

Syllabus

GERM 1101, version 1.0

Revised: November 13, 2013

GERM 1101—Elementary German

Course Description: Basic lexicon and structures of German; emphasis on communicative language use; supplementary work via your home computer.

This course has the following broad learning objectives:

1. Learn basic elements of German language including vocabulary and grammar
2. Learn basics of listening, reading, writing, and speaking in German
3. Become familiar with cultural aspects of the German language and German-speaking countries

In this course you will utilize the course textbook and/or digital ebook, supplementary materials including PowerPoint presentations and publisher materials, links to tutorials within Moodle, and links to additional online dictionaries. By reviewing the textbook or ebook, accessing supplementary materials, and completing homework, you will be able to better familiarize yourself with the German language and meet the course objectives listed above.

This course is the first half of a two-course introduction to elementary German. In the 15 modules that make up this first course, you will be given multiple opportunities to practice basic grammatical structures, develop reading and aural comprehension skills, learn about important cultural aspects in German-speaking countries, and communicate clearly through writing and speaking in German. The language structures and skills presented in this course are designed to be useful for beginning students; by the end of the course, students should be able to communicate effectively in everyday, routine situations in the German language. All assignments and exercises included in this course are essential for achieving competency in the German language.

Your writing skills will be developed from the very beginning of the course through guided writing activities that form an integral part of every assignment.

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Writing activities will focus on developing strategies to help you progress from basic sentence writing to more advanced and complex paragraphs and essays. Additionally, much of this course will focus on listening comprehension, which is essential for successful oral communication. As such, you will have ample opportunity to enhance your aural skills in each lesson through both text-based listening exercises (accessible within the digital ebook and online course companion through ConnectPlus) and the video segments (*Perspektiven* and *Interviews*) also included within ConnectPlus.

Finally, as you go about the task of learning the German language, you will be exposed to various aspects of its rich cultural history. You will be introduced to some of the people and places that have contributed to significant cultural, geographical, historical, and societal developments in German-speaking countries. This course will expose you to authentic cultural content and other resources to make the language applications, such as grammar and vocabulary, enjoyable as well as educational.

The course components will also make your language-learning experience more enjoyable and less daunting. All course components are available separately or are included in their entirety within the ConnectPlus digital ebook. These include the textbook, *Kontakte* (7th edition); the *Arbeitsbuch*, a combined workbook and laboratory manual containing activities and exercises; a Text Audio Program, which contains dialogues, listening comprehension passages, cultural readings, poems, songs, and fairy tales; and the Audio Program, which contains pronunciation practice, listening comprehension texts, dialogues, and narratives. The Audio Program corresponds to the listening comprehension activities in the printed *Arbeitsbuch* and digital *Arbeitsbuch* in ConnectPlus. In addition, and also included in ConnectPlus are video segments of interviews and brief encounters with native speakers of German.

For more specific information regarding ConnectPlus and other required course materials, see “Working with the Course Materials” below.

Textbooks and Other Materials

The following are **required** for completion of the course.

Textbook and/or adaptive e-book

Tschirner, Edwin, Brigitte Nikolai, and Tracy Terrell. *Kontakte*. Seventh edition. Hoboken, NJ: McGraw-Hill, 2013.

ConnectPlus access

You will access all of your module assignments through McGraw-Hill ConnectPLUS (includes adaptive e-book). See the “Other Materials” section below for more information about ConnectPLUS resources.

Please note: These are the same materials required for completion of German 1102, also offered through ODL. If you begin the second course immediately after completing German 1101, you should not need to purchase new materials. Your ConnectPLUS access is valid for two years. **However**, if you wait too long to register for the second course, your access may expire and **you will have to purchase a new access code and your progress in ConnectPLUS will be lost.**

Purchasing Your Materials

Please use one of the following options to purchase your textbook and ConnectPLUS access.

Option 1: ConnectPLUS access code **only** (includes adaptive e-Book; least expensive)

1. Go to [http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/m dettinger fall 2012](http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/m_dettinger_fall_2012).
2. Click on "REGISTER NOW."
3. Enter your e-mail address.
4. Click "Buy Online" to purchase your access, which includes 2-year online access to the *Kontakte* eBook.
5. Click "Go to Connect Now" to complete your registration and continue to the course.

Option 2: Hard copy of *Kontakte* textbook with ConnectPLUS access (bundle)

ISBN-13: 978-0077761523

This option is available at the McGraw-Hill online store at <http://shop.mcgraw-hill.com/mhshop/>.

Option 3: Hard bound *Kontakte* textbook with **no** ConnectPLUS access

ISBN-13: 978-0073386348

This option is available at the McGraw-Hill online store and other vendors. Students can use this ISBN when ordering a used textbook rather than option 2. Please note that if you choose this option, **you must also buy** separate access to Connect by following the instructions for Option 1 above.

Disclaimer: It is important that you order your materials according to the **ISBN number** and **title**. You must be careful not to order the wrong book with a similar ISBN number.

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It is recommended that you buy your textbooks as soon as possible. If you wait, you may not be able to find the correct textbook. During the six months that you have to complete the course, a revised version of the course may be released. If the newer version of the course uses a more recent edition of the textbook or a different textbook from the one required by the version that you are enrolled in, you may have difficulty getting the textbook that you need for your version of the course. For that reason, you should buy your textbooks as soon as possible.

If you have trouble finding a book, check the list of recommended bookstores on our website and order by the ISBN, not the title.

Other Materials

In addition to the course textbook **you are required** to purchase access to the McGraw-Hill online platform, ConnectPlus. **Please note that access to ConnectPlus is included with the binder-ready edition of the textbook (ISBN 0077657020).** Through this site you will have access to the online *Arbeitsbuch* and to the ebook version of *Kontakte*, which includes all grammar assignments and listening comprehension exercises; an audio/video chat feature; and authentic video footage from Leipzig, Germany. You must first purchase an access code before using course materials located within ConnectPlus. To purchase a course code which will allow you to register for the course and access ConnectPlus material, go to http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/m_dettinger_fall_2012. This will bring you to the correct course page. To begin, click on "Register Now." **Please note:** Even though the section is labeled "Fall 2012," there are no due dates.

You are also required to have access to **voice recording software** such as **Audacity**. If you have another method of creating a voice recording, for example an internal voice recorder on your laptop or smart phone, please feel free to use it. If using Audacity, first go to <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/> for your free download. Simply follow the directions to download. This will only take a few moments to set up. If you need further assistance, please contact your instructor.

Working with the Course Materials

Once you have registered and entered your username and password in ConnectPlus, you will be brought to a main "Home" menu where you will be able to review the instructor contact information, access the *Kontakte* ebook, and select module assignments. You will see the list of assignments that accompany each module, for example: *Module 1, Einführung A* (Introduction A).

Once you have selected the module, a new message screen will appear indicating any specific directions for the assignment, the number of attempts

you will have for assignment questions, and any additional or pertinent policies related to the assignment. Once you are ready, select the blue "ok, got it!" button and begin.

From this point you will see the first question to complete with a point value. At the top of the page you will notice a light gray area which allows you to navigate to other questions within the chapter assignment, an icon to open the ebook, an icon with the option to print the page, a button to save and exit, and a blue button to submit the entire assignment. You can always select the help button, also located at the top of the page, if you have additional questions on how to answer questions, proceed to the next assignment, and submit your answers. Note that once you have completed a particular question you will simply want to select "next" to proceed to the next assigned question. You must not complete a question before proceeding to the next and you can always navigate back to any questions to complete or for additional review. When you are finished with all of the questions, you will then want to select the blue "submit assignment" button. If you attempt to do this before completing all of the questions, you will see a warning message indicating that you have not completed all of the questions. Select "cancel" to return to the questions and finish, as you do not want to lose points for the assignment.

After you have completed your ConnectPlus, go to Moodle and complete the assignment posted there. When all parts of the assignment are complete, your instructor will check your work and enter a grade out of 100 in the Moodle grade book. This is your final score for the module, and it includes both your ConnectPlus work and any separate Moodle assignments. In modules that do not include Moodle assignments, you will be asked to submit verification that you have completed your work in ConnectPlus to alert the instructor that your module is ready for grading.

For additional review, after the initial reading of each chapter question, it is recommended that you view any PowerPoint presentations, study guides, and study questions available in Connect or Moodle pertaining to that chapter.

In summary, when working on each module you should do the following:

1. Read the directions for each module and assignment very carefully.
2. Access and view PowerPoint presentations and/or supplementary material before beginning your assignment (you can always access these materials after assignments for further review).
3. Access each assignment by signing into your ConnectPlus account.
4. Complete each assigned task within your ConnectPlus account.
5. Complete each assignment within Moodle.

Reading Assignments

Each module will cover an average of 15–20 pages. Since the majority of this textbook consists of communicative exercises, much of your reading will be to review grammatical models and explanations. Specific reading assignments on cultural, geographical, historical, and societal aspects will be provided within each module.

Topic Outline

This course covers the following specific topics:

Module	Topic	Chapter in Textbook
1	<i>Einführung A</i>	Intro
2	<i>Einführung B</i>	Intro
3	<i>Wer ich bin und was ich tue, Part A</i>	1
4	<i>Wer ich bin und was ich tue, Part B</i>	1
5	<i>Besitz und Vergnügen, Part A</i>	2
6	<i>Besitz und Vergnügen, Part B</i>	2
7	Mid-Course Review (Grammar & Culture)	Intro–2

Mid-Course Examination

8	<i>Talente, Pläne, Pflichten, Part A</i>	3
9	<i>Talente, Pläne, Pflichten, Part B</i>	3
10	<i>Ereignisse und Erinnerungen, Part A</i>	4
11	<i>Ereignisse und Erinnerungen, Part B</i>	4
12	<i>Geld und Arbeit, Part A</i>	5
13	<i>Geld und Arbeit, Part B</i>	5
14	Review (Grammar)	Intro–5

Final Examination**Submission of Module Assignments**

Remember, this course covers an entire semester of work or the equivalent of a classroom course lasting 15 weeks. That means that each module in this course equals nearly a week of course work and will require the same time and effort on your part. Do not expect to complete each module in a single study session. In order to receive the most rapid service, submit each module as soon as it is completed.

Course Specific Instructions

You are required to complete all assignments for each module within the ConnectPlus website, including the reading, writing, and listening tasks. Since the nature of the textbook is communicative, you will also be responsible for submitting voice recordings which will require you to have access to a microphone. Voice recording assignments will be done either through the ConnectPlus site or uploaded into Moodle. These will include but will not be limited to the following: pronunciation drills on the alphabet, diphthongs, tongue-twisters, texts read aloud, and personal statements. Directions for creating and submitting voice files are provided in Moodle.

For listening comprehension exercises, it is recommended that you listen to each audio file at least two times to gain a proper understanding of the content. In some cases, and especially as you progress through the book, you will need to listen to these files more than two times. In instances when the content is difficult to comprehend due to tempo, accent, etc., it is most important to have an understanding of the overall content and to find the main point, rather than understanding absolutely every word spoken. You may experience this when listening to interviews in real time. Should you have difficulty, please contact the instructor.

Use of any online translating tools is absolutely not permitted and is considered cheating. It will be clear if such a tool is utilized to assist you with your writing. In addition to the textbook vocabulary glossaries and dictionaries, there are a number of reliable online dictionaries which will be listed in Moodle.

Carefully study the textbook material before you begin to prepare the module assignments. This study should include a detailed examination of the examples provided pertaining to grammar, examples of dialogues between people, and examples of cultural elements from the text.

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Detailed PowerPoint presentations, study guides, and tutorials are available in Moodle to supplement your study. After the initial reading of the chapter, it is recommended that you review the PowerPoint presentations and study guides for that chapter.

Suggested Study Techniques

This may be your first time formally learning a foreign language and, therefore, may be a bit overwhelming at first. This is particularly true given the amount of German used. However, you need not be too worried as you will become accustomed to this style as you proceed through the textbook, which is designed to make your language-learning experience more natural.

Through each chapter and module of assignments you will notice that all chapters in this book follow the same design, which includes *Themen* (themes), *Kulturelles* (culture), *Lektüren* (readings), and *Strukturen und Übungen* (structures and exercises). Also, much of the text is accompanied by color images, charts and tables, and a crew of cartoon characters, whom you will get to know throughout the book, to help you along the way. See page xxiii of your textbook/ebook for an overview of these characters.

The end of each chapter provides a *Wortschatz*, which includes a list of all major vocabulary key to the chapter, and is provided in German with English translations. While your first instinct may be to utilize English translations often, it will be to your benefit to focus on the German as much as possible, which will make your transition to test-taking easier. The *Wortschatz* section is followed by the *Strukturen und Übungen* section, which is designed to combine grammatical explanations in English along with exercises to master each level of the German language.

Also, appendices C and D, beginning on page A-16 in the back portion of your textbook, provide you with additional grammatical explanations, tables and charts, and specific verbs you will need to know as you work through this book.

Review your module assignments after they have been graded and returned to you. ODL suggests that you wait for your first assignment to be graded before you submit subsequent assignments.

One temptation you may have in an independent study course is to rely too heavily on textbook material when preparing your assignments. If you give in to such a temptation, you may not realize until exam time that the perfect response you prepared was possible only because you repeatedly referred to the textbook without really learning or understanding the material. Therefore, you should attempt each assignment without referring to the textbook, and if “thumbing back” is necessary, be sure you have actually learned the point rather than merely reflected it in the answer.

Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal. Try to submit an assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete the course.

Textbook Overview

Kontakte (7th edition)

To make your transition to learning German and utilizing *Kontakte* easier, the chapters of your textbook will follow the same design. Only the two introductory chapters, *Einführung A* and *Einführung B*, will have one fewer component, the *Lektüren*. Since you will be exposed to mostly German in these chapters, it is essential to become familiar with some of the key terms of the different sections you will come across. These key terms and their descriptions are listed below.

Themen	Themes	Musikszene	Music Scene
Kulturelles	Culture	Videoecke	Video Corner
Lektüren	Readings	Perspektiven	Perspectives
Strukturen und Übungen	Structures and Exercises	Wortschatz	Vocabulary
Kunst und Künstler	Art and Artists	Vokabeln	Vocabulary
Kultur...	Culture...		
Landeskunde...	Regional Studies...		
Informationen	Information		

Chapter Key Terms: Overview

Themen

The *Themen* (themes) are simply an overview of the grammatical, linguistic, and cultural objectives to be covered and learned in each chapter. You will notice that these are listed in German on the first page of each chapter. While you will be exposed to each of these *Themen* as you proceed through each chapter, they will be reinforced in the end of chapter in *Strukturen und Übungen* (structures and exercises). See below for a more detailed description of that section.

Kulturelles

The *Kulturelles* (culture) components of each chapter include a variety of topics and activities. These will be individually introduced topics that will often be reinforced with some of the grammatical exercises. In doing so, you will become accustomed to the rich cultural values so evident in German-speaking countries.

Lektüren

The *Lektüren* (readings) of each chapter provide students with additional insight into the rich cultural nature of the German-speaking countries. Activities include exposure to filmclips and short readings to assist students develop their cultural understanding and language skills.

Strukturen und Übungen

The *Strukturen und Übungen* (structures and exercises) section is located at the end of each chapter. This section reinforces grammatical themes and structures students are exposed to throughout the chapter. Explanations of key grammar points are offered in English and are combined with additional exercises for practice.

Kunst und Künstler

The beginning of every chapter provides an insight into *Kunst und Künstler* (art and artists). This includes an image of a painting as well as a description in German of the painting and artist who created it. This is followed by several key questions in German pertaining to the short text allowing for discussion and reflection which support students in developing their verbal communication ability to describe images.

Kultur...Landeskunde...Informationen

The *Kultur...Landeskunde...Informationen* (cultural and regional studies and information) sections provide students with short texts offering cultural insights into the German-speaking countries. These also include a series of questions to help students reinforce their language skills pertaining to each topic.

Musikszene

The *Musikszene* (music scene) section of each chapter introduces students to popular musicians in the German-speaking countries. Each of these sections includes the following: images of the musicians, a *Miniwörterbuch* (mini dictionary), a short *Biografie* (biography) of the artist or band, a selected song which students can purchase at the iTunes store in a specific iMix created for *Kontakte* and found in ConnectPlus, and questions pertaining to the selected song.

Videoecke: Perspektiven and Interviews

The *Videoecke* (video corner) portion of *Kontakte* provides short video clips of authentic German language in two ways: *Perspektiven* (perspectives) and *Interviews*. Both video clips preview a variety of means of communication between native speakers which are followed up by a number of review questions. This component to *Kontakte* is an important tool in helping students develop their listening comprehension skills.

Wortschatz

Each chapter includes a detailed *Wortschatz*, which is a list of all key vocabulary pertaining to the particular chapter. This includes but is not limited to the following: vocabulary specific to the chapter, *Sonstige Substantive* (other nouns), *Verben* (verbs), *Sonstige Wörter und Ausdrücke* (other words and expressions). All items included in this section are provided in German with an English translation.

Vokabeln

The very back of the textbook includes two *Vokabeln* (vocabulary) dictionary lists: *Deutsch-Englisch* (German-English) found on pages V-1 to V-32, and *Englisch-Deutsch* (English-German) found on pages V-33 to V-50. The items included in these pages also give reference pages to their specific location in the textbook.

Appendices

The pages preceding the *Vokabeln* include a number of appendices which provide detailed information on grammatical rules and specific verbs. These include appendices A-E starting on page A-1 through A-32.

Academic Integrity

ODL adheres to Louisiana State University's policy on academic misconduct. This policy defines plagiarism as follows:

"Plagiarism" is defined as the lack of citation or the unacknowledged inclusion of someone else's words, structure, ideas, or data. When a student submits work as his/her own that includes the words, structure, ideas, or data of others, the source of this information must be acknowledged through complete, accurate, and specific references, and, if verbatim statements are included, through quotation marks as well. Failure to identify any source (including interviews, surveys, etc.), published in any medium (including on the internet) or unpublished, from which words, structure, ideas, or data have been taken, constitutes plagiarism; Plagiarism also includes:

Falsifying or fabricating any information or citation in any academic exercise, work, speech, thesis, dissertation, test, or examination.

Submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructors.¹

Examinations and Grading Policy

There will be two examinations consisting of listening, grammar, vocabulary, reading, and writing sections. The mid-course exam follows Module 7, and the final exam, which is comprehensive, follows Module 15. Your final exam will include an oral component that requires the use of recording software. You must use a headset with a microphone to make your recordings.

The grade for module assignments includes the module assignment within ConnectPlus and also the uploaded assignments in Moodle, such as responses to reading and video sections or personal recordings. The Mid-Course Exam is worth 100 points, and the Final Exam is worth 200 points.

¹ LSU Code of Student Conduct, Section 8.1.C,
<http://www.lsu.edu/saa/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct%20August%2009.pdf>
(accessed November 2, 2010).

The course grade will be computed according to the following table:

Component	Weight (%)
Module Assignments	20%
Quizzes	5%
Mid-Course Exam	25%
Final Exam	50%

The following grading scale applies:

90%	–	100%	=	A
80%	–	89%	=	B
70%	–	79%	=	C
60%	–	69%	=	D
0%	–	59%	=	F

**YOU MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAMINATION
IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.**

Taking Your Examinations

You are required to take your examinations through ProctorU, a remote proctoring service that allows you to take exams anywhere with internet access. To find out how ProctorU works, visit their site at www.proctoru.com/index.php. Please note that you must have the technical requirements to test using ProctorU, including **access to a web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and high speed internet**. You should also be aware of any **firewalls** on your network before attempting to take your exam. A complete list of technical requirements is available at <http://www.proctoru.com/tech.php>.

When you are ready to create an account and schedule your exam, go to http://proctoru.com/lsu_outreach/. You should schedule your exam about a week before you are ready to take it.

The final exam cannot be taken until you have been enrolled in the course for at least eight weeks, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed. Under no circumstances may the final exam be taken earlier. To read the full exam policy and other policy statements, visit <http://cms.outreach.lsu.edu>. Click on **Extended Campus**, select **Online Distance Learning**, and then click the link for **Policies**.

Transcript Information

After you have completed this course, your grade will be filed with the Office of the University Registrar. If a transcript is needed, it is your responsibility to make a request to the registrar. If you would like to order a transcript, visit the Office of the University Registrar [Transcript Requests](#)² page to view your options.

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² <http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/student-services/transcript-request/>