

Language Courses offered by the Language Center (Trier University, as of summer semester 2025)

Dear (prospective) students, dear colleagues,

The following is an overview of the German courses that - as a rule of thumb - are offered each semester by the Language Center ("Sprachenzentrum") for exchange students and other short-term students (free movers).

The placement for the German language courses is based on the results of a language test. The test will be given on the last day of the orientation program that is offered by the International Office ("Akademisches Auslandsamt") prior to the beginning of the lecture period.

In the language courses students will receive a graded certificate based on regular attendance and active participation, tests covering certain skills or a midterm examination, and a final examination.

Basic course I (A1.1) / "Grundkurs I" (A1.1)

4 hours per week / 5 ECTS credits

The participants of Basic course I start without prior knowledge or with very limited knowledge of the German language. An up-to-date textbook for German as a foreign language for level A1.1 provides students with a suitable structure for the course.

Course content: everyday communication, basic grammar and vocabulary, simple listening and reading comprehension exercises, writing short texts, pronunciation practice, and language acquisition techniques. The goal is to prepare students to take the Basic course II (A1.2) / "Grundkurs II" (A1.2).

At the end of the course students will take a final written examination that is made up of a grammar and vocabulary section, a reading comprehension, a listening comprehension, a composition, and an oral examination. Students will obtain a graded certificate based on this examination.

Basic course II (A1.2) / "Grundkurs II" (A1.2)

4 hours per week / 5 ECTS credits

The participants of Basic course II start with limited knowledge of the German language. An up-to-date textbook for German as a foreign language for level A1.2 provides students with a suitable structure for the course.

Course content: everyday communication, basic grammar and vocabulary, simple listening and reading comprehension exercises, writing short texts, pronunciation practice, and language acquisition techniques. The goal is to prepare students to take Extension course I (A2.1) / "Aufbaukurs I" (A2.1).

At the end of the course students will take a final written examination that is made up of a grammar and vocabulary section, a reading comprehension, a listening comprehension, a composition, and an oral examination. Students will obtain a graded certificate based on this examination.

Extension course I (A2.1) / "Aufbaukurs I" (A2.1)

4 hours per week / 5 ECTS credits

The participants of the extension course have basic knowledge of the German language and are expected to reach the language level A2.1 by the end of this course.

An up-to-date textbook for German as a foreign language for level A2.1 provides students with a suitable structure for the course.

Course content: everyday communication, extension of grammar and vocabulary skills, simple but authentic listening and reading comprehension exercises, practical and argumentative writing assignments, pronunciation practice, and language acquisition techniques.

The goal is to prepare students to take Extension course II (A2.2) / "Aufbaukurs II" (A2.2).

At the end of the course students will take a final examination that is made up of a grammar and vocabulary section, a reading comprehension, a listening comprehension, a composition, and an oral examination. Students will obtain a graded certificate based on this examination.

Extension course II (A2.2) / "Aufbaukurs II" (A2.2)

4 hours per week / 5 ECTS credits

The participants of the extension course have basic knowledge of the German language and are expected to reach the language level A2.2 by the end of this course.

An up-to-date textbook for German as a foreign language for level A2.2 provides students with a suitable structure for the course.

Course content: everyday communication, extension of grammar and vocabulary skills, simple but authentic listening and reading comprehension exercises, practical and argumentative writing assignments, pronunciation practice, and language acquisition techniques.

The goal is to prepare students to take Intermediate course I (B1.1) / Mittelkurs I (B1.1).

At the end of the course students will take a final examination that is made up of a grammar and vocabulary section, a reading comprehension, a listening comprehension, a composition, and an oral examination. Students will obtain a graded certificate based on this examination.

Intermediate courses I-IV (B1-B2) - "Mittelkurse I-IV" (B1-B2)

4 hours per week / 5 ECTS credits

This course is offered in 4 groups: "Mittelkurs I" (B1.1), "Mittelkurs II" (B1.2), "Mittelkurs III" (B2.1) and "Mittelkurs IV" (B2.2).

An up-to-date textbook for German as a foreign language provides students with a suitable structure for the course. Productive and receptive skills will be further built upon through work with authentic texts, including various types of texts; grammar and vocabulary exercises are integrated into the text assignments. Course content: understanding lectures, presentations and news reports, taking one's own position in an argument, understanding and categorizing longer authentic texts at a moderate level of difficulty, writing argumentatively and academically (summary and discussion), and using complex sentence structures and subject-specific vocabulary.

The goal is to prepare students for advanced (B1) and independent (B2) language use.

At the end of the course students will take a final examination that is made up of a grammar and vocabulary section, a reading comprehension, a listening comprehension, a composition, and an oral examination. Students will obtain a graded certificate based on this examination.

Courses in a modular system:

In the following courses students will receive a graded certificate based on the results of the final exam, different forms of oral and/or written tests, and the work done throughout the duration of the course (including preparation of additional assignments before and after class).

These courses will not be offered every semester and if yes, not for all indicated levels.

Pronunciation training (B1/B2 and/or B2/C1) - "Aussprachetraining" (B1/B2 und/oder B2/C1) 2 hours per week / 2 ECTS credits

The pronunciation training is aimed at participants of the intermediate course.

The goal is to instruct students in the standard German pronunciation, as it is used in official communication, in the media, in schools and universities, as well as in business and administration, and to improve their pronunciation skills.

The main tasks are to correct individual pronunciation mistakes and to learn the proper pronunciation of vowels and consonants as well as the rules of intonation and prosody. Multimedia exercises also serve to attain these goals.

In this course students will receive a course certificate based on regular attendance, active participation and different forms of oral tests.

Oral communication skills (A1–B2) / "Sprechkompetenz" (A1–B2)

2 hours per week / 2 ECTS credits

This course is offered in several groups for different levels: "Sprechkompetenz I" (A1), Sprechkompetenz II" (A2), Sprechkompetenz III (B1) und Sprechkompetenz IV (B2).

The oral communication skills course is aimed at participants of the compact courses at beginners' and intermediate level. The goal of this course is to train the students' oral skills, teach them different forms of day-to-day communication and prepare them for oral test situations. The students learn to formulate questions and give answers, to express their opinions and wishes, to talk about their experiences and differences between cultures and countries.

Course content: interplays, role plays, interviews, Q&A-sessions, presentations with discussions. In this course students will obtain a course certificate based on regular attendance, active participation and different forms of oral tests.

Written communication skills (B1/B2) / "Schreibkompetenz" (B1/B2)

2 hours per week / 3 ECTS credits

The written communication skills course is aimed at participants of the compact courses at beginners' and intermediate level. In this course the competence of writing different types of texts will be improved by increasing the students' text knowledge and by training their awareness of different writing styles. The students learn to clarify their thoughts and to identify the key points, facts and themes before they decide on a logical order for the content and compose their text with a strong introduction and ending.

Course content: The participants independently compose various types of texts (emails, descriptions, narrations, protocols, etc.). Text knowledge (text types, text patterns and prototypic text forms), text awareness (reflection about writing purposes, disposition for correction and introspection) and writing skills will be developed and practiced.

In this course students will obtain a course certificate based on regular attendance, active participation and different forms of written tests.

**Lecturing, presenting, and discussing (B1/B2) and/or (B2/C1) /
"Referieren, präsentieren, diskutieren" (B1/B2) und/oder (B2/C1)**
2 hours per week / 3 ECTS credits

In this course students will be trained in the verbal language skills necessary for academic situations, e.g. giving a lecture, joining in a discussion in a seminar, taking an oral exam. In doing so, typical skills will be practiced: structuring lectures for listeners, speaking intelligibly and correctly, properly debating and discussing.

Language skills: comprehension (working with sources), speaking (discussion, short presentation (impromptu), lecture (prepared), orienting a presentation to an audience and a situation), vocabulary and syntax of the spoken language (integrated), writing (lecture outline, creating a lecture handout, summarizing sources)

Additional requirements: seminar-based exercises, for example attentive listening exercises (oral and written), written evaluations for presentation feedback

**Practice of listening comprehension (B1/B2) and/or (B2/C1) /
"Training zum Hörverstehen" (B1/B2) und/oder (B2/C1)**
2 hours per week / 3 ECTS credits

The goal of this course is the systematic development of the listening comprehension of the participants. The competence of understanding different types of foreign-language audio texts will be improved by increasing the students' knowledge of text types and text patterns, by training their awareness of listening styles, and by means of adequate listening strategies.

Course topics: After a theoretical and methodical foundation (audio text types and global text patterns, listening purposes, listening styles and listening strategies), a wide spectrum of audio texts will be analyzed in terms of their formal structure and content, and the communicative intention of the speaker embedded in a broader context.

Language skills: comprehension (analysis of audio texts of different types, e.g. conversation, interview, report, coverage, speech, lecture, and linguistic varieties, e.g. everyday speech, educational language and technical jargon), speaking (discussion), writing (summary, commentary)

Additional requirements: summary of a longer audio text and/or midterm examination

**Text-based vocabulary and grammar learning (B1/B2) and/or (B2/C1) /
"Textbasierte Wortschatz- und Grammatikarbeit" (B1/B2) und/oder (B2/C1)**
2 hours per week / 3 ECTS credits

In this course students learn lexical and idiomatic knowledge and skills as well as grammatical and syntactical skills that are necessary to understand academic texts and to be able to compose such texts. The vocabulary and grammar work is principally based on texts and is aimed at academic language usage.

Language skills: Collecting, organizing, and using vocabulary found in texts; recognizing and using culture-specific vocabulary; dictionary work;

On the basis of authentic academic texts and expressions: analysis of academic structures (nominalization, enhanced participial attributes, grammar of the spoken and written languages) exercises in converting grammar structures (verbalization, active-passive, dependent clause constructions, prepositional phrases)

Additional requirements: seminar-relevant exercises and a midterm examination.

**Images of Germany in movies, literature and print media (B1/B2) and/or (B2/C1) /
"Deutschlandbilder in Film und Literatur und Presse" (B1/B2) und/oder (B2/C1)**
2 hours per week / 3 ECTS credits

The goal of this course is the development and advancement of intercultural communication skills and a deeper cultural understanding.

Course content: lectures on and discussions of current German-language literature (short stories, poems, songs, novellas, novels, and/ or excerpts), as well as discussion of current film productions (short films, film sequences).

Course topics: current topics with an intercultural perspective; getting to know everyday culture

Language skills: comprehension (language usage specific to literature and film; culturally specific vocabulary), speaking (discussions about readers' perceptions, interpretation discussions, role-play), writing (interpretation, revision and critique)

Additional requirements: short presentation (e.g. presenting a book) and/or midterm examination

Intercultural communication (B2/C1) / "Interkulturelle Kommunikation" (B2/C1)
2 hours per week / 3 ECTS credits

The goal of this course is to accustom the participants to intercultural communication situations and to develop intercultural skills, particularly those in the area of language. How do we communicate effectively with people from other cultures? How do we deal with misunderstandings and difficulties?

Course content: Through comments, discussion and role-play, the linguistic methods of intercultural communication will be developed and practiced.

Intercultural skills: Sensitization to intercultural differences, reflection on the self-image and the image of the "other," analysis of intercultural misunderstandings

Language skills: comprehension (text comparison of academic and media texts, e.g. charts, pictures, news reports, short stories, documentary films, short films, film sequences), speaking (discussion, debate, short presentation), writing (expressing one's views, commentary, essay)

Additional requirements: short presentation and/or midterm examination

Cultural studies: current - historical (B2/C1) / "Landeskunde: aktuell - historisch" (B2/C1)
2 hours per week / 3 ECTS credits

In this course students' basic knowledge of Germany will be broadened. Current topics within the realm of German cultural studies will be discussed with the use of authentic material (e.g. newspaper articles, radio broadcasts and video clips). Emphasis lies not only on the information presented, but also on the ability to communicate this knowledge and to speak about topics in intercultural studies.

Course topics: Knowledge about current political, economic and social topics (with student-influenced selection), key contextual knowledge of a historical and political nature (with student-influenced selection).

Language skills: comprehension (text analysis of academic articles and media sources, e.g. illustrations, charts, dictionary entries, reports and commentaries), speaking (discussion, short presentation), writing (summary, commentary, essay)

Additional requirements: short presentation, essay and/or midterm examination

Academic writing (B2/C1) / "Schreiben im Studium" (B2/C1)

2 hours per week / 3 ECTS credits

This course is an academic writing training. The participants independently compose academic texts, including various types of texts (research papers, protocols, excerpts, abstracts, term paper chapters. In doing so, specific skills will be practiced: summarizing, excerpting, paraphrasing, using annotations, citing sources, and revising the writing process.

Language skills: comprehension (working with sources), writing (summing up and comparing academic texts, using citations and annotations)

Additional requirements: seminar-based exercises (summary, commentary, citation of sources), composition of 3-5 academic texts (research paper, protocol, excerpt, abstract, term paper chapter)

Working with technical texts (B2/C1) / "Mit Fachtexten arbeiten" (B2/C1)

2 hours per week / 3 ECTS credits

The goal of this course is the systematic development of the academic reading comprehension of the participants. The competence of understanding different types of technical texts shall be improved by increasing the students' knowledge of text types and by training their awareness of different reading strategies and adequate information management techniques.

Course topics: After a theoretical and methodical foundation on the reading process and reading strategies, a wide spectrum of popular scientific articles, textbook texts and scientific essays will be analyzed in terms of their formal structure and content, and the communicative intention of the author embedded in a broader context.

Language skills: comprehension (analysis of technical and academic texts, e.g. popular scientific articles, textbook texts and scientific essays), speaking (discussion), writing (excerpt, summary, commentary)

Additional requirements: excerpt, summary and/or midterm examination.