



GR 102 GERMAN LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT: NOVICE ABROAD II

IES Abroad Vienna

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed for students with very limited prior knowledge of the German language. In contrast to students in GR 101, students entering GR 102 can use some words and elementary phrases in German, and they can understand certain basic requests and responses. They are also able to read and interpret the basic meaning of simple sentences and phrases relating to familiar topics. In addition, this course is designed as an option for students who demonstrate rapid language acquisition and outstanding personal initiative during the first week of the 101 Intensive course and express interest in advancing beyond the 101 level during their semester abroad. During the Intensive course period, this course will serve as a refresher of the contents of the A1.1 level of the CEFR and then continue with the content of A1.2, aiming to prepare students for entering the GR 201 Novice Abroad III level after successfully completing the course.

By the end of this course, the successful student will have further developed their foundation in the five skills—intercultural communication, reading, writing, listening, and speaking—and will have reviewed and been introduced to key grammatical structures to support their growing confidence in using German to describe current and past experiences, manage everyday interactions, and navigate life in Vienna, as outlined in the learning outcomes below.

This course aligns with the A1.2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and supports students in achieving the outcomes described at the Novice Abroad II level of the IES Abroad Language MAP, preparing them for continued language study at the GR 201 level.

CREDITS: 4 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 60 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: German

INSTRUCTOR:

PREREQUISITES: Students who enter this course need to have no prior knowledge of the language.

ADDITIONAL COST: € 36 for books and copies

METHOD OF PRESENTATION

This course uses a **communicative, student-centered approach** that emphasizes active engagement with the language and culture. Learning is facilitated through a variety of interactive and immersive methods, including:

- **Integrated skill-building exercises** in reading, writing, listening, and speaking
- **Oral and written assignments**, including short in-class presentations and creative writing tasks

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- **Collaborative classroom activities**, such as role plays, dialogues, interviews, and games
- **Course-related excursions** that connect language learning to authentic cultural experiences, including visits to a **Viennese coffee house**, a **local food market**, or a **guided museum tour**

This blended approach allows students to apply language in real-world contexts, deepen their intercultural understanding, and develop communicative competence in a meaningful and enjoyable way.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

10 % Active Participation in Class
20 % Skill-Focused and Culturally Reflective Learning
10 % Homework
25 % Regular Quizzes & Tests
10 % Oral Exams (3 total)
25 % Written Exams (3 total)

Active Participation in Class

Participation is more than mere attendance; it means coming to class well-prepared, engaging actively in discussions, and supporting one another as collaborative members of our learning community. Students should listen attentively, ask and answer thoughtful questions, and offer constructive feedback to peers. They are encouraged to take initiative in pair and group work - sharing ideas, volunteering for tasks, and taking detailed notes. At the same time, each student is responsible for monitoring their own understanding and seeking additional assistance or tutoring whenever challenges arise. Throughout all activities, learners should strive to use German as much as possible, fostering both their own progress and a positive, encouraging classroom environment.

Skill-Focused and Culturally Reflective Learning

Students will engage in tasks designed to develop the IES MAP's five skill areas - Intercultural Communication, Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Creative assignments, such as journaling, field-based projects, analysis of authentic materials, and peer collaborations, are graded under this category; however, ongoing language learning progress also plays a central role. Assessment considers both the quality of each submission and the consistency with which new vocabulary, grammatical structures, and cultural insights are integrated across all work, thereby reflecting overall growth as language learners.

Homework:

After each class, students will complete assigned exercises in the "Übungsbuch" (workbook), along with supplementary worksheets or digital practice on Moodle. Homework reinforces grammar and vocabulary introduced in class. Students are expected to correct their work independently; only areas of difficulty or misunderstanding will be reviewed in class.

Quizzes & Tests

To promote steady progress, students will take regular written quizzes and one or more tests to assess their grasp of grammar and vocabulary. These quizzes will be administered daily or weekly, focusing on vocabulary, grammar, and structures recently introduced in class. The goal is to encourage students to study new content regularly and in manageable portions.

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Oral Exams

Students' speaking skills will be assessed through three oral exams during the semester: one after the Intensive Period, and two at the end of each main semester phase. Each exam involves a structured, real-life task such as a paired dialogue, guided role-play, or short personal presentation.

Assessment will follow the ÖSD exam criteria: 1. Task Fulfillment and Communicative Effectiveness, 2. Vocabulary and Expression, 3. Intonation, Pronunciation, Fluency, and Intelligibility 4. Grammatical Accuracy .

Written Exams

Three comprehensive written exams will take place during the course: at the end of the Intensive Period, mid-semester, and at the end of the semester. Exams assess listening and reading comprehension, writing ability, and the ability to apply key grammar and vocabulary.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will have achieved many of the learning goals described for the Novice Abroad level in the *IES Abroad MAP for Language and Intercultural Communication* and CEFR A1.2. Specifically, they will be able to:

- Participate in basic small talk by asking and answering questions about themselves and others
- Describe everyday objects, routines, and places in the city
- Interact in predictable situations at restaurants, cafés, shops, and (super)markets, using appropriate formulas
- Talk about their family, friends, interests, daily habits, and recent trips
- Discuss future plans and make simple appointments
- Reflect on and describe their experiences during the semester abroad using the past tense

Commented [1]: identisch mit 101? bitte für 102 anpassen (wie im ursprünglichen 102 syllabus?)

These communicative goals are underpinned by the following skill-specific outcomes:

Intercultural Communication

- Use verbal and non-verbal strategies (e.g., repetition, gestures, paraphrasing) to meet basic everyday needs
- Recognize and begin to apply appropriate levels of formality in speech
- Begin making simple, informed comparisons between elements of the host and home cultures

Listening

- Understand common statements, descriptions, requests, and questions in contexts relevant to student life (e.g., classroom, public transportation, dining, shopping, and social interactions)
- Use contextual clues to grasp the general idea of overheard conversations, simple announcements, and basic media content

Speaking

- Use memorized and rehearsed phrases in everyday interactions across familiar settings (e.g., at home, at the IES Abroad center, with peers and the local community)
- Ask and answer simple questions to express basic needs and preferences in uncomplicated, routine situations

Reading

- Recognize and understand frequently used words and short phrases in signs, schedules, and familiar printed materials
- Identify main ideas in short, simple texts such as menus, advertisements, and social media posts

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- Apply basic reading strategies like identifying cognates, scanning for key information, and recognizing text types

Writing

- Produce short texts such as personal introductions, messages, or brief reflections using simple sentence structures
- Communicate basic information related to everyday life (e.g., describing daily routines, making plans, recounting recent experiences)
- Apply learned vocabulary and grammar to express ideas with increasing accuracy and clarity, using writing as a tool for structured language practice

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

IES Abroad Vienna requires attendance at all class sessions. Attendance will be taken every class. Students must attend at least 60% of their class sessions to qualify for a passing grade, regardless of whether their absences have been excused or not. Attendance is required in-person unless otherwise noted in the syllabus. Excused absences due to the reasons outlined in the IES Abroad Vienna Attendance Policy can only be approved by the academic department. Unexcused absences may carry a penalty to the final grade and only excused absences entitle students to make up assignments, tests, quizzes, and exams. Students are highly encouraged to communicate absences as soon as possible to their professors. Please refer to the IES Abroad Vienna Attendance Policy for a more precise overview of all attendance policies at IES Abroad Vienna and of grade penalties.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

At IES Abroad Vienna, we hold ourselves to the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty undermines the principles of trust and fairness essential to a thriving learning community. As such, plagiarism and cheating are considered serious violations of our code of conduct, and students found engaging in such activities will face swift and severe consequences, ranging from a failing grade on an assignment, to an academic review and possible expulsion from the program.

USE OF AI:

The instructor will clarify if and how AI tools may be used, which may vary by assignment. In all cases, use of AI must be clearly acknowledged, and students remain fully responsible for the content they submit under their name.

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CONTENT:

Week	Topics & Vocabulary	Content	Assignments and Readings
INTENSIVE			
Week 1	Greetings Personal details Professions	Functional: • saying hello and goodbye, saying how you are • introducing oneself and others • giving personal information about the origin, age, profession, etc. • asking for personal information • spelling, basics of phonetics • counting until 100 • filling in forms • ordering (café, ice cream, bakery, Würstelstand) Grammatical: • regular verb conjugation in singular • conjugation of the semi-regular verbs heißen & arbeiten • irregular verb conjugation: sein and haben • prepositions: in, aus (wohnen in, kommen aus) • W-questions/ Yes/No-Questions (wie, woher, wo, was) • prepositions: als, bei (arbeiten als, arbeiten bei) Culture: • formal and informal addressing of people (Sie/Du) • famous personalities from German speaking countries	Daily Vocab Quizzes Worksheets and exercises in the <i>Kursbuch and Übungsbuch</i> Culture Project: German signs & posters in the city Presentation: A famous Austrian personality
Week 2	Objects in the classroom Items in the supermarket & drugstore	Functional: • classroom language (asking for the name of objects, asking how to spell words, asking for the article of a noun and answering all of that) • talking about objects in the supermarket & drugstore • describing objects • buying groceries (supermarket, drugstore) Grammatical • definite, indefinite and negative articles (Nominativ) • personal pronouns (Nominativ) • singular and plural of nouns	Daily Vocab Quizzes Worksheets and exercises in the <i>Kursbuch and Übungsbuch</i> Writing Project: My favourite object

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		- adjectives - introduction of the accusative case with definite, indefinite and negative articles (verbs: (e.g.: suchen, brauchen, haben, möchten, kaufen) Culture - Austrian Supermarkets	
Week 3	Activities Family	Functional - talking about a person's free time - activities, preferences and work - express abilities, wishes and obligations - describing a family tree, talking about family members Grammatical - irregular verbs with vowel changes in their stem - the use of the adverb "gern" - negation nicht/kein - modal verbs "können", "wollen" and "müssen" - possessive articles (Singular) Culture - Austria's Empress Sisi and her family - Sights in Vienna	Daily Vocab Quizzes Worksheets and exercises in the <i>Kursbuch and Übungsbuch</i> Writing Project: Writing about one's family Oral Exam: Dialogue Smalltalk - ask & answer questions to introduce yourself Final Exam
SEMESTER PART 1/2			
Week 1	Daily Routine	Functional: - Planning the week - describing the daily routine & preferences - talking about the time and the days of the week Grammatical: - split verbs (aufstehen, einkaufen, aufräumen) - temporal prepositions (am, um, von, bis) - temporal adverbs (zuerst, dann, danach) Culture - Student life in Austria	Vocab Quiz Worksheets and exercises in the <i>Kursbuch and Übungsbuch</i> Writing project: Presenting your daily routine

Week 2	Past Trips The Weather & the Seasons	Functional: - giving details about a past trip/journey - writing a friend about a trip - talking about the weather and the seasons Grammatical: - präteritum of "to be" & "to have" - pronoun "es" - local preposition "in" + country/city - temporal preposition "im" Culture - Austrian rhyme on the seasons	Grammar Quiz Worksheets and exercises in the <i>Kursbuch and Übungsbuch</i>
Week 3	Past Events	Functional: - understanding the spoken past tense - talking more detailed about past trips - reflecting on past routines prior to living in Vienna Grammatical: - Perfekt (past tense) with the auxiliary verbs sein & haben - position of the verb in a sentence (Satzklammer) Culture - Mozart's & Sisi's daily routine	Vocab/ Grammar Quiz Worksheets and exercises in the <i>Kursbuch and Übungsbuch</i>
Week 4	Public Transport & Orientation	Functional: - getting to know the means of transport in the city - asking for and giving directions (the way to work, university, home, places in the city) - reading the timetable Grammatical: - repetition of irregular and separable verbs - introduction of the dative case with definite articles - dative prepositions (mit, zu, bei) Culture - The Vienna U-Bahn System - Districts of Vienna	Vocab/ Grammar Quiz Dialogue: Ask for directions/ describe the way to the university or home by public transport Worksheets and exercises in the <i>Kursbuch and Übungsbuch</i> Culture Project: Districts of Vienna



Week 5	City Walk	Functional: - understanding signs and directions when walking around Grammatical: - dative prepositions (bis, zu, an) - modal verb "dürfen" - directional indication (links, rechts, geradeaus) Culture: - deceased Austrian public figures	Vocab/ Grammar Quiz Oral Exam: Presentation of a deceased Austrian public figure. Friday: Midterm Exam
SEMESTER PART 2/2			
Week 6	Living Spaces & Furniture	Functional: - talking about the personal living situation (describing your room/flat) - naming furniture and describing their places in the room Grammatical: - two-Way Prepositions (dative) - zu + adjectives - Genitiv +s Culture - Viennese Residential Buildings (Gemeindebauten)	Vocab/ Grammar Quiz Worksheets and exercises in the <i>Kursbuch</i> and <i>Übungsbuch</i> Cultural Project: "Gemeindebauten: the palaces of the proletariat"
Week 7	The Body & Health	Functional: - discussing health and locating pain, - giving advice and suggestion on wellbeing - talking about Fitness & Sport Grammatical: - the imperative mode - modalverb "sollen" Culture: - a visit to the Hausarzt/ Hausärztin - differences between Apotheke and Drogerie - Austrian emergency numbers - Austria and the plague (plague pillars)	Vocab/ Grammar Quiz Worksheets and exercises in the <i>Kursbuch</i> and <i>Übungsbuch</i> Writing Project: Guide for a healthy lifestyle

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Week 8	Clothes & Colors	Functional: • talking about clothes • expressing your opinion on clothes and giving • compliments Grammatical: • dative verbs (helfen, geben, passen) • personal pronouns (dative) • compound words Culture: • Das Dirndl und die Lederhose	Vocab/ Grammar Quiz Worksheets and exercises in the <i>Kursbuch</i> and <i>Übungsbuch</i>
Week 9	Holidays & Celebrations	Functional: • talking about celebrations and public holidays • writing and responding to an invitation Grammatical: • ordinal numbers • accusative and dative verbs • personal pronouns (dative) Culture: • Austrian public holidays	Vocab/ Grammar Quiz Worksheets and exercises in the <i>Kursbuch</i> and <i>Übungsbuch</i>
Week 10	Synopsis	Reflecting your semester abroad using the acquired grammar structures, phrases and vocabulary.	Oral Exam: Dialogue discussing & reflecting your semester abroad (housing, celebrations, health)
Week 11			Friday: Final Exam

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Bakery / Ice Cream / Street Food – practicing how to order food
- Viennese Coffee House – ordering drinks and desserts, learning about local coffeehouse culture
- Optional: Museum visit with a guided tour for German learners

REQUIRED READINGS:

- *Panorama A1: Deutsch als Fremdsprache* (Cornelsen), *Kursbuch* and *Übungsbuch*
- Additional handouts and materials provided by the instructors