

GERM 202: Beginners German

Fall 2024 - Winter 2025

Course Goals

Learning a foreign language is an inspiring and challenging experience. This class will enable you to learn the phonetic and grammatical structures of a new language and inform you about current cultural issues at stake in the German-speaking countries. Our emphasis will lie on providing you with a stimulating communicative context, while giving you equal opportunities for developing your listening, speaking, writing and reading skills. A selection of short texts and web-based exercises will complement the cultural content addressed in the textbook. The course aims at introducing you to cultural aspects of the German-speaking countries and practicing German through communicative exercises, however, truly mastering a new language will come only over time.



Prerequisites

- For students with little or no prior knowledge of German.
- Students with prior knowledge of German must obtain permission of the German Language Program Director, Sun-Young Kim. Email: sun-young.kim2@mcgill.ca.
- GERM 202 D1+D2 equals GERM 200, the intensive version of the course. If you take GERM 202, you may not take GERM 200 and vice versa.

Credits: 6 credits

Meeting Times & Locations: 3 hours/week. The meeting times and location are posted on Minerva.

Instructors:

Sec. 1	Fall 2024: Benjamin Sauvé, email: benjamin.sauve@mcgill.ca ; Winter 2025: TBA
Sec. 2	Fall 2024: Annika Burkard, email: annika.burkard@mcgill.ca ; Winter 2025: TBA
Sec. 3	Sun-Young Kim, email: sun-young.kim2@mcgill.ca

Please note:

- **GERM 202 D1+D2 is a full-year course. Students must stay in the same section in both fall and winter terms.**
- The instructors' names, office room numbers, and office hours will be posted on myCourses.
- The classroom number may change in the winter semester. Please confirm your section's room number on Minerva before January 6th, 2025!

Required Materials

- 2 different options of purchasing the required materials:
 - KONTAKTE (**Printed Textbook** + CONNECT with 2-yr access, \$139.95+tx): Erwin Tschirner et al., Kontakte, McGraw-Hill, 9th edition. Available at [Le James Bookstore](#).
 - KONTAKTE ISE (**EBOOK** + CONNECT with 2-yr access, \$99+tx): Erwin Tschirner et al., Kontakte, McGraw-Hill, 9th edition. Available via [Le James Bookstore](#).
- Worksheets and articles with additional readings and grammar exercises on myCourses and CONNECT (publisher's online workbook).

Recommended Materials

ENGLISH GRAMMAR FOR STUDENTS OF GERMAN, Zorach C., Olivia & Hill Press, 7th edition.

<https://oliviahill.com/german-grammar/>

- Both eBook and print versions are available on the McGill's website: [Le James Bookstore](#)
- Recommended online dictionaries: <https://dict.leo.org/german-english/> (EN);
<https://dict.leo.org/franzoesisch-deutsch/> (FR)

Student Accessibility and Achievement

The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures endeavors to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with us and the [Student Accessibility & Achievement](#). If you have a documented disability, please contact Student Accessibility and Achievement as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining recommended accommodations. Please note that last minute requests for accommodations might not be approved.

N.B.: In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Evaluation

Forms of Assessment	Percentages
Participation	10%
Homework	20%
Journal	8% (4 x 2%)
Oral Assessments	10% (2 x 5%)
Compositions	16% (4 x 4%)
Tests	36% (6 x 6%)

Course Requirements & Assignments

Table of Contents

Instructional Method: Flipped Classroom	3
Participation (10%).....	3
Attendance Policies.....	3
Homework (20%)	4
Journal (Tagebuch - 8%).....	4
Oral Assessments (10%).....	5
Compositions (Aufsätze – 16%)	5
Tests (6 x 6% = 36%).....	5
Extracurricular activities	5
Important Policies.....	5
Policy for Assessments.....	5
Use of Mobile Devices in Class	5
Academic Integrity.....	6

Plagiarism and Cheating	6
Generative AI-Tools.....	6
Copyright.....	6
Helpful Resources	7
Wellness.....	7
Workload Management & Study Skills	7
Rubric for Class Participation and Daily Oral Performance.....	8

Instructional Method: Flipped Classroom

The class consists of three class meetings **and** assignments that you are expected to complete on your own. Following the flipped classroom model and the principle of learning by doing, **you will study the grammatical concepts and learn about cultural topics individually at home before participating in class meetings.** We will guide you through this process through a list of activities you should complete before each class meeting. This will allow us to reserve the meetings for practicing and developing your communicative skills, to discuss cultural topics, and to answer your questions on the course materials. If the class needs to be delivered remotely due to extraordinary circumstances at any point in the semester, we will notify you ahead of time and provide a Zoom link.

Participation (10%)

Class time is valuable because you will be able to interact with other students, ask questions, and practice your oral communication skills. During class, we will use many partner- and group activities, which are to be completed entirely in German. You will not be graded on error-free speech, but on your continuous efforts to speak in German. You will progress swiftly if you concentrate on speaking and writing in the target language. This course will provide you with a welcoming, respectful as well as active and fast-paced environment for learning German this year.

Active participation means all the points below and will account for participation grade:



1. not using your mobile phones
2. not using your devices for personal purposes (doing other coursework, looking up words, etc.)
3. completing all preparatory and required work before class
4. always having all the necessary material in class (book, photocopies, readings, etc.)
5. answering questions and volunteering answers on a regular basis
6. being engaged in all in-class activities, including spontaneous partner or group activities that are based on homework assignments
7. speaking in German as often as possible and increasing the use of German over time
8. giving constructive comments that advance the level and depth of classroom dialogue (discussions on assigned readings, roleplays, other types of cooperative work, etc.)
9. asking questions to clarify doubts or to receive a second explanation on the material studied in class

Attendance Policies

You are expected to attend all class meetings in order to fully participate in all class activities. Please note the attendance policy that applies after the add/drop deadline:

- You are allowed 4 unexcused absences (2 per semester) in full-year classes without penalty.
- **Addendum concerning absences due to illness in Winter 2025**
[updated on 12/13/2024]: Following the university's directive concerning absences due to illness, you are required to submit a doctor's note if you are absent for more than 5 consecutive days. The note must be provided within 1 week of the absence.
- If you are unable to attend class for any reason, please contact your instructors in advance.
- Absences for religious reasons are excused, but you inform the instructors ahead of time. For further information see: [University Holy Days Policy](#).

Homework (20%)

- You will find the overviews with weekly topics and important dates here: [Fall 2024](#); [Winter 2025](#).
- Plan on spending at least **1-2 hours on preparing and practicing** before each class. You will find detailed information on preparation for each class meeting and assignments in the detailed homework schedule, posted on myCourses.
- **We expect you to have read through the textbook selections and handouts as indicated in this homework schedule before each class meeting.** If you miss a class, you are expected to study the lecture slides and complete the activities in the class slides (posted on myCourses after a class meeting) on your own. Let your instructor know if you have any questions or need help!
- Most of your activities will be completed on the textbook's online platform CONNECT. Except for the first few weeks of the term, **homework is normally due at 11:59 PM ET (Montreal) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.** However, we recommend that you complete the activities on the suggested dates indicated in the homework schedule. The activities fall into the following categories:
 - **CONNECT: Exercises** (12%) are indicated by the notepad and pencil icon.  Complete the online exercises for each day as indicated in the CONNECT assignment calendar. **10% per day will be deducted for late homework and accepted up to 5 days past the due date.**
 - **CONNECT: Adaptive Learning Assignments** (6%) are indicated by an icon with note cards. **NB:** These activities are NOT AVAILABLE AFTER THE DUE DATE and LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. 
 - **Worksheets and other exercises on CONNECT** and other platforms (6%): **NB:** These activities are NOT AVAILABLE AFTER THE DUE DATE and LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Plan accordingly.
 - Unless otherwise indicated by the instructors, these activities will be graded on a scale of 0 to 3. The points appear as 30, 20, 10, and 0 on CONNECT.
 - **30:** on time, complete, very well-presented, and evidence of effort and creativity, exceeds expectations
 - **20:** on time, complete, well-presented, and evidence of effort
 - **10:** on time, partially complete, evidence of carelessness; late with permission
 - **0:** late or not completed

Journal (Tagebuch - 8%)

- You will compose four (4) hand-written journal entries (~60-80 words per entry; each worth 2 %) on topics from individual textbook chapters, using grammatical structures and vocabulary that we have covered. Examples of possible topics: write about yourself and your family; describe your room. The exact topics and requirements for each entry will be posted on myCourses: *Tagebuch*.
- See the semester overview for due dates. **No late journal entries are accepted.**
- Keep in mind that you MAY NOT use any translating tools or generative AI tools to compose or correct your work. You MAY NOT have any composition, journal entry or any other work corrected or

composed by native speakers. If your instructors believe a composition is not entirely the work of the student who submitted it, they will report the case to the Office of Student Affairs for disciplinary action.

Oral Assessments (10%)

- **Two (2) in-person interviews** (5% for the first interview; 5% for the second one): During the last weeks of each semester, you will sign up for a roleplay **outside of regular class time**, unless otherwise specified by the instructor. The information on oral assessments will be posted at least one month ahead of time on myCourses. Go to **myCourses > Content > Mündliche Aufgaben (Orals)**.

Compositions (Aufsätze – 16%)

- You will write four (4) in-class compositions (approx. 1 page, 2 per semester, each worth 4%). Details, including the assessment criteria will be posted on myCourses.

Tests (6 x 6% = 36%)

- **6 Tests:** 3 per semester. The semester overview (= Semesterübersicht, see pp. 8-9) lists all test dates.

Extracurricular activities

- Throughout a term, you can take advantage of culturally relevant opportunities to earn bonus points. If you do at least 3 extracurricular activities during each semester, you can earn up to a total of 6% toward your class participation grade (2% per activity, up to 6% per semester). For more information, see “Extracurricular activities” on myCourses.

Important Policies

Policy for Assessments

This policy concerns all tests, compositions, and oral assessments: Consult with us ahead of time if you have a legitimate excuse for missing an assessment. Provide us with official documentation, such as a medical note for illness. Make-ups should not be taken for granted, and vacation plans do not constitute grounds for deferring.

Use of Mobile Devices in Class

In support of individual and collective positive classroom experiences, there must be freedom from distraction for fellow students and the instructor. According to research on the use of mobile devices in university classes, these devices can distract students from engaging in class and retaining critical information. Their use can also harm the learning experience of their peers. For more information, view the slides on the following website. The last slide lists resources for taking notes by hand: [Against Laptops & Phones in Class](#).

Mobile computing and communications devices (laptops, tablets, smartphones) are permitted in class ONLY for specific activities with learning apps (e.g. Kahoot!, LearningApps, Slido, etc.).

No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without the explicit permission of the instructor.

Mobile computing and communications devices are not to be used for video or voice calls without the explicit permission of the instructor. **Texting is NOT allowed during class. If you use make calls or text during class, we will reduce your participation grade.**

Academic Integrity

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the [Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures](#)” (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003) (See [McGill's guide to academic honesty](#) and <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity> for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon [le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et procédures disciplinaires](#) » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 29 janvier 2003) (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le [guide pour l'honnêteté académique de McGill](#) et <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity>.)

Plagiarism and Cheating

Everyone will be evaluated based on their own work. Keep the following points in mind when you complete your homework at home, correct the second draft of your compositions at home, and prepare for oral presentations:

- **When you have your work proofread or written by someone else, you are not academically honest.**
- **When you use translation software or online (translation or generative AI) tools, you are not academically honest.**

McGill's handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities explains what plagiarism and cheating means: [Plagiarism and Cheating](#), Articles 16-19. Please read the articles carefully to avoid these academic offenses. If there is reasonable doubt that you plagiarized or cheated, you are free, without penalty of grade, to choose an alternative way of attesting to the authenticity of your work. Some alternatives are:
1) taking an oral examination directed at issues of originality,
2) providing a written report regarding the process of completing the work.

Generative AI-Tools

Unless expressly stated otherwise by the course instructor for a particular task, students may not use any generative AI-tools, such as Chat GPT, to complete any of their assignments.

Copyright

© Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

Helpful Resources

Wellness

Many students may face mental health challenges that can impact not only their academic success but also their ability to thrive in our campus community. Please reach out for support when you need it; [wellness resources](#) are available on campus, off campus, and online. If you need urgent care, you can reach a counsellor 24/7 through [GuardMe](#) or the [My SSP app](#) on your mobile device.

Workload Management & Study Skills

If you are feeling overwhelmed by your academic work and/or would like to further develop your time and workload management skills, don't hesitate to seek support from [Student Services](#). Consult resources from [Teaching and Learning Services](#) (TLS) on topics such as time management, study strategies, group work, exam prep, and more. TLS also offers opportunities to connect with an academic peer mentor through [Stay on Track](#) and to attend workshops. For further individualized support check out the programs and resources from [Student Accessibility & Achievement](#).

Rubric for Class Participation and Daily Oral Performance

Grade	Attentiveness (timeliness, materials, preparedness, no personal device use, etc.)	Contribution (answering, engaging, asking questions, comments)	Use of German (effort in language use)
A Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always on time and pays attention - Always brings necessary materials and demonstrates preparedness - Never uses devices for non-class activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regularly volunteers insightful answers that lead to productive discussions. - Always eager to contribute in all activities - Asks clarification questions when uncertain about instructions or materials - Provides constructive comments and asks engaging questions - Always answers open-ended questions in a complete sentence with detail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consistently speaks in German during class - Uses increasingly complex structures and vocabulary over time.
B Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Usually on time and pays attention most of the time. - Brings necessary materials and demonstrates preparedness. - Seldom uses device for non-class activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frequently participates in in-class and group activities and volunteers - Occasionally asks clarification questions when uncertain about instructions or materials - Comments are useful and advance discussions; questions show good comprehension - Answers question asked without elaborating much. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uses German consistently, with occasional lapses to native language under difficulty.
C Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sometimes late or leaves early - Occasionally forgets material or is unprepared. - Occasionally distracted by devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not volunteer frequently - Sometimes contributes to discussions - Asks questions that demonstrate basic understanding - Answers are brief, not in complete sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally uses German, but often reverts to native language - Shows effort, but lacks consistency
D Needs improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frequently inattentive or distracted - Often late or unprepared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rarely contributes or participates in activities - Seldom asks questions - Seldom provides answers - Minimal contribution to advancing discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primarily relies on English or French - German used only occasionally.
F Unsatisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consistently late or absent without justification. - Lacks necessary materials - Regularly distracted by personal device use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not participate in discussions - Does not volunteer or ask questions. - Does not provide constructive comments - Disrupts classroom dialogue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rarely uses German - Primarily communicates in native language - Shows minimal effort.