

Syllabus GER 110Y Elementary German, Spring 2025

GER 110Y-01 M W F 9:25 – 10:40 GER 110Y-02 M W F 10:50 – 12:05 Class location: Hatfield 204	Professor: Sandra Digruber, Ph.D. E-Mail: sdigruber@smith.edu Office hours: Mon 1:00–2:30 PM EST/EDT or by appointment Location: Tyler Annex 105 <i>Please sign up via Calendly!</i>
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Willkommen zu Ihrem zweiten Semester von GERMAN 110!

Course Description

Enjoy the adventure of expanding on your German language skills.

In the second semester of **German 110**, you will build on your skills for communicating (speaking, reading, writing, and listening) in German. You will learn how to complete a number of tasks in German (including expressing opinions, drawing comparisons, conducting interviews, reporting on past events, making a formal complaint). Furthermore, you will get to know cultural aspects of German-speaking countries and be introduced to additional grammatical structures.

Required Texts

Netzwerk NEU A2:

1. **Textbook** (*Kursbuch*) – **physical copy**
2. **Workbook** (*Übungsbuch*) – **interactive online workbook**

Go to [the landing page the publisher has created for us](#) to buy a discounted bundle.

Just like in the previous semester, the 12 chapters are organized around cultural themes that beginning speakers of German will encounter when they travel to German-speaking countries or interact with native speakers. All along the way, we will reflect on grammar points that are necessary for speaking German idiomatically in context.

In addition to your homework (**estimate around 6-8 hours per week**), you are required to meet with our TAs for oral exercises and conversation once a week.

Attendance and Participation




Your **regular attendance (and punctuality)** is very important to the class as well as to your own progress. **Note that attendance and participation also are a hefty portion of your overall final grade.** You are expected to come to class prepared and having completed all homework assignments beforehand to be able to actively participate. This is important because active participation will help you to succeed in the course and because this course requires group effort.

If you must miss class for any reason, please inform me via email. Absences are excused when due to illness, quarantine, personal or family emergency, or religious activities or holidays recognized by Smith College.

Students are responsible for making up for missed classes, including assignments and vocabulary for the next class session. Please ask your classmates for that information before you write to me.

Online Tools

Here is a general overview of the tools that we will be using in this class. Depending on changing needs, this list might be adjusted throughout the semester.

	<p>Moodle will be your “home base” for this course. You should check our Moodle page every day for the most recent versions of the syllabus, class schedule, upcoming tests, homework, worksheets, answer keys, and much more.</p>
	<p>Calendly will be used to schedule office hours. You can schedule as many 15-minute appointment slots as you wish. The link is on Moodle. If you would like to meet outside of regular office hours, just send me an email.</p>
	<p>The use of Quizlet for <u>studying</u> vocabulary is optional, because not all features are free. We will, however, use Quizlet as our <u>classroom dictionary</u> and collectively create online flash cards to collect all terms you are supposed to memorize as part of your homework.</p>

Homework

Keep in mind that foreign language courses are unlike lectures. Regular attendance and class participation are essential for successfully learning a language. It is equally important to pace your language study throughout the week rather than leaving it for the night before an exam. A good rule of thumb is to reserve one hour every day for studying German.

To guarantee maximum use of in-class time, grammar, reading, and written assignments are to be prepared and completed – as assigned – before the respective class session. Our main purpose in class is to use German communicatively and creatively, and the homework is an essential means to this end. We will not always go over homework in class (since there are answer keys available), but you are encouraged to ask questions about the homework. Please keep in mind that homework includes reviewing information, vocabulary, listening activities, and grammar points from previous lessons.

All written assignments (exercises, essays etc.) are to be turned in by the specified due date through *Moodle* or through the workbook's online platform *BlinkLearning*.

Tests, Exams, Quizzes

There will be unit and vocabulary tests and/or writing tasks for each chapter. In addition to these written exams, there will be oral proficiency examinations throughout the semester. The final exam will be in the form of a portfolio for which you will write multiple reflective essays in English to demonstrate your progress and/or struggles.

Grading

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Participation and attendance (incl. at least 5 German events)	30%
Homework (incl. writing tasks)	20%
Quizzes	20%
Oral grades	20%
Final portfolio	10%

Pronouns

In this class, we use the name and gender pronouns that individuals ask us to use as a sign of mutual respect. I will use the pronouns you have indicated on Workday or in person. That said, everyone makes mistakes—if this happens, I suggest quick corrections and mental notes to oneself. For information on pronouns and their usage, please see the Office of Equity and Inclusion’s website: [Pronouns](#).

Gender-Neutral Language

Gender-neutral language and especially pronouns are challenging in German, and their use is not as prevalent as it is among certain demographics in the US. In our course, I will mostly use the “Genderstern” to refer to female, male, and non-binary identities at once (e.g., ein*e Schauspieler*in, Schauspieler*innen). Note that there are other spelling tools achieving a similar effect (e.g., “Binnen-I”: SchauspielerIn, “Gender-Gap”: Schauspieler_in, “Doppelpunkt”: Schauspieler:In).

There are a few options for gender-neutral pronouns (e.g., they, dey, hen, xier/sier). They are used rarely, however, and most German speakers will not be familiar with them. This means that in most public discourse, you will read/hear binary forms. In our course, we will avoid third-person pronouns as much as possible to refer to others in our course and use given/chosen names instead. We will also aim to use the term “die Person” when speaking about people whose preferred gender pronouns are unknown. You may also check out the following resources:

- [Wiki](#) – gender-neutral pronouns in different languages
- [Geschickt gendersn](#) – German dictionary for gender-neutral language use
- [Trans in Deutschland](#) – blog with pronouns

Academic Integrity and Generative AI

Generative AI can be a useful tool, when used appropriately. Under certain circumstances, the use of generative AI is acceptable in this course. If not explicitly told to use AI for a specific assignment, you are expected to ask permission to use it. In any case, you are required to uphold [Smith College’s Academic Honor Code](#), which states that “all students [need] to be honest and committed to the principles of academic and intellectual integrity in their preparation and submission of course work and examinations. All submitted work of any kind must be the original work of the student who must cite all the sources used in its preparation.” With regards to generative AI, that means that you are required to disclose any AI-generated content in your work.

For example, acceptable uses of generative AI include:

- Reviewing publicly accessible content to collect ideas about a topic
- Using an AI tool to generate images for the purpose of illustrating an oral presentation

Unacceptable uses of generative AI include:

- Prompting an AI tool to generate a text and submitting it for a grade
- Using an AI tool to generate an essay draft without disclosing its exact use

Furthermore, it is unacceptable to submit institutional data, which includes:

- Sharing names and information about real students or instructors

Any data that may be considered intellectual property of another student or a faculty member

Accessibility

I will honor any special accommodations related to disabilities and other matters for which the College has established rules for such accommodations. Please submit requests for accommodations in writing with proof of College support from the [Accessibility Resource Center](#) (previously Office of Disability Services) within the first two weeks of class. Let me know if you need any assistance with this process.

Withdrawal Policy

Please make sure to familiarize yourself with the withdrawal policy and with the drop/add dates on [the academic calendar](#).

Course Evaluation(s)

You will have the option to submit an anonymous mid-semester evaluation to let me know what works and does not work well for you. I will do my best to address your comments in the second half of the semester to make sure that this course best addresses your learning needs.

In the last week of classes, you will be asked to bring a laptop or tablet to class, and approximately 15 minutes of class time will be set aside for you to complete the official course feedback questionnaire. Your responsible engagement in the feedback process is very important for your instructor and the college.

Preliminary Lesson Plan, Spring 2025

Woche	Kapitel	Grammatik	Test
1	Jan 27–31	A1 9: <i>Meine Wohnung</i>	Q
2	Feb 3–7	A1 10: <i>Studium und Beruf</i>	WT
		11: <i>Die Jacke gefällt mir!</i>	ST
3	Feb 10–14	12: <i>Ab in den Urlaub!</i>	Q
4	Feb 17–21	A2 1: <i>Und was machst du?</i>	Q
5	Feb 24–28	2: <i>Nach der Schulzeit</i>	WT, ST
6	Mar 3–7	3: <i>Immer online</i>	Q
7	Mar 10–14	4: <i>Große und kl. Gefühle</i>	WT
8	Mar 17–21	SPRING RECESS	
9	Mar 24–28	5: <i>Leben in der Stadt</i>	Q
10	Mar 31–Apr 4	6: <i>Arbeitswelten</i>	ST
11	Apr 7–11	7: <i>Ganz schön mobil</i>	WT
12	Apr 14–18	8: <i>Gelernt ist gelernt!</i>	Q
13	Apr 21–25	9: <i>Sportlich, sportlich</i>	WT
14	Apr 28–May 2	10: <i>Zusammen leben</i>	ST
		<i>Review</i>	

Q: Grammar/vocabulary quiz

ST: Speaking task

WT: Writing task