due on November 10.**

**Recording 6:** With a partner, play a scene in the doctor's office. One of you is sick and the other one is the doctor. Make sure that you use the vocabulary that you have studied in chapters 10. **Due on December 1.**

**Daily preparations & class participation:** Active participation in class and daily preparation are very crucial for improving your language skills. Please read all required pages for each class hour, study

the vocabulary, and prepare the exercises assigned. Be active in class. Speak up, speak out, throw your hat into the ring! **“USE IT OR LOSE IT!”**

It is very important that, in addition to your official assignments, **you find 20-30 minutes per day** in which you expose yourself to authentic German material such as films, news magazines and websites that inspire your personal curiosity. It is not important that you understand everything, but more than important that you get used to the sound and speaking/writing patterns which you will eventually recognize. Please also regularly practice speaking with fellow students and our friendly assistant from Germany. In the classroom, please take copious notes (do not passively wait for the occasional handout), ask many of questions (there are no stupid questions) and speak up as often as you can! **Whatever it is you have to study: try different learning techniques until you find the one that works for you.**

Regular attendance is an obvious requirement to get a good participation grade. Your participation-grade is based on the following evaluation:

- A shows total preparation; original comments and constant references to assigned materials;
- B noteworthy oral participation, with full understanding of the material/ participates voluntarily often;
- C participates once in a while/ participates by request only;
- D present, but no participation;
- F absent.

**Oral Presentations:** Each student will be expected to give and/or participate in one oral presentation during the semester. The content and organization of the presentations will be discussed in class.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will consist of two parts, an oral interview with the instructor and a written part, which will cover all materials studied in the Fall semester. **The oral part will take place during the last two weeks of classes. The written part will be administered in the week of December 11-15.**

**Extra Credit:** There are many ways to earn extra credit. You can attend cultural events recommended by instructor, write up summaries in German, and include these in your portfolio, clearly marked as extra credit with title of the event, place and date of event, and who sponsored it. You can help with German-American Day on October 17<sup>th</sup> and earn either some money or extra credit.

Viel Spaß und Erfolg!

(Wishing you lots of fun and success!)