

This is a preliminary copy of the syllabus. Contents are still subject to change.

University of Toronto

## Advanced German Practice Synchronous Online Course

GER401HS / Spring 2021

Classes meet on U of T's Zoom Platform, 10am-12pm EST on Mon & Wed

	Name	Email	Office Hours
Instructor:	Will Ohm	will.ohm@mail.utoronto.ca	M/W 3-4pm EST

### DESCRIPTION AND COURSE GOALS



Liebe Studenten, herzlich willkommen in GER401! This course is designed for students who have already achieved a high level of competence in German. Building on the material covered in GER 100 to 400, we will study German language at the intermediate to advanced level.

The core of our course will consist of work with Klett's *Aspekte neu C1 Mittelstufe Deutsch Teil 1*. This textbook, which takes the Common European Framework as its point of reference, emphasizes actual language use in a variety of contexts and covers a breadth of subjects with cultural or contemporary relevance: smartphones, roommates, wit, multitasking, commerce & conscience, social networks, goal attainment, and many more. It will also provide you with a highly structured approach to strengthening and expanding your grasp of German grammar and vocabulary.

Our textbook-centred work will be supplemented by lectures and exercises that provide further systematic instruction in advanced German grammar, as well as by assignments that aim both to strengthen your productive German language skills and to help you develop a more personal, meaningful relationship with your ability to speak German – including weekly diary entries, an in-class written exam, a personal essay, and a summative oral interview.

Our online sessions will be focus on communicative and interactive exercises. In addition to preparing and reviewing material at home and completing assignments, regularly attending and participating in the live online sessions is essential in order to successfully complete the course.

## MATERIALS

The textbook that is **required** for this course is the **online version** of Klett's *Aspekte neu C1 Mittelstufe Deutsch Teil 1*, including the *Lehrbuch* (coursebook) and *Arbeitsbuch* (interactive workbook).

For important information on the registration process, please see the "GER401HS 21 Textbook Purchase and Registration Instructions" document on the Quercus course site under Modules/Administrative. Please do not purchase the books before reviewing this information.

Please use the following links to purchase both books:

Aspekte neu C1.1 Lehrbuch:

<https://oxford-university-press.square.site/product/9780190164386/4712>

Aspekte neu C1.1 Arbeitsbuch:

<https://oxford-university-press.square.site/product/9780190164393/4713>

**In addition** to the **mandatory** online version of the textbook, students may **also** wish to purchase the print edition. Students in Canada can purchase a combined print edition through Goethe Books: [https://goethebooks.buchkatalog.de/Product/4099276460851722728/140708/10002/-3/Buecher\\_Schule-und-Lernen//Lehr--und-Arbeitsbuch-C1-m-Audio-CD/](https://goethebooks.buchkatalog.de/Product/4099276460851722728/140708/10002/-3/Buecher_Schule-und-Lernen//Lehr--und-Arbeitsbuch-C1-m-Audio-CD/)

## REQUIREMENTS

Attendance	10%
Homework	10%
8 Short Journal Entries (Tagebücher) + Corrections	30%
In-class Writing Exam (Schriftliche Klassenarbeit)	10%
Essay Draft 1 & 2	20%
Oral Interview (Mündliche Befragung)	20%

In order to be able to fully participate in this course and the live Zoom meetings, you will need a stable internet connection, a camera and a microphone. Turning your camera on will be required, particularly during group discussions and presentations.

## CLASS FORMAT

To support your language learning progress, sessions will be conducted entirely in German, except where it is necessary to use English for the sake of clarification. For the same reason, you are also asked to make your best effort to use German both when we are all together and when you are split up into groups. The more you use these valuable opportunities to practice your German, the more you will benefit from this course and experience the gratification of seeing your abilities grow. To support your active participation and use of German, this class will provide a welcoming, encouraging, and respectful learning environment.

## PRIVACY CONSIDERATIONS

Students may not record any portion of a lecture without the prior and explicit written permission of the course instructor. Provostial guidelines on the Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology, available at <https://www.provost.utoronto.ca/planning-policy/information-communication-technology-appropriate-use/>, state that:

**The unauthorized use of any form of device to audiotape, photograph, video-record or otherwise reproduce lectures, course notes or teaching materials provided by instructors is covered by the Canadian Copyright Act and is prohibited. Students must obtain prior written consent to such recording. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent must not be unreasonably withheld.**

Students may not create **audio recordings** of classes with the exception of those students requiring an accommodation for a disability, who should speak to the instructor prior to beginning to record lectures. Students creating unauthorized audio recording of lectures violate an instructor's intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act. Students violating this agreement will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct.

Students may not take **screenshots** of class chats, class discussion board entries or any other course content without the prior and explicit permission of the course instructor. Taking screenshots of class chats, discussion board entries or other class content and distributing them via the Internet using social media such as Facebook, peer-to-peer file sharing such as One Drive or Dropbox, or other distribution channels may be considered a **violation of privacy** and of intellectual property rights. Students violating this agreement will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct. In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, persons who have special needs will be accommodated.

## ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

This is a synchronous online language course that meets twice a week for two consecutive hours on Zoom. To benefit from this class, it is very important that you not only attend class, but also participate actively – and, of course, *in German*.

With respect to absences, The Department allows each student to miss a maximum of two on-line meetings (i.e. four hours) per term. For each subsequent unexcused absence, a student will incur a 10% penalty off of the class participation and attendance grade. An excused absence is defined as one that has been validated in writing by a physician, surgeon, nurse practitioner, dentist, and clinical psychologist, or a person of authority, e.g. college registrar. Absenteeism indirectly affects all other graded course elements: test material and homework assignments, for example, are based on what is done in the online meetings. If, for any reason, you cannot attend class, please contact your instructor. They will inform you about the best ways to catch up.

## HOMEWORK (HAUSAUSGABEN)

You should plan to spend approx. 6 hours on homework every week. Homework will be assigned mainly from the online workbook. These exercises will provide you with ample opportunity to practice the material covered in class. To have a meaningful learning experience, you should do the homework assignments on a daily basis, rather than all at once. It is important that you complete

your homework regularly because the independent work you do will have a direct influence on your ability to actively participate in all other off- and online activities. Homework will be treated as a completion grade: as long as you do it all, you will receive full marks.

## JOURNAL (TAGEBUCH)

At the end of every week, you will submit 3-5 journal entries that, in total, should be at least 200 words long. The purpose of this exercise is to help you build a habit of using German regularly, to develop a closer relationship with the German language, and to expand your vocabulary and improve your German writing style more effectively. As with the homework, it is highly recommended that you complete the journal entries on a daily basis; only then will you reap its full benefit. Journal entries will be due on Sundays at 11.59pm EST. To help you develop your German writing, you will get feedback, mainly on grammar and vocabulary. However, this exercise is about exploration, reflection, and creativity, not correctness; so as long as you fulfil all requirements, you will receive (almost) full points. More information about this assignment will be provided in class.

## IN-CLASS WRITING EXAM (SCHRIFTLICHE KLASSENARBEIT)

The first of the two writing assignments in this course will be an hour-long in-class writing exam. This exam will consist of two types of exercises that we will have worked on in class. The first exercise will consist of textual analysis: it will ask you to read a text and answer questions about it. The second exercise will deal with one of the genres of text that we will have discussed in class: you will be provided with a topic and asked to produce an example of that kind of writing. In doing so, you need to make sure your text possesses all the characteristic features of the genre as practiced in class. More information about this assignment will be provided in class.

## ESSAY

The second writing assignment will be a take-home essay. The subject of the Essay will be post-pandemic *Vorfreude*, the things you look forward to doing once the pandemic is over. For this essay, you will be asked to submit two versions: a first draft (worth 50%), which will be returned to you with corrections within 7 days, and a second, final version (worth another 50%). Late assignment submission will result in a 3% grade reduction for each day past the deadline, for up to 7 days. Students always have 7 days to submit their final version from the day they received the corrected first version. More details about this assignment will be provided in class.

Having your essays proofread by someone else who is proficient in German can be considered **plagiarism**, as you are submitting someone else's work as your own. The use of translation software or online translation tools such as Google translate will not only be considered **cheating**, but you will miss an invaluable opportunity to reflect upon and improve your writing skills.

## ORAL INTERVIEW (MÜNDLICHE BEFRAGUNG)

The task that will assess your spoken German in this course is an oral interview. This oral interview will consist of a 15 minute long conversation with me, in which I will ask you questions about the material that we have covered in the course of the semester, including: the content of reading- and listening-comprehension texts, the definition of key vocabulary, grammatical structures, and the content of your diary entries. More information about this assignment will be provided in class.

## MOBILE DEVICES

In order to minimize distractions during class time, you are asked to turn phones or similar mobile devices off during online meetings unless requested otherwise by the course instructor.

## ACCESSIBILITY

The department is committed to ensuring that all students have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions. This course welcomes students with diverse learning styles and needs. If you have a consideration or a circumstance that requires specific accommodation for attending online course sessions, participating in group-work, or completing homework and assignments, we invite you to contact the course instructors and Accessibility Services ([accessibility.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:accessibility.services@utoronto.ca)) as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Academic integrity is defined as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, using online translators, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction. Please visit <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm> for additional information on the code of behavior on academic matters.

## GRADING SCALE

Percentage	Letter Grade
90-100	A+
85-89	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F