



GR 401 GERMAN LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT: EMERGING COMPETENT ABROAD I

IES Abroad Berlin

DESCRIPTION: Students who enter this course will have mastered most of the outcomes of the Independent Abroad level as defined by the IES Abroad *MAP for Language and Intercultural Communication*. Among other characteristics, these students are able to converse at a rate of speed approaching normal conversation. They are creative, spontaneous, and self-reliant as they solve problems, interpret texts, negotiate, and express their opinions, likes, and dislikes in the culture. Although they still make errors and experience communication breakdowns, these students tend to resolve these challenges on their own. Students who enter this level can already understand a variety of colloquial expressions and slang, and are also able to understand a wide variety of native speakers from different backgrounds.

Students entering this level can succeed in a range of moderately complex university courses designed for native speakers. Before registering, they should consult with the appropriate IES Abroad academic advisor on course selection.

By the end of this course, students will have started to acquire the subtlety of expression and control of complex structures that characterize Competent Abroad learners. However, Emerging Competent Abroad learners have only partial mastery of these structures and quite often resort to simpler and more direct modes of expression, particularly when negotiating linguistically difficult or unfamiliar situations. Students at this level begin to understand some local cultural attitudes, values, beliefs, and behavior patterns. However, there will be numerous gaps and inconsistencies in their knowledge, and they lack the depth of understanding and sophistication of those who have spent more time living and working in the local context.

CREDITS: 4 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 6 hours per week

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: German

PREREQUISITES: Completion of IES Abroad's 353 Independent Abroad III outcomes, determined by placement test.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Readings, discussions, small group work, partner work, short presentations (combined with the paper compulsory);
- Individual studies, research, homework (mainly written), usage of the Mediothek at the language center of Humboldt University

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

Regular attendance, participation in classroom activities, use of German in the classroom, willingness and ability to communicate, cooperation during group and pair work, conversation, oral presentation, homework, writing assignments (handed in on time), midterm exam, final exam, paper.

Midterm Exam (20%) – grammar quiz, reading and interpreting of a text on intercultural themes Final Exam (20%) – grammar quiz, listening and interpreting of a text on intercultural themes

Debating (20%) – preparing and participating in in-class debates of current issues

2 Essays (20 %) – writing argumentative texts about current issues

Course Participation (20%) – oral presentations during contact hours, writing assessments (homework) for contact hours on topics of the map, oral conversation in contact hours on all topics of the lessons

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who are placed in this level should have achieved the outcomes in the Independent 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 Competent 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. Students will begin to recognize and describe key host cultures, subcultures, habits, norms, and behaviors in a variety of settings, and they will be aware of the risk that generalizations can lead to stereotypes.
- B. Students will be able to reflect on and discuss the validity of their own cultural beliefs, behaviors, and values by contrasting and comparing them with those of the host cultures.
- C. Students will demonstrate openness toward different beliefs and styles even when they do not agree with them.
- D. Students will accept responsibility for their own learning by defining their linguistic goals and demonstrating independence in their exploration of the culture.

II. Listening

- A. Students will be able to identify a range of social and cultural dialects of the spoken language.
- B. Students will be able to understand a variety of native speakers and non-native advanced speakers and comprehend an array of moderately complex interactions.

III. Speaking

- A. Students will participate reasonably well in most academic and social interactions using when appropriate complex language including slang, colloquial expressions, irony, and humor with increasing confidence.
- B. Students will be able to make arguments and form opinions on almost any topic of their interest.

IV. Reading

- A. Students will be able to read and understand textbooks and academic articles for classes taught in the host language as well as popular texts for enjoyment.
- B. Students will be able to read and understand authentic materials including newspapers, advertisements, brochures, instruction manuals, etc. on abstract topics with some assistance at times.

V. Writing

- A. Students will be able to write for multiple audiences and express themselves somewhat clearly and effectively.
- B. Students will be able to write essays for classes incorporating aspects of appropriate academic style with some assistance at times.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

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

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Academic Integrity Code. Assigned papers need to be properly and amply footnoted where appropriate, with all sources attributed. Poorly written and grammatically sloppy papers will be judged more severely. Work with a language tutor is recommended.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments	Corresponding Learning Outcome(s)
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Week 1	1.Functional: • Discussing healing methods • Discussing climate change and renewable energy • Reporting on others' arguments 2.Grammatical: • adversative linking words • consecutive linking words • <i>Konjunktiv I</i> (indirect speech) • subjective use of <i>sollen</i> and <i>wollen</i> 3.Vocabulary: • health, healing methods • environment, energy sources 4.Culture: • health angst and alternative healing methods • climate change and renewable energy	Reading newspaper articles and internet forum discussions Listening to experts' reports Discovering language structures and systematizing them Finding and systematizing new vocabulary Discussing topics in small groups Writing short argumentative texts	I A-C II A+B III A+B IV A V A
Week 2	1.Functional: • Debating a possible ban of a political party 2.Grammatical: • verb forms revision 1 3.Vocabulary: • political parties; political system; democracy 4.Culture: • political party <i>NPD</i> • history of banning parties in the <i>GDR</i>	Reading historical and current argumentative texts Listening to argumentative commentaries Debating a current issue Writing an argumentative essay	I A-C II A+B III A+B IV A+B V A+B

Week 3	1.Functional: Debating issues in German history/identity	Reading historical and current argumentative texts Listening to argumentative commentaries	I A-C II A+B III A+B
	- Describing situation in home country/region 2.Grammatical: - linking words and sentence structure 1 3.Vocabulary: - history/identity/nationalism - phrases for intercultural comparison 4.Culture: - German national pride? - reconstruction of Prussian city castle in central Berlin ("Berliner Stadtschloss" / "Humboldt-Forum")	Debating a current issue Writing an argumentative essay	IV A+B V A+B
Week 4	1.Functional: - Debating current issues of German/Berlin economy - Describing statistics/diagrams 2.Grammatical: - pronouns, nouns and articles 3.Vocabulary: - economy (real estate/business organization) - phrases for describing diagrams/statistics 4.Culture: - Berlin rent control	Reading newspaper and magazine articles and other argumentative texts Listening to documentary reports Debating a current issue Writing an argumentative essay	I A-C II A+B III A+B IV A+B V A+B

	women's quota		
Week 5	1.Functional: - Debating current issues in religion - Negotiating advantages and disadvantages 2.Grammatical: - verb forms revision 2 3.Vocabulary:	Reading newspaper and magazine articles and other argumentative texts Listening to documentary reports and commentaries Debating a current issue Writing an argumentative essay	I A-C II A+B III A+B IV A+B V A+B
	- religion - news media - school 4.Culture: - head scarf ban in school - blasphemy in newspapers/magazines		

Week 6	Midterm Exam (20%)	Reading/listening comprehension: See above topics and issues Essay writing: See above topics and issues	I A-C II A+B IV A+B V A+B
Week 7	1.Functional: - Negotiating a conflict - Finding compromises and joint solutions to a problem - Interpreting diagrams 2.Grammatical: - prepositions 3.Vocabulary: - migration, integration, refugees 4.Culture: “welcome culture” in Germany - immigration laws - historical problems with integration	Reading newspaper and magazine articles and other argumentative texts Listening to documentary reports and commentaries Simulating a current event Writing an argumentative essay	I A-C II A+B III A+B IV A+B V A+B
Week 8	1.Functional: - Debating possible changes to the German education system - Giving advice - Making a survey 2.Grammatical: - linking words and sentence structure 2 3.Vocabulary:	Reading newspaper and magazine articles and other argumentative texts Listening to documentary reports and commentaries Debating a current issue Writing an argumentative essay	I A-C II A+B III A+B IV A+B V A+B

	- education, school system, university tuition 4.Culture: - German school system - different tuition policies federal states		
Week 9	1.Functional: - Debating current issues in German public health politics - Commenting on an issue - Weighing arguments 2.Grammatical: - adjectives; adjective endings 3.Vocabulary: - public health, medicine 4.Culture: - cannabis policies - homeopathy	Reading newspaper and magazine articles and other argumentative texts Listening to documentary reports and commentaries Debating a current issue Writing an argumentative essay	I A-C II A+B III A+B IV A+B V A+B
Week 10	1.Functional: - Debating current economic issues - Making a survey 2.Grammatical: - verb forms 3 3.Vocabulary: - economy, unemployment, wages - travel and transportation 4.Culture: - minimum wage - speed limit on the <i>Autobahn</i>	Reading newspaper and magazine articles and other argumentative texts Listening to documentary reports and commentaries Debating a current issue Writing an argumentative essay	I A-C II A+B III A+B IV A+B V A+B

Week 11	1.Functional: - Negotiating conflicts - Finding compromises and joint solutions to various problems	Reading newspaper and magazine articles and other argumentative texts Listening to documentary reports and commentaries	I A-C II A+B III A+B
	2.Grammatical: - noun forms and compounds 3.Vocabulary: - various political issues 4.Culture: - various current issues in German politics - political parties; political system; German elections - forming a coalition	Simulating a current event Writing an argumentative essay	IV A+B V A+B
Week 12	Final Exam (20%)	Reading/listening comprehension: See above topics and issues Essay writing: See above topics and issues	I A-C II A+B IV A+B V A+B

REQUIRED READINGS:

Excerpts of various textbooks/grammars

Additional material and current newspaper articles provided by instructor

Individual research

Online-Grammatik: <http://www.coerll.utexas.edu/gg/gr/index.html>

Online-Wörterbücher: www.dwds.de, www.linguee.com, dict.leo.org