



## SYLLABUS

**GERMAN LANGUAGE: BEGINNING**  
**Instructor: Mag.<sup>a</sup> Marie-Christin Lercher**  
**Contact Hrs: 60**  
**Language of Instruction: German**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

### 1. General course description

The course should enable the student to develop communication and comprehension strategies in everyday situations by providing the fundamentals of grammar and encouraging the students to speak about themselves and develop a feeling for and flexibility in usage of situational pattern samples. A general introduction to Austrian life and culture is an integral part of the course.

### 2. Prerequisites

None.

### 3. Objectives of the course

The primary goal of the instruction in the German language is to develop oral communication. Chief emphasis is placed on speaking and listening in order to maintain a high degree of interaction in the classroom and to enhance a sense of continuous, enjoyable achievement. Nevertheless, reading and writing German as well as reaching a considerable accuracy of grammar demands just as much time from the student. To experience authentic communicative situations and to get to know everyday life in Vienna, excursions are made.

### 4. Syllabus

#### *a. Topics*

- Getting in contact (greeting, name...)
- Talking about oneself and others (nationality, studies, profession, hobbies, family...)
- Everyday situation (course, shopping, restaurant, asking for directions...)
- Planning a day with a friend (sport, cinema, theatre...)
- Life in Vienna (culture, media, new home...)
- Alphabet, pronunciation, numbers
- Learning strategies and techniques

#### *b. Grammar*

- Verbs in present tense (conjugation)
- Nouns (articles, plural)
- Cases (active usage of nominative and accusative, usage of dative in standard phrases)
- Negation
- Adjectives
- Personal and possessive pronouns
- Prepositions in specific contexts
- Modal verbs

## 5. Methodology of teaching

The course follows the method of the “Lernspirale” which is to say, the student is provided the grammar and vocabulary he/she needs to initiate and sustain meaningful conversations. Grammatical structures and vocabulary are introduced as need arises in conversation and group discussions. However, some grammatical structures are at times postponed until opportunity arises for the instructor to steer conversation towards a subject inviting if not demanding their explanation.

During the semester the student will regularly acquire new words and phrases, which will contribute to a systematic increase of his/her vocabulary. Students are encouraged to study and use new words, expressions, tenses and so on, independently, but also in small groups in class. Different methods, for example “Lernspiele”, are offered to promote a quick yet solid mastering of the language. Also, the principle of autonomous learning plays an important role in this context, as the student is encouraged to take over responsibility for his/her own learning progress. Outdoor activities will take place in order to enable the students to handle situations with native speakers and to bring them in contact with everyday life in Vienna.

The language of instruction is German. However, questions about the language itself or intercultural issues can be discussed and reflected in English.

## 6. Testing and evaluation

- a. Written Exams during the course: 25%
- b. Final Exam: 25%
- c. Homework: 10%
- d. Participation in class: 40%

### *a. Written exams during the course*

The tests given during the course of each semester cover the topics, grammar and vocabulary presented in the classroom. In general the tests consist of the following parts:

- Listening comprehension
- Reading comprehension
- Grammar (completion of structural grammatical exercises, Answering/finding questions)
- Writing (e. g. Inventing dialogues, composing short essays)

### *b. Final Exam*

The final exam covers the entire grammar, vocabulary and topics presented in the classroom. As well as the tests given during the semester, it consists of the four parts listening comprehension, reading comprehension, grammar and writing.

### *c. Homework*

Students are given a daily homework assignment, which supplies the basis for conversation at the next class meeting and should encourage the student to make rapid and consistent progress throughout course, Therefore it is very important that the assignments are completed in time.

The work comprises

- Learning new vocabulary and grammatical structures
- Questions and answers, short essays and dialogues
- Writing sentences that incorporate examples of grammar studied
- Studying and preparing texts
- Studying for exams

Extra work will be provided for students who require special assistance or help in acquiring certain aspects of the German grammar or for those who desire in-depth studies of a specific topic.

### *d. Participation in class*

Active participation in the classroom is more than just physical presence. It is absolutely necessary in order to train the four language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking)

and make progress in German. Dialogues, role-plays and games make the course lively, but only if the student is well prepared and willing to overcome shyness in speaking foreign language. The making of mistakes in this context need not seem counter-productive, but a creative learning process helping the student discovers new morphological and syntactical structures.

As participation is an integral part in the language acquisition process, there has to be regular attendance. However, absences impede the learning experience and may therefore affect the course grade considerably.

## 7. Material

The students will be provided with the teaching book “Optimal A1” (Lehrbuch und Arbeitsbuch), handouts and supplementary material according to their needs. A binder to collect the handouts will be provided too.