

**FALL 2006:
GERM 1331 A
ELEMENTARY GERMAN 1
HOEFEL**

Mon., Wed.
12:10- 1:25 PM
STR 204

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Office Hours: Mon. 11.30-12:00 PM
Wed. 11.30- 12.00 PM
And by appointment

Welcome to Elementary German 1 !

In Elementary German 1 we study the basic structures of the German language. By the time you leave this course, we will have worked through chapters 1-6 of Fokus Deutsch, and you will be able to carry on a German conversation covering essential topic areas: First, we learn the alphabet, numbers and colors, as well as telling time. You can also introduce yourself, and talk about your family and your hobbies. You can answer questions about your studies and the subjects you are taking. You can describe your home and your room, as well as the classroom. You can discuss the seasons and the weather. You have an understanding of the German holidays. Finally, you can name the parts of your body and carry on a dialog in a doctor's office. The materials and activities in Elementary German 1 are designed to develop your German language skills in four areas: speaking, writing, listening and reading.

Texts

Delia, et al, Focus Deutsch: Beginning German 1 :

1. - Textbook and 1 tape/CD
2. - Workbook/Laboratory Manual (optional: accompanying audio material)

Helpful Resources

www.mhhe.com/german:

<http://www.learner.org/catalog/worldlangs/fdseries/fdtranscripts/episode01.html>

- here you find the text for each video episode (e.g. chapter 1)

http://www.mhhe.com/socscience/german/fokus_bg1/im.htm

- here you find the audiotext for the textbook exercises labled "Hören Sie zu!"

ARS Edition, Das Bildwörterbuch

Langenscheidt's Pocket Dictionary

Zorach and Melin, English Grammar for Students of German, 3rd Ed. (an introduction and review of grammar basics)

Participation/Preparation

Participation and preparation count as 28% of your grade (you can receive up to 4 points every two weeks), and I assess points for participation/preparation on a daily basis in Elementary German 1. Research has shown that languages are learned most rapidly when students prepare and practice language on a day-to-day basis, rather than once a week before the exam. When you come to class, have your homework finished. Be ready to get to work! If your written and spoken work in class give evidence of solid preparation, you receive participation/preparation credit for that class session. I will frequently ask you to turn in your homework and/or work produced in class, and will give occasional "pop" quizzes as well. This helps me assess your participation-preparation grade and also gives me a chance to give you feedback on your work. Please note that simply attending class will not earn you Participation-Preparation credit. Participation means being actively involved in the classroom sessions.

Class activities related to your participation-preparation grade

The type of classroom environment fostered in our language program is student-centered rather than teacher-centered. This means that I do not typically stand in front of class giving you a prepared lecture. Instead, I come to class with a variety of prepared activities designed to give you the opportunity to practice and build skills that will enable you to learn German. You can expect, for example, to make your own vocabulary associations on chapter topics and share these lists with other students. You will answer questions about things we read and view in class. During listening activities you may be asked to fill in missing dialogues, listen for specific words or phrases or get the gist of a text. You will be asked to practice speaking with a partner and in small groups. I try to make the purpose of my activities explicit and we may spend some class time in the beginning of the quarter discussing strategies for the tasks required by the activities.

Attendance

Be present every single class meeting. Do not miss quizzes or other assignments. There are no make-ups for missing class. On rare occasions when absence is unavoidable due to serious illness or family emergency, I may require proof of your reason of absence before we discuss the possibility of make-up work. Do not expect to pass the class if you are repeatedly absent.

Homework

You will have a variety of tasks to complete in this course - each targets one or more of the four language skills areas (speaking, listening, writing, reading). Assignments listed on the syllabus are to be prepared for the day they are listed. When pages are assigned from Fokus Deutsch, you are to do all charts and answer all the questions within all those

pages. You must write out the answers to all questions. You should also do the corresponding exercises in the workbook as assigned. You should plan to spend an average of one hour outside of class for each class session.

Aufsätze/Essays

You will write 3 short essays in Elementary German 1. These must be typed, double-spaced, written in German. Grammatical accuracy and quality of content are both integral elements of the Aufsätze, and the grading reflects this. The topic of these essays will relate to one of the content themes in Fokus Deutsch you have covered up to that particular week. Each Aufsatz should be 75 words after my correction deductions (so write about 110 words). I will spend some time in class to explain the correction process. It is not permissible to use online dictionaries that translate complete periods or paragraphs.

Grading the Aufsätze

I will be looking for meaningful content and comprehensible German sentences. Your goal is to write an essay that can communicate at least 75 words of German to a fluent reader. As I read the essay, I will subtract all of the following from the word total:

1. Main clauses with misspelled verbs or incorrect subject-verb constructions.
2. Main clauses with incorrect word order in respect to placement of the verb.
3. Phrases, clauses or passages that are redundant or do not contribute meaningfully to the essay.
4. Phrases, clauses or passages that cannot be understood (i.e. where there is a real barrier to communication, not just grammatical problems.)

After deductions are made, three points will be awarded for having 75 or more words of comprehensible German, two points for 70-74, one point for 65-69, zero point for less than 65 words. In addition, one point is for content, organization and presentation. You are expected to make good use of the vocabulary covered in Fokus Deutsch and to write an essay that flows well and is clearly and logically organized. Finally, one point will be awarded for peer editing.

Plagiarism Policy

Be aware that your work for this course should conform to University policies concerning scholastic honesty. Scholastic dishonesty will result in an "F" for the assignment and/or an "F" for the course. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating on assignments or examinations, plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one's own anything done by another), submitting the same or substantially similar papers (or creative work) for more than one course without prior consent of all instructors concerned, sabotaging another's work, and unauthorized collaboration (such as substantial rewriting of an essay by another) on assignments or exams. It is not permissible to use online dictionaries that translate complete periods or paragraphs.

Referat

You will give several oral presentations (Referat) related to the chapters 1-6 of Fokus Deutsch. For the first few Referate you will not be graded, however you will receive a summary on your performance and suggestions on how to improve your presentation. The last **Referat** will be graded and is worth 5 points (= 5 course points). You will be graded on

- **Content** (1 point) – did you answer all the questions
- **Pronunciation** (1 point) clear pronunciation is important, don't mumble or speak too softly, be aware of Umlaute
- **Vocabulary** (1 point)- don't use English vocabulary (, however, you can ask for help before you start your presentation), use correct gender, use a variety of vocabulary
- **Grammar** (1 point) – word order, verb conjugation, articles, correct case
- **Presentation** (1 point)- don't memorize your presentation and don't read it off

Grading System

I am grading according to a system of accumulated course points. Each course point is the equivalent of one percentage point toward your final grade. Below is a summary of course components and course points.

	Total Course Points
Participation-preparation: 4 pts. every two weeks	= 28
Quizzes: four at 8 pts. each	= 32
Aufsätze: 3 essays – 5 points each	= 15
Referat: 1 Referat	= 05
Final Exam: one at 20 pts.	= 20
GRAND TOTAL	= 100

Quizzes

There will be 4 quizzes in Elementary German 1 dealing with the material covered in Fokus Deutsch. Each quiz will be worth 80 points (8 course points) and will consist of listening and/or reading comprehension exercises, grammar questions and a writing task. You are allowed to bring in one 3x5 note card with notes on grammatical items (not vocabulary).

Grading of the quizzes

The course point scale for each quiz is:

Quiz Points	Course Points
less than 40 =	0
40-44 =	1
45-49 =	2
50-54 =	3
55-59 =	4
60-64 =	5
65-69 =	6
70-74 =	7

75-80 = 8

Final Exam

The final exam will have listening exercises (20 points), reading exercises (20 points), grammar questions (20 points) and writing exercises (20 points). You are allowed to use two 3x5 cards with notes on grammatical items (not vocabulary). Of these 80 points, you must score at least 48 points (60%) on the final exam to pass this course.

<u>Final Exam Points</u>	<u>Course Points</u>	<u>Final Exam Points</u>	<u>Course Points</u>
	"F" in Elementary German 1	63-65	15
fewer than 48	10	66-68	16
48-50	11	69-71	17
51-53	12	72-74	18
54-56	13	75-77	19
57-59	14	78-80	20
60-62			

Course Grade

1) If you have 76 or more points out of 80 after completing all course assignments (i.e., a performance above 95%), you will receive an automatic "A" in Elementary German 1 and do not take the final exam.

2) If you have less than 76 points at the end of the quarter you must take the final exam. If you pass the final exam, your course grade is figured according to the course point (percentage) scale below.

<u>Course Points</u>	<u>Course Grade</u>	<u>Course Points</u>	<u>Course Grade</u>
93-100	= A	73-76	= C
90-92	= A-	70-72	= C-
87-89	= B+	67-69	= D+
83-86	= B	63-66	= D
80-82	= B-	60-62	= D-
77-79	= C+	59 and below	= F

You must score 60% on the final exam to pass this course. Students with grades of "D-", "F", or "N" are not permitted to continue on to the next level of German.

Extra Credit

If you come up with an ambitious project you may have up to five "German experiences" and you can earn up to five points of extra credit for your effort and creativity to be added to your final grade. Examples for projects are skits, video shorts, children's books, translations of German texts, review of German movies or restaurants, illustrations to the vocabulary list, etc. You may also visit museum, exhibitions or have other German experiences pre-approved by the instructor such as concerts, movie theater, festivals,

opera, dance, etc. It should be something that you can share with the entire class (in German) and you should have fun.

Write a 5-sentence description (who, what, where, when, why) in German, typed and double-spaced to hand in – be prepared to discuss in class without notice.

None accepted after last day of class.

Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact me after class or during office hours. Additionally, students will need to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 3162

Review of Elementary German 1

(= Chapters 1-6 of Fokus Deutsch)

1) Topic areas: The alphabet, colors, numbers and telling time; introducing yourself; talking about your family, hobbies, and studies; describing your home and your room; discussing the weather; talking about German holidays; answering to a doctor's questions.

2) Grammar :

Concept:	<u>Fokus</u> , page:
Gender of nouns	20,21
Plural of nouns	20
Present Tense	23, 39
Accusative case	40
Vowel change in present tense	58
Possessive adjectives	39
Questions	84
Ordinal numbers	86
Negation with kein und nicht	60
Personal pronouns	104
Adjective endings	106
Modal verbs	124, 126