

# GERM 1010-001

## Elementary German I

### Course Information

Fall 2021

Tennessee Tech University

Dr. Martin P. Sheehan



Class time: TR 1:30-2:45, OKLY 219 (**on campus, face to face**)

Office: Oakley Hall 227

Phone: 931-372-6535

Office Hours: M 10:00-12:00, W 1:30-3:00pm. You can also email me to schedule a virtual meeting.

Email: [msheehan@tntech.edu](mailto:msheehan@tntech.edu)

(checked M-F at 10am & 4pm. Please allow up to 24 hours for a response, 48 hours on weekends and holidays)

### Course Description

This course, the first in the three semester German sequence at Tennessee Technological University, is designed to develop your ability to communicate in German while increasing your general vocabulary and comprehension skills. A mixture of monitored, in-class interactions and online, at-home exercises will help you improve your ability to interpret the language, interact in the language, and present your ideas to others. All class activities will also increase your cultural awareness. At the end of the course, successful learners should be able to handle novice level tasks, such as communicating and exchanging information about familiar topics as well as engaging in short social interactions in everyday situations. The class will be conducted in German. (3 Credits)  
Prerequisites: Students at this level are NOT expected to be familiar with basic German vocabulary or grammar structures.

### Required Materials

Text: Netzwerk neu A1.1 (Combined Half Edition) *Kurs- und Übungsbuch mit Audios und Videos* (ISBN 9783126071543)

### Major Teaching Methods

This course's major teaching methods will include, but are not limited to: discussion and application of textbook readings and activities (in individual, pair, and group constellations), along with classroom presentations and simulations.

### Course Topics

Producing and comprehending novice level sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. basic personal and family information, hobbies, abilities, local geography, shopping, travel, employment, etc.). Appropriately posing and responding to novice level questions. Constructing knowledge from a variety of basic German language texts.

### COVID – 19 University Protocols

1. Each student must take personal responsibility for knowing and following the university's COVID-19 protocols. Students are expected to follow all COVID-19 directives published by Tennessee Tech on its official COVID-19 webpage: [www.tntech.edu/covid19](http://www.tntech.edu/covid19).
2. As conditions related to the pandemic change, the university's COVID-19 protocols are also likely to change. Students are expected to monitor the university's official COVID-19 webpage to stay up to date on all university COVID-19 protocols.
3. If the university's COVID-19 protocols include the wearing of face coverings inside campus facilities, then face coverings **must be worn** covering the mouth and nose. Protocols will apply to all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.
4. Students who refuse to comply with university protocols will be reported to the Tennessee Tech Dean of Students.
5. Students should direct all requests for excused class absences related to COVID-19 to Tennessee Tech's Health Services by following the student link at the following website: [www.tntech.edu/covid19/report.php](http://www.tntech.edu/covid19/report.php) . The Office of Student Affairs will provide notifications to faculty members of student absences and the expected length of the absence.
6. Students can get a COVID-19 vaccine on campus at Tech Health Services. Call ahead to schedule at (931) 372-3320. COVID-19 vaccines are given free of charge daily, as well as testing.
7. Per CDC guidelines, you are considered fully vaccinated:
  - a. 2 weeks after your second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, OR
  - b. 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will

- **Understand** most written and spoken Spanish selected for beginning learners  
[Communication: Interpretive (Listen, Read/View)];
- **Speak and write** in simple sentences with minor grammatical errors that do not impede communication  
[Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Write, Listen)]  
[Communication: Presentational (Speak, Write, Listen)];
- **Speak** with pronunciation sufficiently accurate so as not to impede communication  
[Communication: Presentational (Speak, Listen, Read/View)];
- **Ask and answer** oral and written questions related to familiar topics, such as personal information, school, careers, family, actions, and daily activities  
[Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Write, Listen, Read/View)];
- **Describe** people, places, and things in the present  
[Communication: Presentational (Speak, Write, Listen, Read/View)];
- **Converse** on an elementary level, observing basic courtesy requirements and social demands of the culture  
[Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Listen, Read/View)]
- **Understand** the diverse culture of the German-speaking world and describe some of its basic geographical facts  
[Cultures (Relating Cultural Products to Perspectives)]

Students will also gain enduring lessons, such as:

- learning a foreign language is a doorway to a social medium that provides new information and perspectives about other ways of life
- learning a foreign language does not simply involve a one to one translation from your first language
- learning a foreign language involves developing and deploying multiple communication skills to address common and specific needs

### ADA Statement

Students requiring accommodations should contact the Accessible Education Center (AEC). An Accommodation Request (AR) should be completed as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the first week of the course. The AEC is located in the Roaden University Center, Room 112; phone 372-6119. For details, view Tennessee Tech's Policy 340 – Services for Students with Disabilities at [Policy Central](#).

### University Plagiarism Policy

Maintaining high standards of academic integrity in every class at Tennessee Tech is critical to the reputation of Tennessee Tech, its students, alumni, and the employers of Tennessee Tech graduates. The Student Academic Misconduct Policy describes the definitions of academic misconduct and policies and procedures for addressing Academic Misconduct at Tennessee Tech. For details, view Tennessee Tech's Policy 217 – Student Academic Misconduct at [Policy Central](#).

Plagiarism, in any form, will not be tolerated, nor will any other behavior that undermines academic integrity.

Grading	
30%	Engagement (quality and quantity)
20%	Homework
5%	Vocabulary Lists
25%	Tests
10%	FlipGrid Videos
10%	Cultural Connection Portfolio
100%	Total


### Explanations

#### Engagement (30% combined)

Because this course will be taught on campus, regular attendance is necessary and expected. Your engagement grade, though, is based on much more than just showing up; you are expected to engage meaningfully in our class. Meaningful engagement means speaking, writing, and collaborating in pair and group exercises, volunteering thoughtful answers, and completing all in-class and at-home assignments. The ultimate criterion in determining your grade will be the extent to which you help create, support, and contribute to our classroom's positive learning environment. When possible, we will develop our communicative skills through pair/small group work and conversations while observing social distancing requirements. Classroom discussions stress communication over grammatical accuracy, because language is much more than a system to be learned.

Learning any foreign language can be frustrating at first—as a non-native speaker, I know this first-hand. Nevertheless, like any skill, the more you practice, the better you become. Therefore, avoid translating into English and translating your ideas directly from English to German. Try your best to work only in the foreign language. Enjoy the limitation and accept that you will make mistakes—it's part of the learning process. And because we should expect to make mistakes as we learn together this semester, we all must keep positive attitudes and our classroom must be a positive learning environment. This positive learning environment requires you to stay on-task. If during partner work your group finishes early, you are expected to complete the exercise again (switching roles if possible) until the allotted time has elapsed

If anyone in class (including Herr Sheehan) feels compelled to ask or say something in English, then they must ask "Darf ich etwas auf Englisch fragen/sagen?" and wait for permission. Any discussions in English will negatively impact your engagement grade.

: CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS TIME. If you are seen off task on your phone, you will receive a zero for the day.

#### Homework (20%)

Textbook/workbook exercises will be assigned for each class meeting. You will always have something to prepare for our next session. This daily preparation is important when learning the language, but more importantly, it forms the basis for informed class participation and understanding. As is the norm in higher education, you can expect to spend about **two hours** outside of class on homework. Homework will be checked during our warm-up phase. You will have multiple types of homework assignments in this course:

- KB (Kursbuch) exercises will require you to work independently as you interpret texts (visual, written, aural) and/or test out new structures or vocabulary. A number of KB exercises will prompt you to reflect on your personal values, history, and/or intentions, which you must prepare before class—written out or in bullet point format
- ÜB (Übungsbuch) exercises target specific vocabulary, communication structures, and/or discourse markers. Answer keys to the Übungen sections will be given for each Lektion. You are required to evaluate and correct these assignments before you come to class.

I will check both kinds of homework assignments during our warm-up phase. Virtual students will be expected to post photographs of completed assignments on our course's iLearn page. Corrections must be very clear (use red ink).

#### Vocabulary Lists (5%)

Each Lektion in our textbook provides you with vocabulary words that are relevant and current. You must provide the English equivalents for each entry contained on the vocabulary pages at the end of each Lektion's Übungsteil. You will also need to select a number of terms from the list that you deem of particular relevance for you or that you believe you will use frequently.

#### Tests (25%)

This course will evaluate your progress towards our learning goals via tests and projects designed to help you showcase what you are learning. The tests will assess to what extent students have been learning effectively in and out of our classroom. Our tests will be

inspired by textbook, workbook, and classroom assignments, and each test will cover the material of a single Lektion. Each test will be completed in class and should take 45 minutes or less.

#### FlipGrid Videos (10%)

At the end of some Lektionen, you will record a short video/audio answer to a prompt from class. These prompts will be connected directly to the communication proficiency that we are trying to develop. For example, you might be asked to introduce yourself and spell your name, or you might be asked to talk about your weekly schedule. These short recordings will help us see the progress you are making this semester.

#### Cultural Connections Portfolio (10%)

Along with uncertainty it has unleashed, one opportunity that has arisen from the pandemic is the amount of events and activities that can now be experienced virtually. It is now easier than ever to attend insight talks, entertaining concerts, and other cultural events online. This semester, you will be required to consume or attend a product of German culture online and then write a short reflection paper in which you connect that product to this course and your life/interests. Over the course of the next weeks, you will choose to watch 3 of the 4 options below:

- a German language music video (perhaps a classic “Schlager” or a more recent pop hit on the German charts)
- a non-music videotext (perhaps a “Let’s Play” video, an “[Easy German](#)” video YouTube, Vimeo)
- an [academic talk](#) (this can be in English over a German topic) perhaps via the Goethe Institute’s Kulturama page
- an episode of a German TV show or a German language film/documentary (subtitled in English)

More details and examples will be provided as the semester progresses.

#### Expectations for completing assignments and receiving course instruction if physical attendance is not possible.

In the case that physical attendance is not possible at any point this semester (due to quarantining, illness, or a necessary pivot to all online instruction across the university), the following is expected:

- All written homework assignments must be completed, checked against the answer keys provided, and uploaded to the corresponding “Assignment” on our iLearn page.
- When possible, audio/visual captures of on campus instruction will be posted on our class MS Teams page in the corresponding “recordings” section.
- Engagement grades will come from written assignments (such as homework assignments) and extra Flipgrid discussions that will be assigned and completed weekly.
- Students will be responsible for recording and uploading projects and presentations within a discussion forum on iLearn or Flipgrid, so that peer feedback can be provided.
- In the event that all university courses move to online environments, instruction will take place via video conferencing tools (Zoom, Microsoft Teams) whenever possible and appropriate.

This syllabus is subject to change. Any substantial changes will be announced in class, via email, and on iLearn.