

## **GER 1000: Basic German I**

**Semester:** Fall 2015

**Meetings:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm-5:40pm in Brown 2045

**Instructor:** Jacob van der Kolk ([goo.gl/DexB66](http://goo.gl/DexB66))

**Office:** 814 Sprau

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:00 am, or by appointment

**E-mail:** [jacob.vanderkolk@wmich.edu](mailto:jacob.vanderkolk@wmich.edu)

**Course Objectives and Outcomes.** This course will teach you to communicate in German, to express your thoughts in German, to use German in context, and to expand your knowledge of the German culture. You will gain knowledge in listening, speaking, reading, and writing and will deepen your understanding of German-speaking cultures. By the end of the course you will:

- be able to handle a variety of day-to-day needs in a German-speaking setting and engage in simple conversations about topics pertinent to you.
- become familiar with the German university system, the arts, media, and current social topics.
- begin to be able to talk about the past and the future, make comparisons, and describe people and things in increasing detail.
- be able to talk about your studies and about your dreams and aspirations.
- feel more able to understand information when you hear German speakers talking about topics familiar to you.

### **Required Texts.**

**ePack: Lovik, et. al., *Vorsprung*, 3rd Edition + iLrn™ Heinle Learning Center 3-Semester Instant Access Code, Enhanced Ed. ISBN: 9781285481319**

This package includes the textbook and an access code that gives you access to the online workbook and an electronic version of the textbook as well as various other resources. The cheapest (and only) way to purchase this package is directly from the publisher at [goo.gl/sw2CGb](http://goo.gl/sw2CGb) using the above ISBN. **Please be sure to use the specific ISBN listed above. There are many other packages available that do NOT give you the right kind of electronic access.** If in doubt, ask your instructor before making a purchase!

Prices directly from the publisher:

- Buy Bundle: \$329.95 (free eBook while the book ships)
- Rent Bundle: \$109.99

**If you buy the book separately (e.g. if you find a used copy), you will still need to purchase the iLrn access code.** You can buy this access code by itself at the above CengageBrain this website: [goo.gl/jTstcm](http://goo.gl/jTstcm)

You could get by with just the iLrn access code (i.e. without a physical copy of the book). While this seems to save you money, you will likely spend most of those savings on printing out the chapters so that you have them in class when you need them.

**Course Requirements and Grading Scheme.** All graded assignments must be turned in on their noted due dates, even if you have an excused absence. *No late assignments accepted.*

1. **Chapter Tests** (*Kapitelprüfungen*). 4 tests will be given in class in the course of the semester. *(20% of overall grade)*
2. **Quizzes** (*Lernkontrollen*). You will have a quiz at least once a week, maybe more. There will be one vocabulary quiz each chapter in addition to grammar quizzes. Vocabulary, including gender, is extremely important for effective communication. *(15% of overall grade)*
3. **Oral Exam** (*Mündliche Prüfung*). A final oral exam will cover topics we will have discussed in class. You will have the questions before the exam, which will last 5-10 minutes. *(5% of overall grade)*
4. **Essays** (*Aufsätze*). Three essays will due during the semester. Topics will be given as they are assigned. They should be typed, and double spaced. *(15% of overall grade)*
5. **Attendance and Participation** (*Anwesenheit und Teilnahme*). *Come to class, speak a lot, make friends, and don't worry about your mistakes. (25% of overall grade).* This grade includes the following:
  - **Attendance.** Five unexcused absences will automatically cut your "Attendance & Participation" grade by 25%. Being more than 10 minutes late twice counts as an unexcused absence. *You must notify me of any excused absences at least one week in advance, if possible.* However, showing up every day is not enough to guarantee a high grade:
  1. **Daily Homework** (*Hausaufgaben*). I will assign homework from iLrn or the textbook every day. Since we will be using what you learned from it in the following class, you *must* complete homework every day. However, you will only be graded on good faith completion, not correctness. Go to iLrn ([hlc.quia.com/books/](http://hlc.quia.com/books/)) to see what is due when.
  2. **Participation & Cooperation.** You should actively involve yourself in all class meetings, make a good-faith effort to express yourself accurately and fluently in German, show improvement, and support and encourage your fellow students to do the same. *You will not be graded on correctness!*
    - **Electronics.** Smart phones and laptops should put away out of reach unless requested by your instructor.

6. **Final Exam** (*Endexamen*). On *Monday, December 14*, 5-7 pm you will have a final exam covering all topics from the course. (*20% of overall grade*)

### **How to Succeed**

**Do the work on time.** What we learn in this course builds on what we have learned and done earlier. Missing an assignment won't just cost you points, but will leave you unprepared for what comes next.

**Put in the time.** Language learning is not particularly difficult, but it does take a lot of time. With all of the repetitive practice and memorization you have to do, we expect you to spend at least 1 hour/day on this course *outside of class* (up to 8 hours/week). However:

**Learn smarter, not longer.** People retain languages better when they learn teaspoons of it at a time, and revisit those tidbits repeatedly. If you do all of your coursework in one big sitting, you may not be giving yourself time to let things "sink in". Instead, do a little bit every day and give yourself time to review your work.

- **If you need more than the 8 hours/week to keep up, or just feel overwhelmed, get help!** Come and see me in my office hours, so that we can hash out methods that will hopefully make the coursework easier.
- **If you get stuck, skip it for now.** If a lesson or exercise frustrates you, put it aside, move on to the next item, and let your brain reset. It may make sense later.

**Get your money's worth!** We have limited time to practice face-to-face, so let's make the most of it and have some fun along the way. Foreign language classes can be a lot of fun: Make up interesting sentences. Be an asset to your own and everyone else's learning!

**Find learning partner(s).** Get to know people in your class. See if there are others with whom you can collaborate (not copy off of) on day-to-day assignments like the grammar exercises or readings. Students who work in study groups are more successful than students who fly solo. *However, make sure you still do your own work!*

**Get help when you need it.** If you don't understand something, get help NOW. Working out what you don't understand *immediately* will save you aggravation and extra work further down the line. We have a lot of resources that you can consult if the first explanation doesn't make things clear to you:

- **Ask questions in class.** If you have a question, ask it! Don't be scared of looking dumb. The highest achieving students often ask the most questions.
- **Use our extra materials.** I will provide extra videos and websites to supplement our book and lectures, and iLrn has several other exercises which you can use to practice those items you might need help on.
- **Visit me in my office.** I hold office hours regularly, and can often meet at other times by appointment (typically on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 11am and 2pm).

- **Tutoring.** Go to the German Club's *free* tutoring sessions (hours to be announced). Ask me if you think you might need professional tutoring.

**Master the basics.** Understanding more fundamental things is necessary for understanding more complex things. You can't learn nuclear physics without understanding what an atom is. Likewise, it gets harder to get dative case right if you don't know your genders.

- **Keep it simple.** You are intelligent people who can fluently communicate very complex ideas in at least one other language already. However, remember that it took *years* for you to learn your first language(s), and you are *just starting* this language. Instead of trying to replicate the richness of your knowledge of English in German, focus on learning the (seemingly boring) fundamentals of German.
- **Learn vocabulary at the beginning of each chapter.** You have to learn it anyway, and this way you will understand what you are reading and doing better in less time. *Remember to memorize your genders!*

**Experiment.** Look at assignments (like essays) not as drudgery, but as a way to try out what you have learned and a chance to try out new ideas. If the topics bore you, make up a better one and discuss it with me.

**Learn to your strengths.** If you work more analytically, feel free to supplement with extra grammar material and vocabulary drills before taking on the homework. If you learn better by using the language, experiment with a more trial-and-error approach to the homework.

### **Academic Honesty and Student Conduct**

**University-wide.** You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. The academic policies addressing Student Rights and Responsibilities can be found in the Undergraduate Catalog at [goo.gl/NsrFzM](http://goo.gl/NsrFzM) and the Graduate Catalog at [goo.gl/F7IzfU](http://goo.gl/F7IzfU). If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s) and if you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test. In addition, students are encouraged to access the Code of Honor, as well as resources and general academic policies on such issues as diversity, religious observance, and student disabilities:

- Office of Student Conduct [goo.gl/b1k7Eq](http://goo.gl/b1k7Eq)
- Division of Student Affairs [goo.gl/5ddaPo](http://goo.gl/5ddaPo)
- Registrar's Office [goo.gl/uFJ3pG](http://goo.gl/uFJ3pG)
- Disability Services for Students [goo.gl/cLvHf5](http://goo.gl/cLvHf5)

**In Foreign Language Courses.** Academic honesty means giving evidence of what you can produce on your own. In the foreign language learning context, that also means:

- Do not ask someone else to correct your graded work. Developing your own correcting skills is a vital part of this course. Instead, have your proofreader note what is wrong using a proofreading key. It is up to you to figure out *how* to fix it.
- Do not use translation services (online or otherwise). Use of online translators is painfully obvious:

A student who had missed class once wrote a colleague of mine named Rob:  
*"Lieber Fruchtsirup: Ich verpasse heute die Kategorie."* :: *"Dear Fruit Syrup (Rob)\*: I'm passing by the category today."*

\*'Rob' is a type of spiced fruit syrup.

Instead, use what you have learned, including the vocabulary you have already learned. Occasional use of online dictionaries like [dict.leo.org](http://dict.leo.org) or [linguee.de](http://linguee.de) is helpful, too.

- Do your own work. Unless you are participating in a sanctioned group project, you and you alone should do the assignments *graded for content or correctness*. Collaboration does not mean dividing up questions or tasks, but rather helping each other figure things out so that you can do them on your own. What you turn in should be an accurate representation of what you can do alone.

**Accommodation for Disabilities.** Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, or hearing) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact Ms. Beth Denhartigh at 387-2116 or at [beth.denhartigh@wmich.edu](mailto:beth.denhartigh@wmich.edu) at the beginning of the semester. A disability determination must be made by this office before any accommodations are provided by the instructor.

**Important Dates.** Items in **bold** signify graded assignments *due* on that date.

<b>1. Woche</b>	Dienstag 8.9	Kennenlernen; Einführung; Kapitel 1
	Donnerstag 10.9	<b>Syllabus Test &amp; Umfrage; Kapitel 1</b>
<b>2. Woche</b>	Montag 14.9	<b>Last day to drop/add classes</b>
	Dienstag 15.9	Kapitel 1
	Mittwoch 16.9	<b>\$100 Late Add fee begins Begin recording withdraws as "W" on transcript</b>
	Donnerstag 17.9	Kapitel 1
<b>3. Woche</b>	Di 22.9	Kapitel 2
	Do 24.9	Kapitel 2
<b>4. Woche</b>	Di 29.9	Kapitel 2
	Do 1.10	Kapitel 2

<b>5. Woche</b>	Di 6.10	<b>Prüfung Kapitel 1-2; Kapitel 3</b>
	Do 8.10	Kapitel 3
<b>6. Woche</b>	Di 13.10	Kapitel 3
	Do 15.10	Kapitel 3
<b>7. Woche</b>	Di 20.10	<b>Prüfung Kapitel 3; Aufsatz 1; Kapitel 4</b>
	Do 22.10	Kapitel 4
<b>8. Woche</b>	Di 27.10	Kapitel 4
	Do 29.10	Kapitel 4
<b>9. Woche</b>	Di 3.11	<b>Prüfung 4; Kapitel 5</b>
	Do 5.11	Kapitel 5
<b>10. Woche</b>	Mo 9.11	<b>Last day to withdraw from classes</b>
	Di 10.11	Kapitel 5
	Do 12.11	Kapitel 5
<b>11. Woche</b>	Di 17.11	<b>Aufsatz 2; Kapitel 5; Prüfung Kapitel 5</b>
	Do 19.11	Kapitel 6
<b>12. Woche</b>	Di 24.11	Kapitel 6
	Do 26.11	<b>Thanksgiving-Ferien, keinen Unterricht</b>
<b>13. Woche</b>	Di 1.12	Kapitel 6
	Do 3.12	Kapitel 6; <b>Prüfung Kapitel 6</b>
<b>14. Woche</b>	Di 8.12	<b>Aufsatz 3; Wiederholung</b>
	Do 10.12	<b>Mündliche Prüfung</b>
<b>Examen-woche</b>	Di 15.12	<b>Endexamen, 17:00-19:00 (5-7pm)</b>

**Syllabus Test.** Answer the following prompts based on information from the syllabus. You may read directly from the syllabus.

1. True or False: You must have the *Third Edition* of the textbook *Vorsprung*.
2. True or False: You must get the iLrn online access key for *Vorsprung*.
3. What is the late assignment policy for this course?
  - a. \_\_\_\_ 25% off assignment's maximum possible grade after 3 days late.
  - b. \_\_\_\_ 10% off assignment's maximum possible grade for each day late.
  - c. \_\_\_\_ Late assignments are not accepted.
4. What are the absence policies for this course? (check all that apply)
  - a. \_\_\_\_ 25% off Attendance & Participation grade after 3 unexcused absences.
  - b. \_\_\_\_ 25% off Attendance & Participation grade after 3 absences of any sort.
  - c. \_\_\_\_ Inform me of an excused absence one week ahead of time.
  - d. \_\_\_\_ Being more than 30 minutes late twice counts as an absence.
  - e. \_\_\_\_ Being more than 10 minutes late twice counts as an absence.
5. Which will get you the highest Attendance & Participation grade?
  - a. \_\_\_\_ Speaking in German only when I am called on.
  - b. \_\_\_\_ Speaking German as often as I can, even if I make mistakes.
  - c. \_\_\_\_ Speaking German only when I can be perfect, otherwise using English.
  - d. \_\_\_\_ Speaking German only when I am perfect, otherwise staying silent.
6. When and how should you complete your daily homework?
  - a. \_\_\_\_ A little bit each day so it's done by the day of class *before* class.
  - b. \_\_\_\_ All at once in the hour before it is due.
  - c. \_\_\_\_ A little bit each day so that it is all done by Friday after class.
  - d. \_\_\_\_ Completing the ungraded homework is completely optional.
7. Which are *acceptable* academic practices? (select all that apply)
  - a. \_\_\_\_ Using an online translator to convert a text in English to German.
  - b. \_\_\_\_ Using an online dictionary here and there to help you find *a* word.
  - c. \_\_\_\_ Having a tutor mark point out mistakes in your paper.
  - d. \_\_\_\_ Having a tutor correct all the mistakes in your paper.
  - e. \_\_\_\_ Working with a partner on an ungraded homework assignment.
  - f. \_\_\_\_ Writing in a group a graded essay that you turn in individually.

**Umfrage/Survey.** Tell me a little bit about yourself!

1. What is your major and/or minor and in which year are you at WMU (1<sup>st</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, etc.)
2. Have you ever learned German (formally or informally) before? If so, where, when, and for how long?
3. If you have taken German before, have you taken the WMU placement test?
4. Why did you choose to take German instead of another foreign language?
5. What would you like to do with German? (e.g. just complete my language requirement, marry a German speaker, study in Germany/Austria/Switzerland, become the next great German writer, talk to Grandma)
6. For organizing study groups: Do you live on campus or off campus? If on campus, in which complex do you live? If off campus, in which city and/or neighborhood do you live and/or work?
7. Where do you want to be with German by the end of this semester? By the end of your second semester? (e.g. able to survive if kidnapped and dropped off in Germany, able to carry on a short conversation about myself and my interests, capable of composing world-class poetry, etc.)