

GER 1102: Elementary German II

@ McDaniel College

das Heidelberger Schloss
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Course website: <http://www2.mcdaniel.edu/german/1102>

Course Description: Elementary German II is the second course of the two-semester introductory sequence at McDaniel College. In this course, you will expand previously acquired reading, writing, speaking and listening skills and deepen your understanding of fundamental structures of German grammar. You will continue to familiarize yourself with some aspects of contemporary German culture and everyday life. In class, you will practice your skills through group activities (role playing, graffiti, jeopardy etc.), individual presentations, and discussions of short texts, video clips, and songs.

Course Objectives: After successful completion of this course you will be able to:

- competently communicate in various situations (introduce yourself, order meals, ask for and give information / directions etc.)
- have an improved sense of basic grammatical structures of German
- converse about yourself, your interests, feelings, dreams, express your opinion
- talk about your family, your city, school, work, traveling, past events
- write simple letters, notes and cards (incl. Invitation and congratulation) as well as dialogues and short essays about everyday topics
- read simple German texts about the world of work, urban life, education and traveling in Germany and Europe
- appreciate important aspects of culture in the German-speaking countries and demonstrate awareness of major cultural differences between North America and German-speaking countries (including approach to work/leisure, care for the environment, notion of *Heimat* [Homeland] and *Fremde* [foreign territory/country], approach to immigration)

Required books:

Langenscheidt: Optimal A2 (Textbook, Workbook, Glossary and CD-ROM)

Recommended books:

English Grammar for Students of German, 3rd ed. by C. Zorach and C. Melin.

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

Grading:		Grading Scale:	
Class Participation & Daily Preparations	20%	A+ 97 – 100%	C+ 77 – 79%
Homework Assignments	25%	A 93 – 96%	C 73 – 76%
Chapter Tests	25%	A- 90 – 92%	C- 70 – 72%
Group Project “Typisch Deutsch”	15%	B+ 87 – 89%	D+ 67 – 69%
Final Exam	20%	B 83 – 86%	D 63 – 66%
TOTAL	100%	B- 80 – 82%	D- 60 – 62%

The honor code will be strictly enforced. Students must sign the honor pledge on all assignments and tests and write it on all essays. The honor pledge is posted in every classroom.

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

Requirements

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

Classroom etiquette: in order to keep your learning environment a pleasant and productive one, please always be on time! Treat everyone with the respect you would like to be treated with. That also includes that you pay full attention to the classroom discussion and do not interrupt your interlocutor. Please always turn cell phones, beepers and other electronic devices off.

Daily Preparation and Participation: Active participation in class and consistent preparation are very crucial for maintaining and improving your language skills. Language skills are like a muscle: "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 lots 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.**

Homework: Homework will include exercises in the workbook and texLBook, online exercises, listening comprehension exercises from the CD-ROM, free web research, free writing, as well as additional video assignments and the recording of voice samples. Homework needs to be done consistently, completely and on time. Work handed in late will not be accepted and will lower your allover homework grade. It will be collected every week. Due dates are on the syllabus.

Videos: You will view a series of video clips in the language laboratory in Baker Memorial Chapel 118 and answer a set of related questions. These videos will not only give you a better understanding of daily life and culture in the German speaking countries, but also improve your listening comprehension. As a back-up alternative, DVDs are on reserve at Hoover Library for your use.

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

Individual Presentation: In the second half of the semester, each student will be asked to adopt an interesting German website and give a short in-class presentation. List with dates will circulate in the week before Fall Break.

Group Project "Typisch Deutsch:" groups of at least 3 (three) students are going to produce a web publishable piece of work presenting their perceptions of what is "typically German." You will take and/or collect pictures, import and/or produce sound files as well as mini video clips and write short descriptive remarks in German. A handout with ideas, tips and instructions, including copyright rules, will be provided. A brief **project outline is due on September 11**, collected material and a **first "draft" is due on October 13**,

Chapter Tests: You will have five (5) announced chapter tests based on the texLBook. There will also be some shorter, written or oral, unannounced quizzes. Your lowest test score will be dropped from your average at the end of the semester. **Missed chapter tests and short quizzes may not be made up** and will be recorded as zeros unless a valid excuse is presented to the instructor.

Final Exam: There will be a comprehensive final exam. **The final exam will cover all materials studied in the Fall semester. It will be administered in the week of December 11-15**