



## Elementary German

Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
GERM 1134 Section 101/102  
Fall 2023

### Contact Information:

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Office hours: by appointments and see below

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays: 10:00am-10:50am

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### Course Description

The language teaching community agrees that learning language and culture are inextricably connected. Thus, this course will introduce students to the language and culture of German-speaking countries, using both prepared and authentic materials with theme-related vocabulary and grammatical structures. This course will focus on developing students' German-language proficiency through modes of communication that reflect real life communication in the varied cultures of the German-speaking world. Students will have the opportunity to practice listening, reading, writing, and speaking in German through in-class activities and homework assignments. By employing interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational communicative modes in German, students will explore the ideas, values, beliefs, and other cultural aspects in German-speaking countries and how these aspects work together to affect human experience.

### Course Goals

German 1134 will get you started developing the four major language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a cultural context. This course will provide you with an expanding set of vocabulary and grammar, as well as cultural knowledge, so that you will feel comfortable conversing in German about a wide range of topics, including your family, your studies, your likes and dislikes, your hobbies, and even historical events. You will learn to interpret German language texts from a variety of sources and enhance your knowledge of cultural differences and similarities between German-speaking countries and your own. The following course objectives of this course corresponds to the Level A1 (Beginner) of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), a widely accepted European standard for language proficiency.

**Basic Communication:**

Develop the ability to introduce oneself, greet others, and engage in simple conversations in German about yourself, family, etc. Demonstrate proficiency in asking and answering common questions related to personal information, such as name, age, nationality, etc.

**Vocabulary and Grammar:**

Build a core vocabulary of German words and phrases.

Understand and use fundamental German grammar concepts, including articles, nouns, verbs (present tense), and basic sentence structure.

**Listening Comprehension:**

Comprehend and respond to spoken German at a basic level, such as understanding simple directions, ordering food in a restaurant, or following basic instructions.

**Reading Skills:**

Read and understand elementary texts, including short stories, advertisements, and basic news articles, with the help of a dictionary and guidance.

**Writing Proficiency:**

Write short paragraphs, simple messages, and short essays in German, covering topics like daily routines, personal experiences, preferences, etc.

**Cultural Awareness:**

Gain an understanding of German-speaking cultures, including traditions, customs, and holidays. Explore cultural differences and similarities between German-speaking countries and their own culture.

**Pronunciation and Intonation:**

Working towards developing clear and accurate pronunciation of German sounds, including special attention to umlauts and consonant clusters. Practice intonation patterns and stress in spoken German to improve natural-sounding speech.

**Language Resources:**

Learn to use language resources such as dictionaries, online language learning platforms effectively to aid in language acquisition.

**Real-Life Application:**

Encourage students to apply their language skills in real-life situations, such as ordering food at a German restaurant, shopping, or interacting with German-speaking individuals in their community or online.

**Interpersonal Skills:**

Promote collaborative learning through group activities, discussions, and partner work to enhance interpersonal communication skills in German.

**Self-Assessment and Goal Setting:**

Encourage students to set personal language learning goals and regularly reflect on their progress, fostering autonomy in language learning.

### Core Objectives and Assessment<sup>[1][2]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

Core objectives for the Language, Philosophy and Culture Foundational Component Area are addressed in this course according to the following descriptions. A global assessment tool that incorporates all required core objectives is used for assessment rather than objective specific assessment

tools. This global assessment tool is called a **Personal Reflection Assignment** for Assessment of Core Curriculum Objectives and will be written by students at the end of the course. Core objectives:

**Critical Thinking:**

Students will respond in the target language orally and in writing to questions and/or topics based upon in-class readings, presentations, and/or out-of-class assignments that require students to extract information, analyze and evaluate information, draw conclusions, and/or form opinions on the topic. Students will inquire, analyze, evaluate and synthesize information from various resources available in the target language on a cultural topic of his/her choosing to be presented in a variety of modes to the instructor and/or class (e.g. art work, presentations, theatrical works, essays, music)

**Communication Skills:**

Students will demonstrate ability to effectively use memorized vocabulary, high-frequency expressions, accurate grammatical usage and idiomatic expressions in the target language to effectively develop, interpret and express ideas orally and in writing with culturally appropriate sensitivity. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> Students will demonstrate effective interpretation of memorized vocabulary, high-frequency expressions, grammatical usage and idiomatic expression in the target language both orally and in print through the use of culturally-bound print and multi-media.

**Personal Responsibility:**

Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical-decision making by writing a personal reflection essay on a specific cultural topic that presents an ethical dilemma or issue for resolution. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> In their personal reflection essay, students will identify their core beliefs and the origins of those core beliefs, recognize complex ethical issues and relationships between issues, state a position on an ethical issue and connect their position to implied actions and consequences.

**Social Responsibility:**

Students will demonstrate intercultural competence and knowledge of civic responsibility as demonstrated in the connections or comparisons made by the student between his/her own culture and the target culture. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> Students are encouraged to demonstrate intercultural competence and knowledge of civic responsibility by volunteering in the local, regional, national or global German-speaking community through the service projects of the MSU German Club, and/or another campus or community organization.

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

No textbook required. Excerpts and texts are located on D2L. Chromebooks are not recommended as they will not work with D2L.

### Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

### Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

For each lesson you can expect approximately **one and a half hours of homework/studying**. Sometimes it is more, sometimes less. German tutoring is available at the Office of Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) located in the Muffet Library.

**NOTE:** As per The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR Title 34, Part 600.2), "a credit hour is an amount of work [...that] reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester."

### Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2023-2024](#)

### Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

**\* Please know that using Google Translate for homework assignments is considered plagiarism and therefore a violation of the honor code!**

### Grading:

Course Grade: The following components make up the course grade. The number of quizzes and graded homework assignments will vary according to the discretion of the instructor.

Table 1:

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>% of Course Grade</b>
Quizzes	10
Unit Tests	30
Homework	10
Classwork: Participation and Attendance	10
Essays in German	10

Personal Reflection Assignment	5
Presentation	10
Comprehensive Final Exam	15

Table 2: Total percentages for final grade

Grade	Percent
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

#### Midterm Progress Report

In order to help students, keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should meet with the instructor and/or take advantage of tutoring options.

#### Homework

You will be responsible for all material included in the course schedule (D2L) as well as any additional homework assignments given. Completing the assigned reading, activities, and grammar homework prior to every class will increase your comprehension of the material and leave more time to practice speaking German during class. This regular practice is designed to help prepare you for class and to increase your retention of the culture, vocabulary, and grammar we are covering.

You will be asked to complete five basic types of homework assignments for German 1134 all located on D2L:

1. **Lesen (Read):** In preparation for class, you are responsible for reading assignments on D2L. These should be completed before class on the day, and you should bring any questions that you have about what you read/watched to class.
2. **Lernen (Study):** Study and take the practice quiz on quizlet. These practice quizzes on quizlet may be taken multiple times, unless noted otherwise.
3. **Üben (Practice):** Complete these practices on D2L or other online websites.

4. **Hausaufgabe (Homework):** Complete assignments from D2L on a separate paper and submit the paper in class.
5. **100-Word Essays:** You will be assigned short essays of at least 100 words, which must include the **word count** and be **typed, double-spaced**, and turned in during class as a hard copy, as listed in the course schedule. Essays will be graded for both content and language/grammar.

You may be given other type of homework, such as a **handout**. You are expected to complete all assignments carefully. However, part of learning a language means making mistakes. If you complete your homework in a timely and conscientious manner you will receive a high homework grade for completion. If you do not understand the expectations for a specific assignment, it is your responsibility to ask for clarification before the due date.

#### Participation and Attendance

Attendance is taken every class meeting. Students are required to be in class for the entire 50-minute period. Students may be counted absent if arriving more than 10 minutes late or leaving class early. This syllabus serves as notice that a student may be dropped from the class without further notification if absent more than four times.

Absences due to official university functions or documented illness will be dealt with on an individual basis and should be discussed with the instructor outside of class time. There are no excused absences from regular class periods. If a student misses an exam, he or she must present documented proof of illness or university activity to the instructor before a make-up exam will be allowed.

Students will be expected to come to class prepared to participate actively in all discussions and activities.

#### Quizzes

There will be regular 5-7 min.-long quizzes, as announced as on D2L or in class, in which you will show how you have mastered the material of the previous day(s). Quizzes may **not** be made up unless students can provide appropriate documentation for their absences (medical or university duty).

#### Unit Tests

There will be **three** unit tests. They will be administered on the dates announced. Tests will cover the material in individual chapters and will build upon previously discussed material. No unit tests will be made up without a valid medical excuse. You must e-mail me before the exam is administered, or at least right after the test. If you miss a test and are not properly excused, your grade is calculated as 0.

### Comprehensive Final Exam

The comprehensive final exam covers all materials studied during the course. The exam consists of a listening comprehension, fill in the blanks, and/or true false portion and a written answer portion. The Final Exam contributes 15% to the final course grade. The Final Exam for this course is scheduled for Saturday, December 09, 2023, at 10:30 am-12:30pm. Location: TBA

### Presentation

You will need to give a short presentation (2-3 minutes) in German language. You have to create a PowerPoint presentation. You will present your project during class. You will introduce yourself and your family. More detailed requirements will be given in class.

### Extra Credit

No extra credit assignments are given to individuals that are not offered to the entire class. All extra credit assignments will be offered at the discretion of the instructor.

### Late Work

Late submissions will not be accepted unless due to emergency or university approved absence.

### Make Up Work / Unit Tests

Students may make up missed tests, quizzes, and essays only with a valid medical or university excuse within one week of the missed quiz, essay or test. If you know you will miss an exam due to an official university function, please make arrangements with your instructor prior to the absence and as soon as possible. If you are absent from an exam, you must present documented proof of illness or university activity to your instructor before an early or make-up exam will be scheduled.

### Important Schedule Dates

Change of Schedule and Late Registration: August 28-31

Deadline for December graduates to file for graduation: September 25

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" October 30

Refer to: <https://msutexas.edu/registrar/assets/files/pdfs/acadcal2324.pdf>

### Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

## Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

## Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

## College Policies

### Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

### Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

### Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

### Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still

requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

### Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

### Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

### Technology Policy

One of the most important skills in learning a foreign language is the ability to improvise when you cannot remember a specific word or phrase. In order to build this skill and avoid distraction, you are asked to **refrain from using electronic devices during class time**. Unless you have spoken with me about a specific situation regarding the use of technology in the classroom, points will be deducted from your participation grade if your instructor sees you using laptops, cell phones etc. during class. On the rare occasion that such devices are required for class, your instructor will notify you in advance.

### Instructor Policy

Please be polite to your instructor and fellow students. Pay attention to the instructor and to your fellow students when they are speaking. Do not engage your classmates in conversation in English during class. No food or drinks, except for water, are allowed in our classrooms.

### Email Policy

I will check email daily Monday through Friday and will make every effort to answer you within 24 hours. On the weekend, however, I might not be able to answer as quickly. Please make sure that you adhere to common rules of courtesy such as addressing me by name/title (Dr. Gagum), proofing spelling, and signing your name at the end of the email.

### Name/Pronoun Policy

Learning a foreign language requires an interactive classroom environment. Therefore, it is important that we strive to make the classroom a respectful and inclusive place. If you feel comfortable doing so, you are encouraged to let me know during the first week of class what name you prefer to be called and if you prefer the use of masculine, feminine, or gender neutral pronouns. These

preferences can be applied just to your interactions with me or to all of your in-class interactions with your peers.

### Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

### Course Schedule

Dates		Unit	Topics
Week 1- Week 4		Unit 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greetings; Numbers; Family</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, September 21, 2023 Exam: Unit 1</b>			
Week 5- Week 8		Unit 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the university</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, October 19, 2023 Exam: Unit 2</b>			
Week 9- Week 15		Unit 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daily schedule</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, November 30, 2023 Exam: Unit 3</b>			
Week 16		Unit 1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation</li> <li>Review</li> </ul>
<b>Final Comprehensive Exam: Saturday, December 9th, 2023 10:30am-12:30pm Room: TBA</b>			