

# GERM 2010

## Intermediate German I

### Course Information

Fall 2020

Tennessee Tech University

Dr. Martin P. Sheehan



Class time: TR 12:00-1:20, OKLY 219 **(on campus, face to face)**

Office: Oakley Hall 228

Phone: 931-372-6535

Virtual Office Hours: M 10:00-12:00, W 1:30-3:00pm. Please email me to schedule a 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

Continuation of the essentials of German, developing listening and reading comprehension, oral and written communication, and cultural understanding begun in 1010-1020. Review as necessary. Foreign language majors must pass this course with a grade of C or better in order to continue to the next course in the sequence. Prerequisite: GERM 1020.

### Required Materials

Text: *Netzwerk neu A2.1: Kurs- und Übungsbuch mit Audios und Videos* (ISBN 978-3-12-607162-8)

### 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 intermediate 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 intermediate level questions. Constructing knowledge from a variety of basic German language texts. Discussing leisure activities, German school types and subjects, media, film, celebrations, emotions, cities, banking, job interviews, professional activities, train travel.

### COVID – 19

1. Students must take personal responsibility in following the recommended CDC COVID-19 guidelines. Students are expected to follow all COVID-19 directives published by Tennessee Tech including, but not limited to, notices on Tennessee Tech's webpage, building and facilities signage, and similar publications. The university's Return to Campus Student Handbook can be found [here](#).
2. According to Tennessee Tech University's protocols, face coverings must be worn (covering the mouth and nose) by students in the classroom at all times.
3. Students must abide by predetermined social distancing guidelines and seating arrangements. Movement during class sessions should be limited as to not endanger other students or faculty. Students should be conscious and respectful of others and their health concerns.
4. Students who refuse to comply with university protocols on these matters will be reported to the Tennessee Tech Dean of Students.
5. Students should direct all requests for excused class absences related to COVID-19, regardless of where the COVID-19 testing is performed, to Tennessee Tech's Health Services. The Office of Student Affairs will provide notifications to faculty members of student absences and the expected length of the absence.

### Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, the successful student will demonstrate the ability to

- **Understand** most written and spoken German at the intermediate level (A2.1)  
*[Communication: Interpretive (Listen, Read/View)]*
- **Speak and write** in complex 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 topics such as the household, nature, city life, health and well-being, professions and occupations, and entertainment  
*[Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Write, Listen, Read/View)]*
- **Express** opinions, doubts, demands to and about others  
*[Communication: Presentational (Speak, Write, Listen, Read/View)]*  
*[Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Write, Listen, Read/View)]*
- **Describe** events in the future  
*[Communication: Presentational (Speak, Write, Listen, Read/View)]*
- **Begin to express** themselves hypothetically  
*[Communication: Presentational (Speak, Write, Listen, Read/View)]*  
*[Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Write, Listen, Read/View)]*
- **Converse** at an intermediate level, observing courtesy requirements and social demands of German-speaking 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

	Grading
20%	Engagement (quality and quantity)
20%	Homework
10%	Vocabulary Lists
20%	Tests
20%	Projects
10%	Cultural Connection Portfolio
100%	Total

### 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 the 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 the 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.

## Explanations

### Engagement (20% combined)

Due to the on-going pandemic, grades will not be given for traditional attendance. Instead, you must engage meaningfully in our class, regardless of how you engage (in person or online.) 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, both virtually and in person.

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 (15%)

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 (15%)

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 (20%)

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 online and should take 30 minutes or less.

### Projects

(20%) At the end of some Lektionen, you will investigate a specific topic within a German-speaking context. For example, you might research a top German university or a promising apprenticeship opportunity. In the projects, you are expected to exhibit your current level of language proficiency, cultural awareness, and content mastery.

### Cultural Connections Portfolio (10%)

Along with the fear and 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 the 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 will be given 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 iLearn in the corresponding “content” section.
- Engagement grades will come from written assignments (such as homework assignments) and 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.