

GERMAN 101: Introduction to German Language and Culture

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Required Texts and Materials

- *Deutsch im Blick* (2017). *Kurspaket* (combined textbook and workbook)
- URL: <http://coerll.utexas.edu/dib/index.php> (Note: this is a **free** textbook that you can download online from the University of Texas. (Our bookstore also has a handful of print copies for sale if you prefer that.)
- Swick, Ed. *German Grammar Drills* (Third Edition; 2018) also as a Kindle edition.
- A German-English dictionary. I recommend the online dictionary at dict.cc; our bookstore also has a handful of excellent print dictionaries if you prefer a print format.
- A computer / laptop / tablet. Bring a laptop or tablet with you to class each day. We will rely heavily on them for practice activities, quizzes, games, and web excursions.
- Paper and a writing instrument. (Some note taking will be required)
- German Christmas carols (packet will be provided)

Course Description

Welcome to German 101! This course is intended as an introduction to German language and culture. No prior knowledge of German is required or expected, although previous language instruction may be helpful. In this initial course you will learn basic language skills which will allow you to perform routine day-to-day activities such as shopping, eating in a restaurant and travelling. You will learn pronunciation, spelling, listening, how to read for information and write short notes and texts. You will learn how to greet others, talk about yourself, say what you like and dislike, ask for directions, order a beer (or coffee) and say goodbye. And more! Along the way you will begin to learn about a different culture, one that is quite different from your own, yet in many ways similar.

Learning a new language is exciting and fun, but is usually only successful if treated seriously (hint: it is usually the case that the more seriously you take it the more fun it is). Accordingly, you should set aside plenty of time to work outside of class on German, and you should plan to spend 2 hours or more each evening on your various homework exercises. You should also avail yourself of the many opportunities you'll have in and out of class to practice your German. There is this thing called the "Internet" (you may know it as the Information Superhighway), and there you will find literally endless additional materials for interacting with German language and culture. The more exposure you get to the language – even just listening to it as music in the background while studying- the more successful you will be as a language learner.

At the end of the course, you will have developed the following abilities:

1. Speaking Survival skills and limited social demands. Proper pronunciation with minimal English interference. You will be able to participate in brief conversations on factual topics. You will be able to communicate basic information about yourself. (Age, height, address, telephone number, interests, etc. You will be also be able to describe things and narrate events in the present and past. (Developed through class participation, completion of textbook pronunciation exercises, and assessed by final oral interviews.)

2. Listening Understand most slowed or repeated speech. Gain a global understanding of normal speed discourse that includes visual cues. (Developed through class participation, learning and practicing dialogues, and completion of textbook exercises. Assessed by listening comprehension component on the final oral interview.)

3. Reading Understand general content of short selections on familiar topics. (Developed through in-class activities, readings, and textbook exercises.)

4. Writing Write simple sentences and short paragraphs using a learned pattern; produce summaries, diary entries, and essays with autobiographical or other basic content. (Developed and assessed through textbook and writing assignments.)

5. Culture The course also includes components that will enable you to gain an understanding and appreciation of contemporary German-speaking culture. (Assessed through textbook exercises)

This course supports the Educational Priorities and Outcomes of Cornell College with emphases on inquiry, knowledge, communication, and intercultural literacy.

Course Assignments

1. There will be a variety of daily homework assignments from our textbooks (usually a handful of activities from the chapter we're on plus drills from Swick). When you complete your homework activities, you should type the answers directly into Moodle under the assignments tab, or scan and send a photo of your textbook or notebook. Remember I am not grading them for accuracy but rather for completion of all exercises and making your best effort (testing for accuracy is what the quizzes and exams are for). Please do all the assigned exercises prior to submitting your work. I will return it to you without credit and ask you to complete it if you leave answers blank. (Please ask me or your classmates, if you are unsure of the directions)

2. There will be 3 exams in this course, each of which will cover one or more chapters of our textbook and relevant skills.
3. We will work together on one English-into-German and one German-into English translation project, the idea of which is to have some fun and help you practice your German in a different format.

Project #1 You will translate a selected German children’s book into English. We will work on these together in class. I will provide books from which to choose.

Project #2: You and a partner will translate your favorite English children’s book into German. You will select a doable book from the Cole Library Children’s book collection, make scans of it, and create a nice-looking German translation of it. Time permitting, we will work on these together in class.

Project #3 (as a Group) “Flash-Mob” **Christmas Caroling**. We will tour the campus at the end of the third week and sing German Christmas carols along the way, spontaneously stopping at strategic locations in public areas.

Grading Breakdown

Attendance/Participation	10%
Written/Workbook Assignments	30%
Chapter Tests	30%
Quizzes	10%
Final Oral Interview	10%
Projects:	10%

Do you want or need extra help with your German?

If you would like help with any part of the class, there are tutors available to you at no cost (advanced students or sometimes native speakers). Just send me an email and ask to set up an appointment with one of our tutors. They can help you with written or oral work, vocabulary, reading, homework, or any other questions you might have.

Opportunities to speak German

We have a variety of regular events that offer you the chance to speak and/or listen to German, including:

1. Stammtisch (Wednesday evenings, 5:00-6:00 pm in the dining hall; look for the German flag)
2. German club events (these will be announced in class as they come up)

3. Form your own conversation group of German 101 students!
4. Try out the **Duolingo** app for fun as you take this course. Who can make the most progress?

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgement of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College's requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Catalogue, under the heading "Academic Honesty."

Simply put, the work you submit for this course must be your own. Plagiarism is strictly forbidden and will be punished with a failing grade for the course (in addition to discipline by the college). Plagiarism is representing the words or ideas of another as your own. Submitting papers you did not write is the most well-known type of plagiarism but hardly the only one. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to: copying another student's work in exams, papers, or other exercises; verbatim copying, close paraphrasing, pasting in, or recombining published materials, including materials from the Internet, without appropriate citation. If you have questions about whether you need to attribute something or not, please ask me and I will be more than happy to advise you. Plagiarism is remarkably easy to see, and I have caught students plagiarizing on more than one occasion. I will follow the college's disciplinary procedure on academic honesty (<http://www.cornellcollege.edu/registrar/pdf/Academic%20Honesty.pdf>) in the unfortunate event that you cheat or plagiarize.

A Note on Google Translate: Don't do it!! Recognizing the incredible value but also the pitfalls of Google Translate, I have decided to forbid/outlaw/ban the use of Google Translate in this class. You may not use it to check your work; you may not use it to look up words (there are plenty of good dictionaries, online and print, for this); and you may not use it to compose sentences, help with subject/verb agreement, etc. etc. For the purposes of this class, use of Google Translate will be considered cheating and will be treated as such. Please take me at my word when I tell you that you will make more progress in this class if you avoid Google Translate.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be marked down one-half grade (= 5%) per day.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Cornell College wishes to include fully persons with disabilities in this course. In compliance with section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Cornell College is committed to ensure that "no otherwise qualified individual with a disability ... shall, solely by reason of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity..." If you are a student with a disability and believe

you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to inform the professor within the first three days of class. It is also your responsibility to contact and register with the office of Academic Support and provide them with documentation of your disability so they can determine what accommodations are appropriate for your situation.

To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the office of Academic Support as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and that disability accommodations cannot be provided after the three-day grace period and until an “Accommodation Cover Letter” from the office of Academic Support has been put in the student’s file from the Coordinator, Brooke Paulsen. Please contact Academic Support for more information about receiving accommodations through Brooke Paulsen, Cole Library #309, (310) 895-4382, bpaulsen@cornellcollege.edu. Please feel free to explore Cornell College’s website for more information on accommodations. <http://www.cornellcollege.edu/academic-support-and-advising/disabilities/index.shtml>.

Tentative Course Schedule

(Classes each day are from M-Th, 9-11 and 1-3 except where noted)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Ch. 1 Class begins at 9am.	Ch. 1	Ch. 1	Begin Ch. 2	*Exam 1 (9am)
Week 2	No Class	No Class	No Class	No Class Ernte Dankfest (Thanksgiving)	_____
Week 3	Ch. 2 Translation Project #1 Due	Ch. 2	Ch. 2 Start Ch. 3	Ch. 3 Christmas songs (practice)	Exam #2 (9am)
Week 4	Ch. 3 Start Ch. 4	Ch. 4	Ch. 4 Translation Project #2 Due	Ch. 4 9am Break: 10-11 Christmas Caroling: 11:30-12:30 Begin Ch. 5	
Week 5	Ch. 5	Ch. 5 Oral Interviews	Ch. 5 Exam #3 and Oral Interviews		