

German 325**Intensive Advanced German Language Course****Winter 2024**Photo by Marcel Strauß on UnsplashThis Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC-BY-SAPhoto by Christian Wiediger on Unsplash

The class meeting times and location are on [Minerva](#).

Instructor Contact Information & Office Hours:

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Office hours: MW, 10:30-11:30 AM & by appointment, in person **or** online. Please book a time with me on [my Bookings page](#) or email me. You will find additional times and can book me 2 weeks in advance.

Course Goals: The main goal of the Intensive Advanced German course (6 credits) is to prepare students for upper-level literature and culture courses in the German language. This is a four-skills course, which means students will be working on improving their skills in reading, listening, speaking, and writing. At this level, they will increase their reading speed, develop their ability to discuss and interpret literary and non-literary texts and to explore a variety of social, historical, cultural, and political topics with others. In keeping with the main course goal, students will expand their vocabulary and practice the art of expressing themselves in concise, precise written form. In addition, they will practice listening comprehension and strengthen their oral communicative competence in various modes of discussion, presentation, and everyday conversation.

Pre-requisites: German 300 or German 307 (D1 & D2) or equivalent or permission of the German unit. Please contact me if you have not taken any German language courses at McGill.

Credits: 6 credits. N.B.: The workload for an intensive course is the equivalent of the workload for two courses.

Required Text (available at the McGill Bookstore):

- *Grammatik Aktiv B2-C1*, Cornelsen, 2017.

Handouts, Links, and Films: Additional texts, instructions for activities, grammar exercises, and links for films will be posted on myCourses. The list of regular homework will be posted under Content > Hausaufgaben > Hausaufgabenplan. When readings are assigned, **please download and print out the texts before class**. For films that are not available for streaming, I will organize screenings outside of regular class time. For students who cannot attend the screenings, I will put the films on reserve at the McLennan Library.

Recommended Reference Works (McLennan Library)

- Wahrig, Gerhard. *Deutsches Wörterbuch*. Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Lexikon, 2001.
- Martin Durrell, *Hammer's German Grammar and Usage*. London: Hodder Education, 2011.

Reference Online:

- Das Digitale Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache des 20. Jahrhunderts (<http://www.dwds.de/>)
- Duden Online (<http://www.duden.de/>)
- LEO Online Wörterbuch (<https://www.leo.org/german-english/>)
- BEOLINGUS (<https://dict.tu-chemnitz.de/>)

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

Attendance & Participation	10%
Homework & Preparation	25%
2 Tests (20%) & 3 Quizzes (15%)	35%
3 Essays	15%
1 Oral Presentation	5%
Final Project	10%

Course Requirements & Assignments

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Instructional Method: Flipped Classroom

The class consists of four class meetings (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays). Following the flipped classroom model and the principle of learning by doing, **you will study the grammatical concepts and read texts at home before participating in class meetings.** I will guide you through this process through homework assignments you should complete before each class. This will allow us to reserve meeting times for practicing and developing your communicative skills and to discuss the readings and other course materials.

Attendance and Participation (10%)

To succeed in this course, it is necessary to attend class regularly and prepare thoroughly. (You will find a rubric for class participation and daily oral performance on the last page of this syllabus.) 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 improving your German this year. You will find the [rubric for class participation](#) on the last page of this syllabus.

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

1. attending class
2. arriving to class on time
3. not using your smartphone/devices for personal purposes (texting, doing other coursework, etc.)
4. completing all preparatory and required work before class
5. always having all the necessary material in class (book, photocopies, readings, etc.)
6. answering questions and volunteering answers on a regular basis
7. making a concerted effort to always use German
8. being engaged in all in-class activities
9. giving constructive comments that advance the level and depth of classroom dialogue (discussions on assigned readings, roleplays, other types of cooperative work, etc.)
10. asking questions to clarify doubts or to receive a second explanation on the class materials

Attendance Policies

- You may miss up to two (2) classes. If you miss more than two classes, you must present an authorized notification specifying the exact date(s) and time of your absence within a week. **Otherwise, 5 % per absence will be deducted from your participation grade.** If you are unable to attend class for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact me.
- Absences for religious reasons are excused, but you inform the instructors ahead of time. For further information see: [University Holy Days Policy](#).

Homework (Hausaufgaben) (25%)

Homework consists of reading, vocabulary exercises, preparations for speaking activities in class, grammar activities, listening exercises, and written and oral activities on educational platforms. Daily assignments will be posted under “Hausaufgaben” on myCourses: Content > Hausaufgaben > Hausaufgabenplan. Please keep informed of the weekly assignments and any changes. It is expected that you come to class prepared. Note the following:

- **Written grammar exercises will be collected on a bi-weekly basis** through assignments on myCourses, unless otherwise indicated. This collection schedule is designed to give you some flexibility, so that you have time to review or revise your written answers if necessary. Please read the detailed information on grammar exercises below.

- **Films:** As part of your homework, **you will watch films outside the regularly scheduled class time.** Screenings will be organized and announced in a timely manner. Copies of the film will be made available on reserve at the [Humanities and Social Sciences Library](#).
- **Late homework will be accepted with deduction up to 2 days after the due date. No late homework will be accepted after this grace period unless you have a legitimate reason.** In such cases, you must provide me with official documentation, such as a medical note for illness.
Unless otherwise indicated, homework will be graded on a scale of 1-3:
 - 3: on time, complete, very well-presented, and evidence of effort and creativity
 - 2: partially complete and/or evidence of carelessness; very good, but late by 1-2 days
 - 1: of poor quality (i.e. error-filled, sloppy, not well presented)
 - 0: late or not completed

Grammar Exercises

The grammar homework will be from *Grammatik Aktiv* or from handouts on myCourses. While the homework should be done daily, they will be collected in bundles on a bi-weekly basis, on a date announced by the instructor. Note the following guidelines:

- The grammar explanations in the grammar book/handout must be read thoroughly, and only the assigned pages should be submitted.
- **Homework consists of the exercises and corrections.** Self-correction helps learners gain insight into problems they might be having with selected structures. **Answers in the Arbeitsheft must be corrected carefully with the distributed answer key (Lösungsschlüssel) in the back of the book or on myCourses. Use a different colour pen for the corrections.** If everything is correct a big check mark over/next to the exercise will suffice. 50% will be deducted if your homework is not self-corrected.
- Not all the chapters of the grammar book will be covered this semester. It is therefore highly recommended that you go over chapters not addressed in class on your own for additional practice.

Handouts & Schreibaufgaben

- For several readings and videos, you will be required to complete exercises on handouts (posted on myCourses). Your sentences on the handouts must reflect that you spent reasonable time (i.e. about one hour), unless you gain an understanding of the text in a shorter period.
- A few times in the term, you will write short compositions. These writing exercises will help you verbalize your reflections and serve as a practice for the larger scale compositions. It is essential that you further build on your skills of expressing yourself in your own words in precise and accurate way, to experiment with the linguistic means at your disposal, and incorporating new vocabulary and grammatical structures you have learnt in the course.

Tests (20%) & Quizzes (15%)

The dates for 2 tests and 3 quizzes are indicated on myCourses > Kursinformation > **Semesterübersicht**. Please take note of the test and quiz dates. Changes will be announced ahead of time on myCourses > Announcements. If you must miss a test/quiz due to medical or university sanctioned activities, contact me ahead of time, provide proper documentation, and arrange to write the test/quiz. Otherwise, you will receive a zero for a missed test/quiz.

Essays (Aufsätze) (15%)

You will write 3 essays in class. The papers will be graded on content, form, vocabulary, and use of grammatical structures. Information about each essay will be posted on myCourses in a timely manner.

If you miss an essay, you cannot make it up unless you have a legitimate reason and provide me with proper documentation.

Oral presentation (5%)

You will give one presentation alone or in pairs. The topics of the presentations will be culled from the overall thematic context of the course. The presentations will be held during the regular class time, unless otherwise specified. Guidelines and tips for the oral presentation will be posted under “Referate” on myCourses.

Final group presentation (10%)

The final project is intended to further your interest in contemporary German culture and language and to showcase the knowledge and linguistic abilities they have deepened over the course of the term. The project consists of a presentation and student-led activities. Further information will be distributed later in the term.

Extracurricular activities

During the semester, you can take advantage of culturally relevant opportunities to earn bonus points. These will be announced on myCourses. If you participate in at least 3 extracurricular events during the semester, you can earn up to bonus points (6%) toward your class participation grade. Extracurricular events include participation in the Stammtisch or Kaffeestunde hosted by McGill’s German Student Association. For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/GSAMcgill/>. You will find more information and a detailed list of examples on myCourses > Discussions > Extracurriculare Aktivitäten.

Important Policies

Policy for Assessments

This policy concerns all tests, quizzes, essays, 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.

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 me and the [Student Accessibility & Achievement](#). Tel.: 514-398-6009 (option #1 or #2). 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.

Wellness

Your mental health is important to us! We realize that balancing your academic life with your work and private life can be a daunting task, especially if you are dealing with mental health issues. Therefore, if you struggle with anxiety or depression, it is important to let us know immediately and to keep the lines of communication open.

The university has a wealth of resources on the [Student Wellness Hub](#) to support students' mental health, including [workshops](#) and aides for [self-directed care](#). If you need immediate care, you can reach a counsellor 24/7 through [keep.meSAFE](#) or the [My SSP app](#) on your mobile device.

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.).

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.**

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

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.

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 on the basis of 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) 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.

Appendix: Rubric for Class Participation & Daily Oral Performance

	Attentiveness	Contribution	Use of German	Deductions per Absence
A range Expectations are exceeded	Student always pays attention, brings required handouts, etc. before class, stays consistently engaged (e.g. student responds to questions class, etc.)	The student is always eager to contribute in class, during partner and small-group activities, and asks questions. The student is prepared when called upon and always answers open-ended questions in a complete sentence with some detail.	The student attempts to consistently speak in German during class time.	
B range expectations are met	The student pays attention most of the time (e.g. camera is mostly on in online sessions, student responds to questions contributes in groups.)	The student is eager to contribute in class and in break-out room activities and occasionally asks questions. The student is mostly prepared when called upon and answers the question asked without elaborating.	The student tries to speak German most of the time.	2 unexcused absences are permitted without deduction. 5% per absence are deducted from the attendance & participation grade
C range expectations are met adequately	The student pays attention sometimes and at other times is clearly distracted. Student leaves early.	The student is occasionally eager to contribute in class, in group and pair work activities and ask questions sometimes. The student volunteers answers sometimes. The student does not answer open-ended questions in complete sentences but in 2 or 3 word phrases.	The student sometimes speaks in German, but often switches to English or French.	
D to F expectations are not met (adequately)	The student rarely pays attention.	The student almost never contributes in class, in group and pair work activities, never asks questions or volunteers answers.	The student speaks German only occasionally but speaks English or French most of the time.	