

Wer ich bin: Das Selbstkonzept
Elementary German I: Exploring Self-Identity in the German-speaking World

Welcome to GERMAN 101!

We in the Department of German Studies are glad you decided to learn German. German 101 is the first half of the elementary German sequence entitled “*Wer ich bin: Das Selbstkonzept*” and the first semester of the Department of German Studies’ integrated four-year, content-oriented undergraduate curriculum. We hope that you will come to see why Emory’s German Studies Department has been nationally recognized as a **Center of Excellence** by the American Association of Teachers in German (AATG).

Course Description and Approach:

The title of the two-course sequence (101 & 102) in first-year German “*Wer ich bin: Das Selbstkonzept*” indicates the thematic focus as students explore the roles and group affiliations that contribute to the identity formation of young adults in the United States and the German-speaking world. This academic year you will examine six different roles in units of 4-5 weeks each:

German 101: (1) Student; (2) Hobbyist; (3) Family member

German 102: (4) Consumer; (5) Tourist; (6) Citizen

This overarching topic for German 101-102 reflects the teaching philosophy of the Department of German Studies that language is best acquired when learners have to explore content and communicate meaningfully about it. This course differs from traditional first-year language courses because of its explicit thematic emphasis that informs how the language is approached. For each unit we will focus on those aspects of the German language that are needed to communicate effectively about that theme. In an ideal world, there would be a textbook that would adhere to this approach, but that is unfortunately not the case. As a result, we will supplement the textbook with additional texts that deliver the content that we feel is important for the topic. **We will not progress through the textbook in a chronological order.** If a certain language feature needed to communicate effectively about a theme does not appear until later in the textbook, we will jump ahead and study it for its relevance to the unit. This flexibility with the textbook will take some adjustment. Otherwise, much will resemble a typical first-year language course: you will read texts, learn relevant vocabulary, study grammatical structures, complete exercises for homework on the grammar and vocabulary, interact with classmates and the instructor on specific topics, and complete writing assignments. All of these activities aim to introduce you to the language and the content that you will need to communicate meaningfully about the topic at hand.

The class will be conducted mainly in German, and you will be expected to make your best effort to respond in German. For 23 hours and 10 minutes of the day, you can speak English, but for 50 minutes four times a week, really push yourself to use the German language to communicate. Finally, we want to remind you that learning a language is a long-term, non-linear, and error-full process. In other words, you will make wonderful progress this year, but you should not get frustrated by the challenges that the language presents. Your errors indicate to us how your abilities are developing and where we need to focus more attention.

Course Objectives:

Through the exploration of the roles and group affiliations that contribute to the identity of young adults in the United States and the German-speaking world, you will be introduced to the principles of the German language and begin the long-term development of your ability to speak, understand, read and write German.

Required Course Materials:

1. Di Donato/Clyde/Vasant. *Deutsch: Na klar! An Introductory German Course*, 7th Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2016. This text will be used in both German 101 and 102. There are two versions of the text that you can purchase:
 - a. E-book version (includes the required online materials “Connect”). You can purchase online access directly from the McGraw-Hill website (<http://www.mheducation.com>) or via an “Access Code Card” from the Emory bookstore. ISBN: 1259290867 / 9781259290862 - Connect Access Card for Deutsch: Na klar!, 7th edition. Cost: \$140. You can also choose at any time, within Connect, to add a binder-ready, printed loose-leaf copy of the text for only \$40.00, and it will be delivered directly to your home address. Total cost to student for Connect direct online access and loose-leaf book purchase, ca. \$180. Once you purchase the book, the online materials “Connect” can be accessed at <http://www.mhmm.com/>
 - b. Hard copy version (either as loose-leaf or hardback). The loose-leaf version can be purchased at the Emory bookstore and includes an access code for the required online component “Connect.” ISBN: 1308520913 / 9781308520919 - Deutsch: Na Klar!, 7th edition. Cost: \$170. The hard copy version can be purchased online at the McGraw-Hill website or through other online vendors (e.g., Amazon). Cost: \$230.
2. A course reader with supplemental texts for each thematic unit will be handed out in hardcopy at no cost and an electronic version is also available on the course Canvas site: <https://canvas.emory.edu>

Course Grade:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Participation | 10% | 5. Writing Assignments | 15% |
| 2. Homework | 15% | 6. Speaking Events | 15% |
| 3. Online LearnSmart exercises (LS) | 10% | 7. Final Exam | 15% |
| 4. 2 Unit Tests | 20% | | |

The grade F for any assignment factors in as 50%, an assignment not done as a 0!

1. Participation (10%)

Coming prepared to class is essential for success in this class. Overall participation will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Grade	Criteria
A	always well-prepared always is attentive and eager to volunteer always tries to use German with classmates and instructor always makes the most of each exercise shows real resourcefulness and imagination when using the language always responds to and engages classmates in a respectful manner

	remains critical and open-minded toward target and native culture
B	usually well-prepared usually is attentive and volunteers occasionally usually tries to use German with classmates and instructor usually makes the most of each exercise completes exercises with some imagination and resourcefulness makes some effort to engage fellow students shows some development of cultural sensitivity
C	adequately prepared and attentive occasionally needs to be reminded to use German with instructor and classmates responds and completes exercises with minimal imagination does not engage classmates beyond the minimum requirements for an assignment
D	usually unprepared makes little effort to participate or complete exercises rarely tries to use German with instructor or classmates
F	makes no contribution to class whatsoever

Extra-curricular German Events

As part of your participation grade, you must attend three extra-curricular events (such as a film showing, a German House party, or departmental guest lecture). There is a great amount of flexibility as to what counts as an appropriate activity because we want you to seek out those aspects of the German-speaking culture that interest you. For each event, please enter the relevant information in your “Kulturpass” that you will receive from your instructor. To avoid waiting until the end of the semester to complete this course requirement, you are asked to attend one event during each instructional unit. **Not fulfilling this requirement results in a 3% deduction of your participation grade per event missed.** You can always find the latest information on events in the department at <http://german.emory.edu/home/events/index.html>.

Attendance

You are allowed a maximum of 4 absences during the semester without penalty for any reason (e.g., doctor, wedding). Beginning with the 5th absence, **a penalty of -1%** will be levied on the final semester grade for each class missed. Keep your instructor informed if you miss any classes or assignments. Extended illnesses and family emergencies will be treated as exceptions and handled on a case-by-case basis. **Making up for absences:** Note that you can make up for one absence by participating in a 4th departmental extra-curricular event and entering it in your “Kulturpass.”

2. Homework (15%)

Completing homework thoroughly, regularly, and on-time is extremely important. Your instructor will grade about one worksheet (= *Arbeitsblatt* = AB) per week. Other ABs can be handed in for correction. All homework needs to be done **on time** as preparation for class and brought to class. When you know you will be absent, send in your homework early in

class or by e-mail, or ask for an extension. **Late homework will not be accepted and will receive no credit.**

Homework will be graded according to the following criteria:

√+ (100%)	Homework turned in on time and indicating a very thorough effort, including a conscious attempt to use and experiment with language features emphasized in class. Random grammar mistakes, particularly as part of experimentation, will not adversely affect your grade.
√ (80%)	Homework handed in on time and indicating a satisfactory effort but consisting of no more than the minimum and/or displaying consistent mistakes on grammar already covered in class.
√- (65%)	Homework handed in on time but indicating an unsatisfactory effort.
<i>Note:</i>	Homework that receives a check or check minus can be corrected (with or without help of a tutor), turned back in by the end of the following week , and, assuming the issues have been addressed correctly, receive a mark of up to 90%.

Easily avoidable mistakes (gender and spelling) will lower your language evaluation grade. Both Microsoft Word and Google Docs have a built-in spellcheck to catch any spelling mistakes, and there are several online dictionaries for checking the gender (and spelling) of German nouns.

3. **Online LearnSmart quizzes (10%)**

One component of the Connect online activities provided by the e-textbook are **LearnSmart quizzes** that you will be assigned and expected to complete within a one week time frame. If the explanations do not make sense to you or you are still having difficulty with a topic and would like to discuss it in English, **come to office hours or tutoring**. The exercises can be found at <http://www.mhbm.com/>. Your instructor will provide you with the specific URL for logging in to her/his class section.

4. **Unit tests (20%)**

There will be a 50-minute written test after each of the first two units.

5. **Writing assignments (15%)**

At the end of each unit you will complete a writing assignment on a topic relevant to the unit. Submit your original writing in the format indicated by your instructor (e.g., hard copy and/or electronically). The first draft will be annotated and returned for revision and can be handed in revised for an improved grade.

6. **Speaking events (Midterm 5%; Final 10% = 15%)**

The midterm speaking task will be a 5-minute dialogue with a classmate outside of class. The final speaking task will be a 5-minute interview with your instructor during finals' week.

7. **Final written exam (15%)**

This exam resembles the unit tests but is more comprehensive. This semester the exam will take place on **Tuesday, Dec 17th, 6:30-9:00pm**. This time slot is determined by the registrar

as a block exam for all 101 students and is not negotiable. Keep this in mind when making any winter travel plans.

Tutoring

There are two options if you would like to seek free tutoring help on campus:

1. The German Studies Department provides free individual help sessions every day (Mon – Thurs). Our German Fulbright Teaching Assistant Marlene Danner and several advanced German students will serve as the peer tutors this year. Times and locations will be available online shortly at <http://german.emory.edu/home/academics/tutors.html>.
2. Emory College also offers free tutoring through the **EPASS** tutoring program. You are allowed to attend a total of 2 EPASS appointments per week during the semester. For information about EPASS policies and scheduling appointments, visit https://collegeconnect.emory.edu/portal/Language_tutoring.

Additional learning resources can be found on the German Studies Department’s website: http://german.emory.edu/home/academics/learning_resources.html

Inclusive Instruction

Emory University is committed under the Americans with Disabilities Act and its Amendments and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to providing appropriate accommodations to individuals with documented disabilities. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, provide the instructor(s) with an accommodation notification letter from Access, Disabilities Services and Resources office. Students are expected to give two weeks’ notice of the need for accommodations. If you need immediate accommodations or physical access, please arrange to meet with instructor(s) as soon as your accommodations have been finalized. <http://portals.emory.edu/instruction/instruction/disability-statement.html>

Honor Policy

The Honor Code of Emory College is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, you affirm that it is a violation of the code to cheat on quizzes and exams, to plagiarize, to deviate from the instructor’s instructions about collaboration on work that is submitted for grades, to give false information to a faculty member, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. You agree that the instructor is entitled to move you to another seat during examinations, without explanation. You also affirm that if you witness others violating the code you have a duty to report them to the honor council.

The central issue is that any work submitted to an instructor for evaluation should be one’s own. Within the German Studies Department, assistance is possible and even encouraged in two limited situations: online or in person. Online resources can be used for grammatical explanations (e.g., verb conjugations) or the translation of words, expressions, and phrases.

However, use of online resources to translate entire sentences or paragraphs is not permitted. Seeking assistance in person should be limited to receiving suggestions, reviewing certain topics, and addressing revisions, but the ultimate production of the work to be turned in will rest with you.

The Honor Code, a list of offenses and the Honor Council process may be found; http://college.emory.edu/home/academic/policy/honor_code.html

Final words of advice:

View this class as an exciting opportunity to learn how others live and communicate so that you better understand how you live and communicate. It is unlikely that once you graduate, you will have such an advantageous opportunity to learn another language, so look to make the most of it. Get off to a good start. Postponing your studies will only make learning the language that much harder. Come to class prepared, having read the assigned pages in the textbook and completed work online or on a worksheet. Ask questions in class. Make use of our free tutors to practice outside of class. Take advantage of German-related events on campus. Don't wait too long before seeking advice during office hours.