



GR 353 GERMAN LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT: INDEPENDENT ABROAD III

IES Abroad Freiburg

DESCRIPTION:

Students who enter this level are able to accomplish everyday needs required to live in a new culture. In this course, students will develop independence and autonomy so that, when communication does break down, they have enough tools at their disposal to resolve these challenges on their own. Students should welcome correction and guidance from their instructors, hosts, and others in the community as they progress. They will also begin to recognize their own and their peers' errors.

By the end of this course, students will begin to converse at a rate of speed approaching normal conversation. They will be creative, more spontaneous and self-reliant as they solve problems, interpret texts, negotiate, and express their opinions, likes, and dislikes in the culture. Although students will still make errors and experience communication breakdowns, they are much more likely to resolve these on their own. Students will understand a variety of colloquial expressions and slang, and will be able to understand a wider variety of native speakers from different backgrounds. By the end of this level, students will be capable of achieving the learning outcomes outlined below.

CREDITS: 4 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 60 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: German

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

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures
- Discussions
- Group work
- Private study
- Field studies
- Oral presentations

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

Intensive Course:

- Participation and Homework - 20%
- Vocabulary tests - 15%
- Presentation - 15%
- Written Assignments - 20%
- Final Exam - 30%

Semester Course:

- Midterm Exam - 10%
- Quizzes (grammar and vocabulary, announced in advance) - 20%
- Presentation - 10%
- Participation - 10%
- Homework - 10%
- Written Assignments - 20%
- Final Exam - 20%

The intensive phase will count 40%, the regular semester grade 60% towards your overall grade.



LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who are placed in this level should have achieved the outcomes in the Emerging 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 the outcomes for the Independent Abroad level as defined by the *MAP for Language and Intercultural Communication*. The key learning outcomes from the MAP are summarized below:

1. Intercultural Communication

1. Students will be able to identify and describe at a basic level 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.
2. Students will be able to discuss the validity of their own cultural beliefs, behaviors, and values by contrasting and comparing them with those of the host cultures.
3. Students will be able to interpret gestures and body language, and they will integrate some of those nonverbal actions into their interactions with native speakers.
4. Students will know how to meet socio-cultural norms in a variety of transactional events.

2. Listening

1. Students will be able to understand most spoken communications of moderate complexity (media, speeches, music, conversations, etc.) on a wide range of concrete everyday topics as well as abstract topics covered in classes.
2. Students will be able to understand most native speakers from a variety of backgrounds and limited experience with non-native speakers, and they will comprehend common colloquial expressions and slang.

3. Speaking

1. Students will be able to speak on and discuss a wide range of concrete everyday and personal topics, abstract topics covered in classes, as well as other topics of particular interest to them.
2. Students will be able to participate, initiate, and respond actively in a wide variety of interactions (field studies, interviews, community interaction, CORE).
3. Students will be able to narrate sequences of events with a notable degree of accuracy.
4. Students will be able to give presentations on topics related to the host culture.

4. Reading

1. Students will be able to read and understand a wide variety of articles, stories, and online texts using background knowledge to aid their comprehension.
2. Students will be able to read and understand the key ideas of academic texts on familiar topics with assistance.

5. Writing

1. Students will be able to meet most everyday writing needs (notes, text messages, formal and informal letters, emails, chats, online forums).
2. Students will be able to write essays for class that narrate, describe, report, compare, contrast, and summarize on a wide range of topics with an increasing degree of grammatical and lexical accuracy.
3. Students will be able to edit their own and their peers' writing for common errors.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

All IES Abroad (Freiburg) courses require attendance and participation. Attendance is mandatory per IES Abroad policy. Any unexcused absence will incur a penalty on your final course grade (1 absence - 1%, 2nd absence -2%, 3rd absence – 3%). Any student who has more than three (3) unexcused absences will receive an “F” as the final grade in the course. Any student who misses more than 25% of a course, whether the absences are excused or are unexcused, will receive an “F” as the final grade in the course. Absences due to sickness, religious observances, and family emergencies may be excusable at the discretion of the Center Director. In the case of an excused absence, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the Academic Dean of the absence with an Official Excused Absence Form, as well as any other relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor’s note), and to keep a record thereof. The absence form must be turned in as soon as possible before the class, in the case of a planned absence, or immediately upon return to the Center, in the case of an



unplanned absence, in order for the absence to be considered excused. It is also the student's responsibility to inform the professor of the missed class. Students can collect and submit the Official Excused Absence Form from the office of the Academic Dean.

TESTS, QUIZZES, OR PRESENTATIONS MISSED DURING UNEXCUSED ABSENCES CANNOT BE MADE UP!

ASSIGNMENTS NOT HANDED IN ON THE DUE DATE WILL BE SUBJECT TO A 3% PENALTY PER DAY POST-DUE DATE (except of students who have an excused absence).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE:

Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism is punishable with a failing grade in the class. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as "copying of materials from sources, without acknowledging having done so, claiming other's ideas as one's own without proper reference to them, and buying materials such as essays/exams.

Updated information on your course and readings, including additional readings from journalistic articles, can be found on the Moodle platform at <https://moodle.iesabroad.org/login/index.php>

CONSENT TO RECORDING

Class discussions, both in the classroom and online, may be recorded to provide an educational resource for students in the class. Your instructor will inform you before recording starts. Reasonable requests from students to deactivate their cameras during recording will be considered by instructors. Class recordings will be kept on the Moodle class site and will only be available to students in the class. The recordings will no longer be available to students when the semester ends. Students are prohibited from recording classes or from distributing class recordings. Any recordings made will be used only for educational purposes within the class, unless explicit, written permission has been granted by the students.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments	Corresponding Learning Outcome(s)
	Intensive Course		
Week 1	<p>Functional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introducing yourself and others 2. Getting to know the City-Center 3. Conducting interviews 4. Describing places and directions <p>Grammatical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local prepositions and adverbs 2. Indirect questions 3. <i>wissen</i> vs. <i>kennen</i> vs. <i>können</i> 4. <i>legen/liegen</i>; <i>stehen/stellen</i>;... 5. Review and practice: Past tense-forms, oral and written usage, Past participles <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Getting to know each other 2. Important dates of Freiburg's history 3. Freiburg for students/ free time activities 4. German geography and neighbors 5. Nations and Countries 6. First impressions 	<p>Writing: Written summary of first impressions in Freiburg/ Germany</p> <p>Oral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviewing class mates in order to get to know each other • Asking about directions and finding places; getting information • Describing personal experience of former stays in Germany, Austria or Switzerland <p>Quiz game: How much do you know about the "Bundesländer"?</p> <p>Course-related trips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the Freiburg City-Centre • Museum of Freiburg History or comparable museum / institution 	I.A., I.B., II.A., III.B., IV.A., V.A.

	Culture: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shopping in Freiburg 2. „Decoding Freiburg” 3. Museum of Freiburg’s History 4. Monuments 		
Week 2	Functional: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describing people and objects 2. Describing activities in past tenses Grammatical: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review: Adjective forms and declensions – Comparison 2. Relative clauses (all cases, with preposition, relating pronouns: <i>wo</i>, <i>woher</i>, <i>wohin</i>) Vocabulary: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forms of communication 2. landscapes, nature, places in town and region 3. Character traits Culture: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. City as Text 2. Freiburg’s economy –visit of an enterprise 3. “Typically Freiburg/ Germany” 4. Studying in Freiburg 	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schwarzwald, Bodensee, Dreiländereck • Info text (chosen by the teacher) on the following topic: German people and other Europeans Writing: Formal and informal letter Oral: Presentation of an American university, town or enterprise Field studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City as text • Freiburg Münster • Freiburg’s economy –visit of an enterprise Core-goal-setting-unit Final exam OIL	I.A., I.B., II.A., III.B., III.D., IV.A., IV.B., V.A.
	Semester Course		
Week 3	Functional:	Reading appropriate in terms of course-topic and language level, to be selected by the teacher. For Example: <i>- Tausend Spiegel</i>	I.B., I.C., II.A., III.B., IV.A., V.A., V.C.

	<p>1. Talking about emotions and the experience of living in a foreign country</p> <p>Grammatical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Past tenses Correction of text production <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adjectives for describing people and feelings Relationships As needed <p>Culture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Freiburg – a new and unknown environment 	<p>Listening an appropriate audio piece in terms of course-topic and language level, to be selected by the teacher. For Example: <i>Tausend Spiegel</i></p> <p>Writing: Optimists vs. pessimists</p> <p>Oral: How do I feel/ behave in new or unknown situations?</p>	
Week 4	<p>Functional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about real/ unreal conditions Polite forms of asking, expression of wishes <p>Grammatical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Konjunktiv II <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Relationships Sayings As needed <p>Culture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Comparison politeness in Germany vs the US 	<p>Reading appropriate in terms of course-topic and language level, to be selected by the teacher. For Example:</p> <p><i>Ich habe einen Traum</i></p> <p>Writing: <i>Ich habe einen Traum</i></p> <p>Oral: Discussion: What if...</p> <p>Listening an appropriate audio piece in terms of course-topic and language level, to be selected by the teacher. For Example:</p> <p>- <i>Wenn alle das täten (Georg Kreisler)</i></p>	I.A., I.B., II.A., III.A., IV.A., IV.B.

Week 5	<p>Functional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stating an opinion, how to agree and disagree 2. how to give advice in German <p>Grammatical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Konjunktiv II 2. Prepositions 3. Genitive <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relationship 2. Adjectives 3. As needed <p>Culture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dating and relationships in Germany 	<p>- <i>Wer ist wie ich?</i></p> <p>Writing: A love story</p> <p>Oral: Giving advice</p> <p>What characteristics do I expect my (future) partner to have?</p>	<p>I.A., I.B., II.A., III.B., IV.B., V.A.</p>
Week 6	<p>Functional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to argue and deal with conflicts in a private context 2. How to give a presentation <p>Grammatical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Correction of text production 2. Verbs with prepositions <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adjectives 2. As needed <p>Culture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Idioms/common phrases 	<p>Reading appropriate in terms of course- topic and language level, to be selected by the teacher. For Example:</p> <p>- <i>Wir reden gerade so nett.</i></p> <p>Writing: Dialogues</p> <p>Oral: Discussion about relationships</p>	<p>I.A., I.B., II.A., III.A., III.C., IV.B., V.A., V.C.</p>

	2. Comparison relationships in Germany vs. the US (age to marry, divorce rate etc.)		
Week 7	<p>Functional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about cultural differences <p>Grammatical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Correction of text production Verbs with prepositions Review of causal clauses <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adjectives As needed <p>Culture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Student life in Germany vs. the US Presentations (topics related to Germany in comparison to the US) 	Core II	I.A., I.B., III.A., III.B
Week 8	<p>Functional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about historical events <p>Grammatical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Concessive clauses Conditional clauses <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adjectives As needed <p>Culture:</p>	<p>Reading appropriate in terms of course-topic and language level, to be selected by the teacher. For Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Erich Fried – eine kurze Biographie</i> <i>Es ist, was es ist</i> (Poem) <p>Oral: How to deal with history?</p> <p>Presentations</p> <p>Listening: <i>Was es ist</i> (Mia)</p>	I.A., I.B., II.A., III.B., IV.A., V.A.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The impact of German history 2. Presentations (topics related to Germany in comparison to the US) 		
Week 9	<p>Functional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talking about clichés and prejudices 2. Talking about patriotism <p>Grammatical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Connectors <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adjectives 2. As needed <p>Culture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding reasons for cultural differences 2. Presentations (topics related to Germany in comparison to the US) 	<p>Reading appropriate in terms of course-topic and language level, to be selected by the teacher. For Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Distanz zum Land</i> <p>Writing: Patriotism in the US</p> <p>Oral: Group discussion: Typical German – typical American</p> <p>Interviews with German students</p> <p>Midterm Exam</p>	V.A., V.B.
Week 10	<p>Functional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talking about <i>Heimat</i> <p>Grammatical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Final clauses 2. Infinitive with <i>zu</i> <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adjectives 2. Sayings 3. As needed <p>Culture:</p>	<p>Reading appropriate in terms of course-topic and language level, to be selected by the teacher. For Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>(Zweite) Heimat Deutschland?</i> <p>Writing: What is <i>Heimat</i> to me?"</p> <p>Oral: What is <i>Heimat</i>? Presentations</p> <p>Listening an appropriate audio piece in terms of course-topic and language level, to be selected by the teacher. For Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two Germans in the US 	I.A., I.B., II.A., II.B., III.C., III.D., IV.B., V.A., V.B.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Body language 2. Presentations (topics related to Germany in comparison to the US) 		
Week 11	<p>Functional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describing processes <p>Grammatical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Past participles 2. Passive voice (present tense) <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adjectives 2. As needed <p>Culture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentations (topics related to Germany in comparison to the US) 	<p>Writing: Describing processes</p> <p>Oral: Presentations</p>	I.B., I.C., I.D., II.A., II.B., III.C., III.D., V.B.
Week 12	<p>Functional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interpreting quotes, expressing opinion about abstract and philosophical questions <p>Grammatical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passive voice (past tense) 2. Passive with <i>sein</i> and <i>werden</i> 3. Correction of text production <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As needed 	<p>Writing: My favorite quote</p> <p>Oral Presentations: Group discussion – Quotes</p>	I.B., I.C., I.D., II.A., II.B., III.C., III.D., IV.B., V.B., V.C.

	<p>Culture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentations (topics related to Germany in comparison) 		
Week 13	<p>Functional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expressing plans and hopes for the future (private and professional) <p>Grammatical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revision 2. Review of the Future tense <p>Vocabulary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revision <p>Culture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. German Breakfast / Course wrap-up, talk about your experience 	Final Exam	IV.B., V.A.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Selection of short texts; Handouts for GR 353

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Exercises on Moodle Page