



## **GR 301 GERMAN LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT: EMERGING INDEPENDENT ABROAD I**

IES Abroad Berlin

**DESCRIPTION:** Students entering this level must be able to fulfill the learning outcomes of the Novice Abroad level, as defined by the IES Abroad MAP for Language and Intercultural Communication. Specifically, they should already be able to express themselves on a variety of concrete, everyday topics and meet their basic needs in the language. Students who enter this level may be more proficient in reading and writing skills than oral communication, especially if they have never traveled or studied abroad previously. Although students may have been exposed previously to certain competencies taught at this level, they need additional practice and instruction to move toward mastery of these competencies. Students at this level may succeed in partner university courses (when offered through the local Center) as long as such courses are primarily designed for international students and/or require passive student linguistic participation (art studios, dance). As students gain more self-awareness and self-confidence, they will attempt more in the community. Paradoxically, this means they may also experience more miscommunications and frustration. Reading and writing require effort, and many students will need to make a special effort in this regard. Students will also develop cultural awareness and skills to work through the challenges of adaptation in the local culture and learn to celebrate their successes. They will begin to appreciate the value of these language and intercultural skills. This course builds upon skills introduced in Novice Abroad. By the end of the course, the successful student will have begun to develop some communicative and cultural self-confidence necessary to attempt moderately complex tasks in the language, as described in the learning outcomes below.

**CREDITS:** 4

**CONTACT HOURS:** 60

**LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION:** German

**PREREQUISITES:** Proficiency at a level equivalent to IES Abroad's Novice Abroad, as determined by placement test.

**METHOD OF PRESENTATION:**

Participation in class discussion, homework, essays, Moodle, field studies, presentations, reading and listening comprehensions, classroom dialogues, role plays, group work, oral presentations, interviews.

**REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:**

- Midterm exam - 20%
- Final exam - 20 %
- Oral work - 30%
- Weekly short exams - 20%
- Presentations - 10%

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Specht et. al., Zwischendurch mal... Landeskunde, ISBN 3193010022
- Billina, Fit in Grammatik B1, ISBN 3196074935

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Students who are placed in this level should have achieved the outcomes in the Novice Abroad level as defined by the IES Abroad MAP for Language and Intercultural Communication.



By the end of the course, students will be able to achieve some of the outcomes for the Emerging Independent Abroad level as defined by the MAP for Language and Intercultural Communication. The key learning outcomes from the MAP are summarized below:

I. Intercultural Communication

- A. Increasingly, students will be able to make informed comparisons between the host culture and the students' home cultures.
- B. Students will be able to distinguish between verbal and nonverbal communication that reflects politeness, formality, or informality.
- C. Students will be able to recognize simple patterns of intonation and their meaning.
- D. Students will be able to solve some daily unexpected situations and meet needs with limited help.

II. Listening

- A. Students will be able to understand some interactions (media, speeches, music, conversations, etc.), especially if the speaker is used to interacting with non-native speakers.
- B. Students will be able to understand direct requests, questions, and simple conversations on familiar and concrete topics.

III. Speaking

- A. Students will be able to talk to a limited extent about persons and things in their immediate environment, as well as their plans and their experiences.
- B. Students will be able to address moderately complicated situations involving familiar subjects.

IV. Reading

- A. Students will be able to read passages and uncomplicated longer texts (simple narratives, detailed instructions, etc.) on familiar topics and understand the general meaning.
- B. Students will be able to support their understanding of texts through the use of context, visual aids, dictionaries, or with the assistance of others in order to facilitate comprehension.

V. Writing

- A. Students will be able to communicate with some effectiveness through notes, emails, and simple online discussions and chats.
- B. Students will be able to write short essays on concrete topics of limited levels of complexity and accuracy, and with reliance on the communicative patterns of their native language.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

For our up-to-date attendance and exam policy, see: <https://moodle.iesabroad.org/mod/page/view.php?id=1004317>.

**CONTENT:**

| Week | Content | Assignments | Corresponding Learning Outcome(s) |
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| <b>Week 1</b> | <p><b>1. Functional:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introducing yourself</li> <li>German for everyday use</li> <li>Phrases to get along</li> <li>Describing places, persons, objects, and atmosphere</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Grammatical:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of verb position (<i>W-Fragen, Ja/Nein-Fragen</i>)</li> <li>Review of conjugation of regular, irregular and separable verbs in present tense</li> <li>rules for gender and nouns</li> <li><i>haben</i> and <i>sein</i> in past tense</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Vocabulary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Places and activities in the city</li> <li>Key data to Potsdam and Frederick the Great</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Culture:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploring the city</li> <li>Visiting a museum</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviewing classmates</li> <li>Writing a text about yourself</li> <li>Moodle: making notes of labels, signs, inscriptions etc. in town</li> <li>Reading articles about Potsdam and Berlin</li> <li>Field study: Exploring the city</li> <li>Excursion to Potsdam</li> <li>Presentation and performing facts about Frederick the Great</li> </ul> | II.B., III.A., IV.A., V.A., V.,B.  |
| <b>Week 2</b> | <p><b>1. Functional:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about free-time activities</li> <li>Making arrangements and plans for the weekend</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Grammatical:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future 1</li> <li>Perfect tense for regular, irregular and separable verbs</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Vocabulary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocabulary related to free-time activities</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Culture:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spare time activities in Germany</li> <li>Board games</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading newspapers for upcoming events</li> <li>Writing suggestions for a weekend in town</li> <li>Interviewing staff or classmate about their free time</li> <li>Practicing perfect tense with different exercises</li> <li>Oral presentation: presenting one board game from the U.S.</li> </ul>                                                 | II.B., III.A., III.B., IV.A., V.A. |

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| <b>Week 3</b> | <b>1. Functional:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expressing likes and dislikes</li> <li>Writing detailed instructions</li> <li>Giving advice</li> </ul> <b>2. Grammatical:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Past tense of regular, irregular and modal verbs</li> <li>Prepositions of place</li> </ul> <b>3. Vocabulary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food, flavor, taste and preferences</li> </ul> <b>4. Culture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>German and Berlin food culture (Currywurst, Döner, etc.; holiday food)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading menus of different places in Berlin</li> <li>Reading comprehension</li> <li>Comparing different holiday foods in Germany and the U.S.</li> <li>Writing a short essay about the history of a specific food or meal</li> <li>Interviewing classmates about preferences on taste</li> </ul> | IV.A., V.A., I.A., I.A., I.B., III.A., IV.A., V.A., V.B. |
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| <b>Week 4</b> | <b>1. Functional:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about districts</li> <li>Describing a city: locations and characteristics</li> <li>Discussing different habits</li> </ul> <b>2. Grammatical:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinating and subordinating conjunctions</li> <li>Two ways prepositions</li> </ul> <b>3. Vocabulary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Places, furniture, and infrastructure</li> </ul> <b>4. Culture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing and living in Berlin: Berlin's neighborhoods</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading about the history of Berlin's different districts</li> <li>Writing about a favorite place to live</li> <li>Listening comprehension on life in Berlin</li> <li>Oral presentation:</li> <li>One neighborhood in Berlin</li> </ul> | I.A., II.B., III.A., IV.B. |
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| <b>Week 5</b> | <b>1. Functional:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for midterm exam</li> <li>Recognizing simple patterns of different intonation</li> </ul> <b>2. Grammatical:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for midterm exam</li> <li>Infinitive with zu</li> <li>Adverbs of manner, time and places</li> </ul> <b>3. Vocabulary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for midterm exam</li> <li>Words of the Berlin Dialect</li> </ul> <b>4. Culture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for midterm exam</li> <li>Berlin Dialect</li> <li>Speakers with different dialects</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listening to different German dialects</li> <li>Field study: Street interview about Berlin Dialect</li> <li>Oral presentation</li> <li>Giving examples for dialects in the US</li> </ul>                                | I.C., II.A., III.A., III.B., IV.A.                                                 |
| <b>Week 6</b> | <b>MIDTERM (</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                    |
| <b>Week 7</b> | <b>1. Functional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Giving information about studies and programs</li> <li>Expressing opinions</li> </ul> <b>2. Grammatical:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjective endings</li> <li>Use of als and wenn</li> </ul> <b>3. Vocabulary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocabulary related to education and study</li> </ul> <b>4. Culture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University system in Germany vs U.S.</li> </ul> Student life in Germany                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading Berlin student magazines</li> <li>Oral Presentation: Talking about home university</li> <li>Different types of exercises for adjective endings</li> <li>Listening comprehension: Student s in Berlin</li> </ul> | IV.A., III.A., I.C., II.A., V.A., III.B., I.C., II.A., III.A., III.B., IV.A., V.A. |

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| <b>Week 8</b> | <b>1. Functional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expressing interests and emotions</li> <li>Agreement and disagreement</li> <li>Forming opinions</li> </ul> <b>2. Grammatical:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflexive pronouns</li> <li>Comparison of adjectives</li> </ul> <b>3. Vocabulary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocabulary related to music</li> <li>Adjectives to describe emotions</li> </ul> <b>4. Culture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music styles and samples</li> <li>German musicians</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviewing classmates/staff or host for music preferences</li> <li>Listening to song lyrics</li> <li>Writing a verse</li> <li>Oral presentation: Students favorite music/musician</li> </ul>                                      | II.A., III.A., IV.A., V.A.        |
| <b>Week 9</b> | <b>1. Functional:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about past issues</li> <li>Giving recommendations</li> </ul> <b>2. Grammatical:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Genitive</li> <li>Reciprocal verbs</li> </ul> <b>3. Vocabulary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel</li> <li>Countries and nationalities</li> <li>Weather</li> </ul> <b>4. Culture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traveling in Germany/Europe</li> <li>Different holiday destinations</li> </ul>                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about travel experiences and describing a favorite place to travel to</li> <li>Moodle: Planning a trip<br/>Role-play: On a travel fair</li> <li>Exercise for genitive: Interviewing classmate about their family</li> </ul> | I.B., II.B., III.A., III.B., V.B. |

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| <b>Week 10</b> | <b>1. Functional:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing people</li> <li>Forming opinions and suggestions</li> <li>Capturing the focus of articles</li> </ul> <b>2. Grammatical:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of the verb lassen</li> <li>Declension</li> </ul> <b>3. Vocabulary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Character traits</li> </ul> <b>4. Culture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>German mentality</li> <li>German personalities</li> <li>Loriot the famous German humorist</li> </ul>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading comprehension: articles about German mentality/character</li> <li>Role-play: Sketch Talking about German and American mentalities</li> <li>Writing a short essay about a famous German person</li> </ul>      | I.A., I.B., III.A., IV.B., V.B. |
| <b>Week 11</b> | <b>1. Functional:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for final exam</li> <li>Expressing different ways of life, wishes and hopes</li> </ul> <b>2. Grammatical:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for final exam</li> <li>Subjunctive II : polite request</li> </ul> <b>3. Vocabulary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for final exam</li> <li>Personal wishes, hopes for life and profession</li> </ul> <b>4. Culture:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for final exam; Living conditions in Germany and the US</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for final exam Talking about different ways of life, wishes and hopes</li> <li>Reading articles of "Berliner" and their expectations of life</li> <li>Writing about hopes and wishes for the future</li> </ul> | III.A., IV.B., V.B.             |
| <b>Week 12</b> | <b>FINAL EXAM</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                 |