

# German Beginner A1

Instructor: Silke Hilgers

Times: Monday, 13:30 – 15:00

Tuesday, 17:00 – 18:30

Wednesday, 17:00 – 18:30

Location: Platanenstr. 98 Seminar Room 1

Email: [s.hilgers@berlin.bard.edu](mailto:s.hilgers@berlin.bard.edu)

Office hours by appointment

## Course Description

This course is designed to start you on the road to communicative competence in German. By “communicative,” we mean that you will learn to express your own ideas orally and in writing, and to develop strategies for understanding spoken and written discourse—as opposed to merely memorizing vocabulary lists and grammar rules. By “competence,” we mean that your acquisition of the language must show a high level of grammatical, lexical, and cultural *accuracy*. Our goal is not simply a list of rules and words, but real communication between speakers.

To achieve these goals, you have to engage in as many communicative exchanges as possible.

The course will give you ample opportunity to do so: in small groups or with a partner, in direct interaction with me, in listening to dialogue between other native speakers on audiovisual media, in expressing your ideas in writing, and in understanding and discussing short texts.

- **Most classroom interaction will be in German**, because input and use are the chief engines of foreign language acquisition.
- **Active and consistent classroom participation** is crucial to your success at acquiring the language. A language cannot be “crammed” in. So as to get the most out of this class, you need to constantly use and practice the language.
- **Outside the classroom**, you are expected—and will need to—spend **at least 12 hours** per week, which corresponds to two hours each day, doing your homework, and learning and practicing your grammar and vocabulary.
- Make sure to always bring a **hardcopy** of your written **homework** to class. Assignments need to be **double-spaced** and have **margins of about 3 cm** on each side for comments and corrections.

## Course Materials

Hartmut Aufderstraße, Jutta Müller. Delfin **Arbeitsbuch**. Lehrwerk für Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Max Hueber Verlag; Auflage: 1 (1. August 1998)

- Delfin **Lehrbuch**
- Delfin **Arbeitsbuch-Lösungen**
- Delfin **Glossar Deutsch-Englisch**

**Note:** You only own the Delfin **Arbeitsbuch**. The other three books (Lehrbuch, Arbeitsbuch-Lösungen, and the Glossar Deutsch-Englisch) belong to the Bard College Berlin library and need to be returned at the end of the semester. Try to avoid writing in these loaned books. If you have to, however, make sure to use a pencil and erase your notes prior to returning the books).

### Recommended:

I strongly encourage you to make use of the language learning materials on the **Bard Center for Foreign Languages and Culture** website at [cflc.bard.edu/germanlanguage](http://cflc.bard.edu/germanlanguage)

If you are in for a challenge, you can tune in on **Deutsche Welle** radio or TV at <http://www.dw-world.de/> and **Info Radio** at [http://www.inforadio.de/livestream/inforadio\\_hoeren.html](http://www.inforadio.de/livestream/inforadio_hoeren.html)

## Attendance

Since interaction is critical for language learning, **we take class attendance very seriously**. You will be allowed no more than three *unexcused* absences during the semester. (An absence counts as excused only if you can provide a doctor's note or a note from the Dean of Bard College Berlin, Prof. Catherine Toal.)

**\*\*\*Any additional unexcused absence will result in automatic failure of the course.\*\*\***

## Language and Testing

About every two weeks, you will take **a test of the "Lektion" you have studied** (the exact test date will be announced by me at least two classes in advance).

The tests must be taken on the announced test days. The only acceptable means of rescheduling a test are: (a) prior arrangements with me in the case of religious holidays, pressing personal or family matters, or (b) written notification from a doctor or from the Dean of Bard College Berlin following the absence. (Tests that are missed and not excused under these terms will not be rescheduled, and will receive a score of "0%".)

In preparation for all tests and quizzes, you are expected to

- make frequent use of the CD's in the back of your Delfin Lehrbuch

- study the “Wortschatz” for each “Lektion” that you find in your “Glossar” and the Delfin Arbeitsbuch
- go to the Delfine textbook homepage at [www.hueber.de/shared/uebungen/delfin/lerner/uebungen/index.php](http://www.hueber.de/shared/uebungen/delfin/lerner/uebungen/index.php) and do the exercises that accompany each “Lektion.”

## Grading

Your Grade will be based on class attendance, quality of participation, written homework assignments, and tests:

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|--|-----|
| • Class Participation                          | 25% |
| • Homework, Quizzes (announced or unannounced) | 25% |
| • Chapter Tests                                | 25% |
| • Final Exam                                   | 25% |

*Please be punctual and considerate. Switch off your cell phones before each class (including the vibration setting). If you are texting, emailing, surfing the web – you are considered absent! Also please keep bathroom breaks to a minimum. Interruptions are bad for everybody’s concentration and impolite.*

### Please note:

The learning goals of this beginner’s class A1 are in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (abbreviated as CEFR). CEFR is a guideline used to describe achievements of learners of foreign languages across Europe. It describes what a learner is supposed to be able to do in reading, listening, speaking and writing at each level. Our class fulfills the requirements of the “A1 Breakthrough or beginner” level. What this means is that once you have completed the class successfully you are able to

- understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type
- introduce yourself and others and ask and answer questions about personal details such as where you live, people you know and things you have
- interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.

## Syllabus

*This syllabus is subject to change. You are responsible throughout the semester for knowing what you have to do for each class.*

Week 1 (Sept 2 - 8)	Delfin Lektion 1 (each “Lektion” will always be accompanied by additional exercises. “Lektionen” tests will take place about every two weeks)
Week 2 (Sept 9 – 15)	Delfin Lektion 1
Week 3 (Sept 16 - 22)	Delfin Lektion 2
Week 4 (Sept 23 - 29)	Delfin Lektion 2
Week 5 (Sept 30 - Oct 6)	Delfin Lektion 3
Week 6 (Oct 14 - 20)	Delfin Lektion 3
Week 7 (Oct 21 - 27)	Delfin Lektion 4
Week 8 (Oct 28 - Nov 3)	Delfin Lektion 4
Week 9 (Nov 4 - 10)	Delfin Lektion 5
Week 10 (Nov 11 - 17)	Delfin Lektion 5
Week 11 (Nov 18 - 24)	Delfin Lektion 6
Week 12 (Nov 25 - Dec 1)	Delfin Lektion 6
Week 13 (Dec 2 - 8)	Delfin Lektion 7
Week 14 (Dec 09 - 15)	Delfin Lektion 7
Week 15 (Dec 16 - 20)	Review
<i>December 17</i>	<i>Final Exam (all groups)</i>