



GR/IB333 – GERMAN CONVERSATION: WORKPLACE AND BUSINESS

IES Abroad Berlin

DESCRIPTION:

The requirements for employees working for international companies have changed steadily and are still changing at a breathtaking speed. This is mainly due to increasing globalization and economic interdependence, the resulting requirement to set up international working-teams and the need for employees to be more flexible regarding their job location. One of the consequences of this development is an increased demand for foreign language and intercultural communication competences in the professional world. In this course, students will gain proficiency in the use of the German language in a professional context. Furthermore, students will gain substantial insights in the context German businesses operate in and explore Berlin's new economy. This course is designed for students who seek to deepen their German language competence, acquire language skills that prepare them for a German work environment, and get an introduction to the German and Berlin business world. (The previous title of this course was "Let's Speak Business").

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: German

PREREQUISITES: This course is recommended for students who seek to improve their language competency by attending an additional course focusing on language skills.

ADDITIONAL COST: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures
- Discussions
- Course-related trips
- Presentations
- Guest speakers

Moodle will be used to enhance students' learning experiences.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course participation – 10 %
- Presentation – 20 %
- Written language exercises – 20 %
- Midterm – 25 %
- Final – 25 %

Course Participation

Students are expected to be well prepared for every class. Active participation is very important. Missed classes and/or passiveness will lower the grade. Homework is intended to support the learning process. The grading rubric for participation is available in the IES Berlin Academics Manual on Moodle.

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Presentation

The oral presentation has two parts: 10 minutes presentation in the midterm week and a 10 minute presentation in the finals week. Presentations should be clear, structured and serve to show the verbal skills of a student. Vocabulary and grammatical structures should be adequate to the course level.

Written language exercise

Homework is intended to support the learning process.

Midterm Exam

In the written exam (in-class 45 minutes), grammar and structures of the first half of the semester will be tested.

Final Exam

In the written exam (in-class 45 minutes), grammar and structures of the second half of the semester will be tested.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this course, student will have enhanced German language skills, refined ability to converse with native speakers and to write at a sophisticated level about issues of economic interest proving social and intercultural competence required in today's business world.

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.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments and Readings
Week 1	Session 1: Facts about Germany's economy Introducing yourself and others (difficult verbs: präsentieren, sich vorstellen, sich etwas vorstellen)	Landeskunde Deutschland: Made in Germany pp. 139-142 Chapter 1 Im Beruf
	Session 2: Short history of the EU Understanding the structure of a corporation (Grammar: verbs and adjectives with prepositions)	Landeskunde Deutschland: Die EU und Europas Krisen pp. 143-144 Chapter 1 Im Beruf
Week 2	Session 3: Berlin's economy – difficult times	Landeskunde Deutschland: Wirtschaft in Ost und West

	Your first day at work (Grammar: advices with subjunctive II)	Chapter 2 Im Beruf
	Session 4: Poor but sexy – the difficulties of the creative industry Applying for a job (job advertisement, cover letter)	Meran, Max: Kreativ und arm Chapter 3 Im Beruf
Week 3	Session 5: The capital of fashion CV, Job interview	Jansen, Jonas: Modemesse Bread & Butter Chapter 3 Im Beruf
	Session 6: The capital of music Communication: Du or Sie?	Stüber, Jürgen: Berlins Musikindustrie Chapter 3 Im Beruf
Week 4	Session 7: Strategies against stress Session 8: My professional goals	Erkundungen B2 Erkundungen B2
Week 5	Session 9: The capital of tourism In a meeting (Communication: to disagree, asking for opinions, representing your own position)	Bombosch, Frederik: Neuer Tourismusrekord Chapter 4 Im Beruf
	Session 10: Taxes and social charges in Germany Giving directives (Communication: to refuse, to object, to find compromises)	Chapter 9 Im Beruf Chapter 5 Im Beruf
Week 6	Session 11: Midterm wrap-up, exam preparation	
	Midterms: written exam and oral presentation	
Week 7	Session 12: The capital of start ups I need help! Describing a problem and asking for help (Grammar: politeness – könnten, dürften, müssten, würden)	Landeskunde Deutschland: Neue Technologien pp. 151-153 Chapter 6 Im Beruf

Week 8	Session 13: Organizing an event (team building)	Erkundungen B2
	Session 14: Made in Germany	Landeskunde Deutschland
Week 9	Session 15: Money makes the world go round	Löhr, Julia: Deutsche Start-ups erhalten so viel Geld wie nie
	The language of advertisement (Grammar: declension of adjectives)	Chapter 7 Im Beruf
	Session 16: Boom in the east	Rautenberg, Thomas: Boom in Oberschöneweide
	Talking about mistakes (Grammar: verbal bracket)	Chapter 8 Im Beruf
Week 10	Session 17: Capitalism of the future	Piketty, Thomas: Capital and Ideology
	Session 18: The green economy	Landeskunde Deutschland
Week 11	Session 19: The third industrialization – the future of Tegel Airport	The Urban Tech Republic
	Talking about developments, describing charts	Chapter 10 Im Beruf
	Session 20: Migrants and the labor market	Siems, Dorothea: Ausländische Gründer können mehr als Döner
	Migrants becoming entrepreneurs (Communication: negotiation with the bank, getting a business loan)	Chapter 12 Im Beruf
Week 12	Session 21: Negotiating in an intercultural context	Mittelstufenbuch: Between the cultures - cultural differences pp.141-144
	Trouble at work – cultural differences	Chapter 13 Im Beruf
	Session 22: Final discussion, exam preparation	
Week 13	Finals: written exam and oral presentation	

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Valeska Hagner, Sabine Schlüter: Im Beruf B1+/B2, Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch, Hueber Verlag
- Anne Buscha, Das Mittelstufenbuch, Schubert Verlag



- Renate Luscher: Landeskunde Deutschland B2-C2: Politik, Kultur, Wirtschaft, Verlag für Deutsch
- Reader with current newspaper articles
- Bombosch, Frederik: Neuer Rekord-Tourismus in Berlin – wer kommt, was das bringt und wer sich ärgert, Berliner Zeitung, 10.08.2017
- Meran, Max: Kreativ und arm, Tagesspiegel, 12.03.2016
- Jansen, Jonas: Modemesse Bread & Butter: Zalando dreht die Musik auf, FAZ, 02.09.2017
- Stüber, Jürgen: Berlins Musikindustrie geht mit Streaming in die Zukunft, Berliner Morgenpost, 18.04.2017
- Siems, Dorothea: Ausländische Gründer können mehr als Döner, Welt, 11.08.2016
- Rautenberg, Thomas: Boom im Industriegürtel Oberschöneweide, RBB24, 08.04.2018
- Löhr, Julia: Deutsche Start-ups erhalten so viel Geld wie nie, FAZ, 26.02.2018
- Anna Buscha: Erkundungen B2, Schubert-Verlag 2016

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Buscha, Joachim et al. 2002: Grammatik in Feldern, Hueber 2002
- Jahr, Silke: Wirtschaftsdeutsch SICHER, Band 4, Booksbaum 2019

(09/2024)