



Elementary German I (Online)
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
GERM 1134 Section X10
Fall 2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Kyung Lee Gagum

Office: Bea Wood Hall 110

Office hours: by appointments via Zoom and see below. Please email me to set up a time.

Mondays-Thursdays: 12pm-1pm

Mondays: 1pm-2pm

Office phone: (940) 397-4857

E-mail: lee.gagum@msutexas.edu

Instructor Response Policy

I will respond to emails and voicemails sent to me during regular working hours on weekdays as soon as possible - - the same or the next day. On weekends, I check my email regularly but not as often, so my response time may be delayed up to 48 hours.

This course is a fully online, asynchronous course. I will use D2L for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule, and gradebook, as well as for course materials and testing. You must regularly check D2L and your mymsutexas.edu email for important course information.

Course Description

The language teaching community recognizes that language and culture are deeply interconnected. Consequently, this course is designed to introduce students to both the language and culture of German-speaking countries. To achieve this, this fully online asynchronous course will utilize a combination of prepared and authentic materials, focusing on theme-related vocabulary and grammatical structures.

The primary objective of this course is to develop students' proficiency in the German language through communication modes that mirror real-life interactions within the diverse cultures of the German-speaking world. Students will engage in a variety of in-class activities and homework assignments that emphasize listening, reading, writing, and speaking in German.

Through engaging in interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational communication in German, students will not only strengthen their language skills but also delve into the ideas, values, beliefs, and cultural nuances of German-speaking countries. This holistic approach will help students understand the interplay of these cultural elements and prepare them to be responsible global citizens.

Course Goals

German 1134 online course will get you started developing the four major language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in a cultural context. GERM 1134 will cover chapters 1-4 and 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

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. 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. 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. 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.

Career Readiness Competencies

By engaging in this course, you will work towards Career Readiness Competencies (from the National Association of Colleges and Employers) and being able to articulate how they relate to your language learning:

I. Communication:

Clearly and effectively exchange information, ideas, facts, and perspectives with persons inside and outside of an organization.

II. Critical thinking:

Identify and respond to needs based upon an understanding of situational context and logical analysis of relevant information.

III. Equity and Inclusion:

Demonstrate the awareness, attitude, knowledge, and skills required to equitably engage and include people from different local and global cultures. Engage in anti-racist practices that actively challenge the systems, structures, and policies of racism.

IV. Leadership:

Recognize and capitalize on personal and team strengths to achieve organizational goals.

V. Professionalism:

Knowing work environments differ greatly, understand and demonstrate effective work habits, and act in the interest of the larger community and workplace.

VI. Teamwork:

Build and maintain collaborative relationships to work effectively toward common goals, while appreciating diverse viewpoints and shared responsibilities.

VII. Technology:

Understand and leverage technologies ethically to enhance efficiencies, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

Language Learning Strategies

Research shows that successful language learning involves these things.

Self-motivation:

Set some realistic, personal goals for yourself. What would you like to **do** with German after this semester? After a year? Maybe you'd like to travel to Berlin, read a German play or keep up with the German news to impress your future employer. Having concrete goals will keep you motivated and make your work more meaningful. This also means being **resourceful**, and finding the tools **you** need to succeed. There are as many resources as you are willing to locate.

Strategizing:

Now that you have goals, make a plan to meet them. Setting aside time for **daily** practice makes your work much more efficient and effective.

Taking risks and making mistakes:

Speak up in class! Do your homework **without** looking at your notes! Language learning is error driven. When you make mistakes and learn from them, the information is significantly more likely to stick.

Seeking feedback:

Being proactive and taking charge of your progress makes learning more meaningful. Take advantage of office hours and tutoring.

Practicing out loud:

Not just in class, but when you're doing homework. Or even when doing listening activities, listening to music, or watching a TV show--repeat the things you hear! Language is music and you **can** train your ear to it.

Practicing empathy:

Learning to speak a new language requires you, to some extent, to step outside of your own head and adopt new ways of speaking and thinking. You'll need to

make sounds you've maybe never made before, and mimic strangers. You'll learn ways of describing the world and expressing yourself that are very different from what you are used to. It is common to feel awkward, or even dismissive or judgmental of these new experiences ("that sounds weird," "I feel weird saying that," etc.). To truly progress, you need to fully embrace these new ways of thinking and speaking. This is also a **fundamental** component of intercultural competency--understanding and being able to interact successfully with people of other cultures.

Identifying with target cultures:

This is another way of making your work meaningful to you. Invest yourself in learning about intersections between German and German speaking countries' cultures and your own interests. Are you a film buff? Wow, is there a world of German cinema you should really know about. Discover German musicians, writers, artists, graphic novelists, etc. Read up on the turbulence of contemporary German politics. This is good for your broader education, and it will help you in your German language studies as well.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

No textbook purchase required. Online textbook is available free of charge. Link for the online textbook, excerpts, and texts are located on D2L. Chromebooks are not recommended as they will not work with D2L.

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](#)

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](#)

Your German does not have to be perfect for this class nor any of the assignments, and most likely it will not be. I expect to see mistakes. If I find that your use of vocabulary and/or grammar concepts is more advanced than the typical Elementary German I student on any assignment and/or quiz or exam, and there is no apparent reason for your level of expertise, you may receive a zero if I am suspicious that you used an app or program to write or translate your work. If you challenge my decision, I will meet with you in person or via Zoom, and you can write a short composition in my presence to show that your use of German is authentically your own. We will also have an impromptu conversation in German to check your level. Please do your own work and do not cheat using others and/or artificial or technological means.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses. Submitting writings, homework, presentations, etc., done by others, in part or wholly, without proper credit to the originators constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, receiving any unauthorized help in written and oral tests and assignments is considered cheating. Cheating and engaging in plagiarism will result in receiving no credit on the assignment.

Examples of cheating (Do NOT do these!)	Examples of appropriate resourcefulness (Do these things!)
Copying another student's work	Form study groups with classmates, help each other with brainstorming and editing
Using AI to write your work for you or to complete edits for you	Use AI to brainstorm ideas or even ask for general feedback, as long as it is not doing your work for you.
Using any form of online translator (e.g. Google Translate) is also a form of cheating. If you are NOT creating the language by yourself with what you are learning, it is not YOUR work.	<u>Consult a dictionary</u> for single words, expressions, and conjugations. If you are having difficulty putting a sentence together, simplify what you are trying to say!
Having a native speaker, tutor, or other student write your work for you	Seek feedback or guidance from native speakers, tutors, or other students. Be sure to mention that you did this in your assignments.

Student Honor Creed

"As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so."

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception.

Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters.

We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student.

We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed.

LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitoring

This course requires the use of LockDown Browser and a webcam (Respondus Monitoring) for the midterm exam and final exam completed in D2L. The webcam can be built into your computer or can be the type that plugs in with a USB cable. Watch this [short video](#) to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature. A student [Quick Start Guide \(PDF\)](#) is also available. When taking an exam that requires LockDown Browser and a webcam, remember the following guidelines:

- Select a location where you are comfortable having a video recording taken of yourself and your workspace environment. This area should also be free of distractions and interruptions.
- Turn off all other devices (e.g., tablets, phones, second computers) and place them outside of your reach.
- Clear your desk of all external materials not permitted — books, papers, other devices, etc.
- Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it, and that you've allotted sufficient time to complete it.
- Remain at your device for the duration of the test.
- If the device or networking environment is different than what was used previously with the **Webcam Check** and **System & Network Check** in LockDown Browser, run the checks again prior to starting the test.
- To produce a good webcam video, do the following:
 - Avoid wearing baseball caps or hats with brims.
 - Ensure your device is on a firm surface (a desk or table). Do NOT have the device on your lap, a bed or other surface where the device (or you) are likely to move.
 - If using a built-in webcam, avoid tilting the screen after the webcam setup is complete.
 - Take the exam in a well-lit room and avoid backlighting, such as sitting with your back to a window.

- Remember that LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted.

***Important: No notes, textbooks, phones, translation apps, websites, AI software, friends etc. should be used on any exam in this course. Please do your own work and adhere to the MSU Student Honor Creed.**

If the Respondus Monitoring system flags a quiz or exam for behavior that violates the above statement, and after review, I believe that you were cheating on the quiz or the exam, I will subtract 10 points from that quiz or exam grade for this first infraction. If another infraction or subsequent infractions occur, you will receive a grade of zero (0) for the exam in question.

If you experience any difficulties with Lockdown Browser and/or Respondus Monitoring, please contact d2lhelp@msutexas.edu.

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:

Assignments	% of Course Grade
Weekly Reading and Studying Assignments	20
Weekly Writing Assignments	10
Speaking Assignments per Chapter	10
Weekly vhs-Lernportal-DW- Nicos Weg	15
Weekly Quizzes	10
Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-2)	15
Comprehensive Final Exam (Chapters 1-4)	20
Total	100

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Percentage
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.

Weekly Assignments

You will be responsible for completing the assigned weekly assignments. 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 the following weekly assignments for German 1134 all located on D2L:

1. **Weekly Reading and Studying:** There are **three** components to this weekly reading and studying: **Sprache** (language), **Grammatik** (grammar), and **Kultur** (culture). The assignment types will vary, and some require you to visit external websites. Some assignments will require you to read, then study the materials and lastly, to complete the assignment, then take a screenshot to submit in the D2L assignment folder. More in the contents for each week.
2. **Weekly Writing:** Toward the end of each week, you will write a short composition related to the content and at least some of the grammar concepts presented in that lesson.
3. **Speaking Assignments per Chapter** Even though this course is online, you will have to demonstrate your speaking ability by responding to some questions using "Record Video" or "Record Audio" in D2L. I encourage you to practice speaking and listening to German outside of the online environment.
4. **Weekly vhs-Lernportal/ DW- Nicos Weg:** You will sign up for the free online vhs-Lernportal and DW, where you will complete assigned activities weekly, take screenshots of completed assignments, and submit them D2L.
5. **Weekly Quizzes:** You will take one quiz for each week in MSU's D2L online platform (Desire-To-Learn). The quizzes do not require the LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitoring. Typically, these quizzes will become available on Fridays by 5:00 pm and will be due by 11:59 pm on Sundays but see the course calendar in this syllabus and/or in D2L for exceptions and specific dates. These quizzes will contribute 10% to your course grade. No late work is accepted, and no make-up quizzes are given.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will cover chapters 1-2 and consists of a multiple choice, matching, and/or true false part and a written/short answer part. The midterm exam will be administered via D2L Assessment. Please read the section about testing with Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitoring on this syllabus. This exam contributes 15% to the final course grade. The exam will be accessible in D2L ***beginning Friday, October 10, 2025, 5:00 pm and ending Sunday, October 12, 2025, 11:59 pm.** Once you access the exam, you have **60 minutes** to complete the exam. ***No notes, textbooks, phones, websites, translations apps, AI software, friends etc. should be used. Please do your own work and adhere to the MSU Student Honor Creed.**

Final Exam

The Final Exam for this course is scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2024. The Final Exam will be administered via D2L Assessment and will be accessible for a 24-hour period beginning from ***Saturday, December 6, 2025, 12:01 am until Saturday, December 6, 11:59 pm.** Please read the section of this syllabus about testing with Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitoring. You will have a 2-hour block in which to complete the exam once you have accessed it. ***No notes, textbooks, phones, websites, translation apps, AI software, friends etc. should be used. Please do your own work and adhere to the MSU Student Honor Creed.**

Late Work

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

Make Up Work/Tests

No make-up work is accepted, and no make-up quizzes or exams will be offered.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 25-28, 2025 [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: September 22, 2025 [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 24, 2025 [Academic Calendar](#).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

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.

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)

exists 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 WATC. 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

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

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

Course Schedule:

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

Dates	Kapitel	Topics
Week 1-3	Kapitel 1	Hallo und herzlich willkommen!
Week 4-7	Kapitel 2	Mit Familie und Freunde
Midterm Exam, October 12, 2025	(beginning Friday, October 10, 2025, 5:00 pm and ending Sunday, October 12, 2025, 11:59 pm)	Kapitel 1 and 2
Week 8-11	Kapitel 3	Freizeit
Week 12-15	Kapitel 4	Das ganze Jahr
Week 16	Kapitel 1-4	Review for final exam Kapitel 1-4
Final Comprehensive Exam	Exam available in D2L from Saturday, December 6, 2025, 12:01 am until Saturday, December 6, 11:59 pm.	Kapitel 1-4