



GR 403 GERMAN LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT: EMERGING COMPETENT ABROAD III

IES Abroad Vienna

DESCRIPTION:

This advanced course is intended for students who have developed a high level of proficiency in German and are prepared to refine their language use for academic, cultural, and professional purposes. It supports students in mastering the linguistic, stylistic, and pragmatic skills necessary for effective and nuanced communication in complex and abstract contexts.

At this level, students are expected to function with near-native fluency and flexibility across a wide range of communicative situations. The course emphasizes the development of sophisticated vocabulary, precise grammatical control, and a confident command of various registers. Students engage with a broad spectrum of authentic texts - including academic articles, essays, literary excerpts, editorials, and media - requiring critical reading, analytical interpretation, and contextual understanding.

Students will participate in in-depth discussions, lead seminar-style presentations, write analytically and argumentatively on complex issues, and respond to cultural texts with insight and originality. Special attention is given to enhancing the ability to adapt language use appropriately to different communicative goals, audiences, and formal or informal contexts.

The course also provides a platform for advanced cultural inquiry, allowing students to explore and critically engage with key social, political, literary, and historical issues relevant to Austria and the broader German-speaking world. Students are encouraged to draw on their academic backgrounds and personal experiences to contribute meaningfully to seminar discussions and written analyses.

By the end of the course, students will be able to understand and produce complex, well-structured texts, follow and contribute to extended discussions on abstract and specialized topics, and express themselves fluently, accurately, and persuasively. They will demonstrate a high degree of independence and sophistication in their use of the language.

This course aligns with the C1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and supports students in completing the outcomes described at the Emerging Competent Abroad level of the IES Abroad Language MAP, preparing them for advanced academic or professional work in German.

CREDITS: 4 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 60 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: German

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**INSTRUCTOR:****PREREQUISITES:**

Students entering this course have completed the Emerging Competent Abroad level of the IES Abroad MAP and have achieved CEFR B2 proficiency. They are typically expected to have completed at least six semesters of college-level German or the equivalent. These students are able to understand and contribute to complex discussions, analyze a wide range of spoken and written texts, and express themselves fluently and effectively in academic, cultural, and professional settings. They are prepared to engage with abstract ideas and adapt their language use to nuanced contexts.

ADDITIONAL COST: € 30**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
- 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.

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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 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 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.

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 the course, students will meet the outcomes of the Emerging Competent Abroad level and some of the outcomes of the CEFR C1.

Intercultural Communication

- Students express critical insights into cultural issues and can analyze multiple perspectives.
- They engage confidently in nuanced discussions about identity, values, and social norms.

Listening

- Students understand a wide range of spoken language, including idiomatic and academic discourse.
- They follow fast-paced discussions and infer implicit meaning.

Speaking

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- Students express themselves fluently, precisely, and persuasively across academic and social contexts.
- They adapt register, tone, and language style to fit complex communicative tasks.

Reading

- Students comprehend complex texts with implicit meaning, literary or rhetorical nuance, and abstract content.
- They analyze structure, argumentation, and authorial perspective.

Writing

- Students produce sophisticated, well-structured texts for academic, cultural, or professional purposes.
- They demonstrate a high degree of linguistic control, stylistic awareness, and clarity of expression.

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.

CONTENT:

Week	Topics & Vocabulary	Content	Assignments and Readings
INTENSIVE			
Week 1 & 2	Österreich, Bundesländer Hauptstädte Frühstück Das bin ich	Functional: - Talking about personal identity - Useful class language and phrases - Breakfast specialties - Österreich - Wien Grammatical: - review Interrogatives - word order complex sentences - conjunctions - adjective endings Culture: - historic component - Austria: provinces and neighboring countries/Vienna: districts - Roman roots H. Weigel: Das Land ohne Hymne - current news media reports/free newspapers	Interviewing class mates in order to get to know each other work sheet: Das bin ich asking about motivation for studying in Austria work sheets: grammar exercises reading comprehension: Das Land ohne Hymne Test: Grammatik, Vokabular (Das bin ich) und österreich- bzw. wienbezogene Fakten
Week 3	Malerei Gemälde Schiele/Klimt geometr. Formen Das weiße Band	Functional: - painting and style 1900 - Schiele, Klimt - describing paintings - Kap 9 <i>Die schöne Welt der Künste</i> - Mod 1 <i>Kreativ</i> Grammatical: - adjective endings - besondere Adjektiv Endungen - Partizip als Adjektiv - Adjektiv als Nomen - Verben mit Dativ - Präpositionaladverb da- + Nominalform Culture: - Museum Leopold: G.Klimt - E.Schiele - traditional coffeehouses in Vienna - current news media reports - Austropop - Film: Das weiße Band	presentation: Austrian celebrities/ Austrian world wide known - companies course-related trips: Leopold Museum Klimt and Schiele/coffeehouse essay: favourite painting Kap.9 Mod1 Verben + Präpositionen Kap.9 Mod 1 Wortspiele work sheets: grammar exercises Test: Grammatik, Vokabular oral test: group discussion/presentation written final: Grammatik, Vokabular, Lesetext, Kurzaufsatz, Langaufsatz
SEMESTER PART 1/2			

Week 1	Gedichte, Balladen Lyrik	Functional: - creativity, prerequisites for artists - Kap. 9 Mod 1 - Lyrik: E. Fried "Was es ist" - Ernst Jandl "lechts und links" Grammatical: - Verben mit Dativ - Nominalisierung und Verbalisierung von - Präpositionalergänzungen Culture: - Austrian/German artists E. Fried <i>Fügungen/Was es ist</i> - Goethe <i>Meeresstille</i> E. Mörike <i>Septembermorgen/Frühling</i> - Ballade: Th. Fontane <i>Ribbeck</i>	Elfchen Freie Verse Kap. 9 Modul 1 Kreativ <i>Ribbeck</i> : questions on text Fontane Bio essay: Lieblingsgedicht
Week 2	Kap 9	Functional: - Reimformen - Versmaß Grammatical: - Konnektoren Culture: - Experimentelle Gedichte, visuelle Gedichte: E. Gomringer, E. Jandl, H. Bienek J. Ringelnatz - Ballade: <i>Brücke am Tay/J. Maynard/Ribbeck</i>	<i>GR403 John Maynard, Ribbeck (listening)</i> : questions on text <i>GR451 Tay, Maynard, Ribbeck: questions on text, interpretation,</i> (presentation: Struwwelpeter/Max und Moritz) work sheets: Konnektoren GR 451: Schnitzler Fräulein Else: Fragen zum Text (GR403/451 essay: comparison of 2 Fontane poems)
Week 3	Kap 7 Mod 0/1	Functional: - Talking about crime/criminals - Kap. 7 Mod 1 <i>Dumm gelaufen</i>; Recht so! - Mod 3 <i>Alltag im Knast</i> Grammatical: - n-Deklination - review Passiv (unpersönliches Passiv) - Passiv mit Modalverben Culture: - GR451 Schnitzler: Fräulein Else - Die Fälscher - der österreichische Film	vocab Kap 7. Mod 1 grammar exercises Kap7 work sheets: grammar current newspaper article: crime (Struwwelpeter Präsentationen) (Film: Die Fälscher)

Week 4	Kriminell Tod/tot/Toter	Functional: • talking about crime/criminals • Kap. 7 Mod 3 <i>Da lacht Justitia</i> • Mod 4 <i>Kriminell</i> Grammatical: • unpersönliches Passiv • Passiv mit Modalverb • GR451 Passiv mit Modalverb im Nebensatz (mit ungewöhnlicher Wortstellung) Culture: • Tausch=Diversions	grammar exercises work sheets:grammar current newspaper article: crime listening and reading comprehension: Kap7 Friedrich Dürrenmatt: der Richter und sein Henker
Week 5	Kap 7 Mod 1	Functional: • Kriminell Kap7 Mod3 Grammatical: • Passiv alle Zeiten • maskuline n-Deklination • modales Partizip Culture: • Verbrechen in den Medien	vocabulary: Verbrechen Kapitel 7 Mod 4 Arbeitsbuch, Buchkritik ergänzen; read+ summarize text <i>Dürrenmatt</i> presentation/discussion Prüfung:Hörübung schriftl. Mittsemesterprüfung
SEMESTER PART 2/2			
Week 6	Kap 10 Partizipialgruppen	Functional: • Memory/rememering • Kap. 10 <i>Erinnerungen</i>, Mod 1+2+3 Grammatical: • Partizipialgruppen • uneingeleitete Konditionalsätze • Modalitätsverben Culture: • bahnbrechende Ereignisse des letzten Jahrhunderts	vocab Kap 10 Mod 1 grammar exercises LB Mod 1+2 read texts Mod 1 listening Mod 2 Gesichtsblindheit Mod 3 essay: Bildgeschichte (newspaper article)
Week 7	Kap 6 Hausmittel	Functional: • Talking about medical issues, home remedies • Kap. 6 Mod 3 <i>Gesund und munter...</i> • Kap. 6 Mod 1 <i>Zu Risiken und Nebenwirkungen</i> Grammatical: • review Passiv/Zustandspassiv/Passiversatz • review infinitive constructions Culture: • Gesundheitssystem in Österreich	Test Kap. 10 vocab Kap. 6 Mod 3/1 Kap. 6 grammar exercises work sheets: grammar listening comprehension Placebos presentation: allergies/home remedies

		Dt. Hausmittel	Redemittel Referat essay: Rolle d. Staates u d. Einzelnen in Bezug auf Gesundheit des Bürgers/Hausmittel/Allergien
Week 8	Allergien Brecht: Haifische	Functional: - Wenn die Haifische Menschen wären - Kap 6 Gesund und munter Grammatical: - Subjunctive II + different forms of usage: - Modalverben subjektiv Culture: - Bert Brecht - Georg Kreisler: "Wie schön wäre Wien..."	grammar exercises Subjunctive II Arbeitsbuch: Übungen UNTrennbare Verben Präsentation: Allergie/Kultur auf Mülltonnen/österreichische Politik Übung: Konj. 2 Präsens, Perfekt Vokabular: Haifische
Week 9	erinnern/vergessen Vorschlag machen Partizipialgruppen	Functional: - Memory/remembering - Kap. 10 <i>Erinnerungen</i>, Mod 1+3 - Prospagnosie Grammatical: - Partizipialgruppen - Modalitätsverben - Konjunktiv 2, Verwendung Culture: - Erinnerungen Kap10 /0	vocab Kap 10 Mod 1 grammar exercises LB Mod 1+3 read texts Mod 1 listening Mod 2+3 essay: Forumseintrag Verständnis zeigen/etwas erklären/ auf etwas Bezug nehmen newspaper article: Ich laufe für mein Gehirn
Week 10	Kap 8 Bichsel: Geografie und Politik	Functional: - Konjunktiv I - Quoting Grammatical: - Konjunktiv I - Konjunktiv I Präsens+Perfekt: Culture: - geografische Un-Kenntnis - Moral - höfliche Bitten	Mündliche Prüfung Prüfung 6 Brecht: Wenn die Haifische Menschen wären Work sheets: Konj II Peter Bichsel: Geografie und Politik Work sheets: Konj I
Week 11			Final Exam

**COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:**

During the semester, there will be two or three excursions to explore different aspects of Vienna. Students will be placed in authentic situations such as ordering pastries at a local bakery, choosing ice cream at a street stand, ordering Sachertorte and coffee at a traditional Viennese coffee house, or selecting produce and conversing with vendors at the Naschmarkt. Alternatively, they may join a German-language guided museum tour or attend a German-language performance, complementing class material and providing further insight into Vienna's rich artistic and cultural heritage.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Brecht: Wenn die Haifische Menschen wären
- Bichsel: Geografie und Politik
- Fontane: Balladen
- Additional handouts and materials provided by the instructor