

## Study Preparation German Language Course

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU), München

Course date: March and September  
Class times: 09:30 a.m.-01:00 p.m.  
Lessons: 90  
Students in class: approx.16 students

The IUCM offers German courses for the preparation of studying for the language levels A1-C1 according to the GER (Common European Framework of Reference).

The aim of the preparation course is to prepare linguistically and culturally for studying at the LMU and for living in Munich as a student. In addition to the general language lessons, participants will be taught in vocabulary, grammatical structures and cultural particularities, which are especially relevant for studying. Improvement and consolidation of language skills in German are the focus of the interactive class. A campus orientation is part of the intensive course.

The classes are conducted by experienced staff which is university educated and has a degree in German as a foreign language. The course ends with an internal LMU exam (not like DSH, TestDaF etc. which entitles for a study at the university). Each student receives a certificate with ECTS credits.

### General course description and objectives

This four-week German language course is an intensive class. It is designed for foreign students in all areas of study and provides language training at all levels. The main goal of the course is to combine language training with regional and cultural studies. Thus, each course is designed to teach the language within academic, cultural and societal contexts. Students will deepen their knowledge of Germany, while simultaneously developing their language skills. One focus will be the German higher education system and student life in Germany. The course will also examine and explore social contexts relating to everyday life and culture in Munich. Depending on the language proficiency and interest of each group, further topics (esp. current topics) will be covered regarding German history, society, politics, literature, art, music, German television and movies.

The course aims to promote intercultural learning. Intercultural learning will not be limited to Germans and their culture, but also extend to the participants' cultures. Teachers will therefore strongly encourage communication among participants about their individual cultures.

Extracurricular activities, such as visiting the permanent exhibition "DenkStätte Weiße Rose", will be coordinated in class beforehand and discussed in subsequent classes as follow-up to the excursion.

## Prerequisites and placement procedure

Groups shall be assigned according to the results of an online placement procedure, distributed by email in August. All participants must complete the online placement procedure. This guarantees that the language teaching level within each class is tailored to the ability of the participants.

## Detailed course description

### Elementary Groups (A1, A2) - Beginners (Absolute/Complete Beginners)

This course is intended for students who have no or very limited prior knowledge of German. Participants study the foundational aspects of German grammar, develop their comprehension of low to medium difficulty texts, write short pieces of work, and practice speaking about everyday basic topics. Students will also deal with cultural issues, including topics associated with Munich and its region.

Material used: Course materials are especially compiled for the courses.  
Recommended materials are:

#### Textbooks

Braun, Birgit, Doubek, Margit et al. (2016) DaF kompakt neu A1. Kurs- und Übungsbuch. Stuttgart: Ernst-Klett Sprachen.

Braun, Birgit, Doubek, Margit et al. (2016) DaF kompakt neu A2. Kurs- und Übungsbuch. Stuttgart: Ernst-Klett Sprachen.

Dengler, Stefanie / Rusch, Paul / Schmitz, Helen / Sieber, Tanja (2013) Netzwerk. Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch. München: Klett-Langenscheidt.

#### Grammar book

Buscha, Anne & Szita, Szilvia (2010) A Grammatik. Übungsgrammatik Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Sprachniveau A1 • A2. Leipzig: Schubert Verlag.

Further grammar books may be specified in the course.

#### Supplemental materials

Current audio and film material, some authentic material (literary texts extracts, articles from newspapers and magazines), and material specifically developed for the course.

Requirements/assignments: Regular class attendance

Absences of less than 12 hours (i.e. teaching units) will be tolerated. In case of an absence in excess of 12 teaching units, no credits and no grade will be granted.

#### Active participation in class

**Active participation** will be evaluated based on subjective marks for participation in all class aspects (based on initiative to talk, willingness to communicate, volunteering answers, asking questions, cooperation in a team, etc.) and being prepared for class (including homework assignments). Marks will be used toward calculating the final grade.

### Passing the exams

Participants will write **two exams** based on course themes. The tests will consist of the following sections: vocabulary, phrases, grammar, composition and regional studies.

Evaluation: Active participation in class 40%  
Exams 60%

### **Intermediate (B1 – B2)**

Participants should already have a solid understanding of the grammar topics taught in the beginner course. Teaching is based on: refreshing and expanding participants' current knowledge of German grammar, developing their comprehension of literary texts and articles from newspapers and magazines, and encouraging participants to develop their written and conversational skills on topical subjects.

Material used: Course materials are especially compiled for the courses.  
Recommended materials are:

#### Textbooks

Braun, Birgit, Doubek, Margit et al (2016) DaF kompakt neu B1. Kurs- und Übungsbuch. Stuttgart: Ernst-Klett Sprachen.

Ute Koithan, Helen Schmitz et al. (2014) Aspekte neu B1 plus. Stuttgart: Ernst Klett Sprachen.

Ute Koithan, Helen Schmitz et al. (2015) Aspekte neu B2. Stuttgart: Ernst Klett Sprachen.

Birgit Braun (2014) Mittelpunkt neu B1+. Lehr- und Arbeitsbuch.

Albert Daniels et al. (2012) Mittelpunkt neu B2. Lehr- und Arbeitsbuch. Stuttgart: Ernst Klett Sprachen.

#### Grammar book

Hering, Axel et al. (2009) Übungsgrammatik für die Mittelstufe. Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Ismaning: Hueber.

Further grammar books may be specified in the course.

#### Supplemental materials

Primarily authentic materials consisting of current media such as literary texts extracts, newspaper and magazine articles, and audio and film material.

Requirements/assignments: Regular class attendance  
Absences of less than 12 hours (i.e. teaching units) will be tolerated. In case of an absence in excess of 12 teaching units, no credits and no grade will be granted.

#### Active participation in class

Active participation will be evaluated based on subjective marks for participation in all class aspects (based on initiative to talk, willingness to communicate, volunteering answers,

asking questions, cooperation in a team, etc.) and being prepared for class (including homework assignments). Marks will be used toward calculating the final grade.

#### Oral presentation

The oral presentation is a short individual presentation as part of a group presentation on a given topic. Length of each presentation will be **2-3 minutes**.

#### Passing the final exam

Participants will write a final exam based on course themes. The test will consist of the following sections: vocabulary, phrases, grammar, composition and regional studies.

Evaluation: Active participation in class 24%  
Oral presentation 36%  
Final exam 40%

### **Advanced and Proficient (C1)**

The advanced and proficient level is suitable only for participants who are already fluent in German. Participants develop their capacity to analyze and discuss texts covering different aspects of German literature, culture, and society. Teaching at this level is weighted more on improvement of style and idiom use, and less on grammar skills. Grammatical structures will be covered according to the needs of the course members. We will also concentrate on language as specifically pertaining to academic study.

Material used: Various types of current texts such as literature, newspaper and magazine articles, academic articles, technical reports relating to specific fields, and audio / film materials.

#### Textbooks

Ute Koithan, Helen Schmitz et al. (2016) Aspekte neu C1. Stuttgart: Ernst Klett Sprachen.

Buscha, Anne et al. (2009) Erkundungen C1. Integriertes Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch. Leipzig: Schubert Verlag.

Ilse Sander et al. (2013) Mittelpunkt neu C1. Lehr- und Arbeitsbuch. Stuttgart: Ernst Klett Sprachen.

Requirements/assignments: Regular class attendance  
Absences of less than 12 hours (i.e. teaching units) will be tolerated. In case of an absence in excess of 12 teaching units, no credits and no grade will be granted.

#### Active participation in class

Active participation will be evaluated based on subjective marks for participation in all class aspects (based on initiative to talk, willingness to communicate, volunteering answers, asking questions, cooperation in a team, etc.) and being prepared for class (including homework assignments). Marks will be used toward calculating the final grade.

### Oral presentation

The oral presentation is a short individual presentation as part of a group presentation on a given topic. Length of each presentation will be **2-3 minutes**.

### Passing the final exam

Participants will write a final exam based on course themes. The test will consist of the following sections: vocabulary, phrases, grammar, composition and regional studies.

### Evaluation:

Active participation in class 24%

Oral presentation 36%

Final exam 40%

## Grade / Credits / Transcripts

### Contact hour requirements\*:

90 contact hours (morning classes and compulsory excursions)

**Credits:** 6 ECTS

### General Course requirements:

- regular attendance (maximum failure time: 12 teaching units)
- doing homework
- active participation in class
- presentation of a study relevant topic ("Referat")
- preparation of a briefing paper for the audience ("Handout")
- admission to & passing the written exam at the end of the course

### Transcripts:

Every student will receive an official transcript after successful completion of all program requirements. The transcript will show the course name and contact hours, the number of acquired credits as well as grade achieved.

### Credit transfer:

Most international colleges and universities accept credits from the LMU Language Preparation Course, however each institution has its own policy regarding credit acceptance from other institutions. We strongly recommend that students consult their academic advisor and / or professor in order to receive credit transfer approval before applying to the LMU Language Preparation Course. Students who would like to transfer credits to their home universities should print out all documentation to present to either their professor or study abroad advisor when asking for credit and grade approval.

### Grading scale:

The grading scale of the German Language Course is based on LMU general grading system.

LMU Grade	ECTS Grade
1.0	A
1.3	A
1.7	B
2.0	B
2.3	B
2.7	C
3.0	C
3.3	D
3.7	E
4.0	E
NA	F
NA	F

\* One contact hour comprises 45 minutes = 1 teaching unit