

Berlin in the Winter (A1) *Semi-intensive German language course*

06 January – 24 January 2025

CATEGORY German Language

COURSE STRUCTURE

You will receive a total of **45 hours of academic lessons** (one lesson equals 45 minutes; 15 hours per week). Lessons will comprise lectures, group work, discussion sessions, and excursions.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

HUWISU courses are grouped into different time tracks. Your course will take place in **Track A**

Monday: 9.45 am – 10.30 am & 10.45 am - 12.15 pm

Tuesday: 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm & 2.45 pm – 4.15 pm

Wednesday: 9.00 am - 10.30 am & 10.45 am - 12.15 pm

Friday: 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm & 2.45 pm – 4.15 pm

COURSE LANGUAGE

This course is taught **in German**.

TARGET GROUP

Undergraduate, graduate students as well as Ph.D. candidates who are interested in a semi-intensive language course which can be combined with a subject course. Students **without previous knowledge of German** can participate in this course. The levels are based on the guidelines set by the *the Common European Framework of References for Languages*.

CREDITS & CERTIFICATES

Participants will receive **6 ECTS** credit points and a certificate if they attend regularly (at least 80% attendance), participate actively and fulfill all course assignments. Additionally, six weeks after the end of the course a Transcript of Records is issued by Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. All courses are accredited according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

You are invited to **join our cultural and social program**. We offer a fine selection of interesting activities that aim to give you an unforgettable stay in Berlin. Through excursions, social gatherings, and sport activities, you have the opportunity to get to know the city, the university, and to meet students from all parts of the world. **Costs for these offers are included in the program fee**. Below, you find examples of previously offered cultural activities. You will be informed about the respective cultural program shortly before the start of the program via email as well as during the course period.



POLITICAL AND HISTORICAL GUIDED TOURS

- Federal Chancellery (*Bundeskanzleramt*)
- German Parliament (*Bundestag*)
- House of Representatives (*Abgeordnetenhaus*)
- Topography of Terror exhibition
- Political Archive of the Federal Foreign Office

CULTURAL GUIDED TOURS

- Kreuzberg Tour
- Museum Island (*Museumsinsel*)
- Berlin Cathedral (*Berliner Dom*)
- Daytrip to Potsdam
- Exhibitions

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

- Welcome Session
- Ice Skating
- Farewell Get2gether

EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

Preparation for lively discussions in the classroom: Be on time, have at least the required readings completed, and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

Assignments: Complete all assignments according to the specified requirements on the schedule including handing them over to the lecturer.

Commitment in class: Pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers').

Academic guidelines: Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical) especially the academic honor code and the student code of conduct.

Attendance policy: No unexcused absences are permitted. Students must follow teachers' instructions to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the HUWISU office.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

According to the results of an assessment test prior to the course the participants are placed in groups of different language levels. If you are an absolute beginner no test will be necessary.

Beginners A1

This course is designed for students with no previous or only very little knowledge of German and focuses on the development of communicative competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. With regard to content, one of the foci of this course is Berlin and the region.

By the end of the course you will:

- know greeting and everyday expressions, be able to count, tell time and use sentences in day-to-day contexts.
- be able to give some information about yourself, your family and friends.
- be able to order food and beverages and purchase things.
- be able to ask for directions and name a few interesting sights in Berlin.

Grammar:

- conjugation of regular verbs and some irregular verbs
- definite and indefinite articles
- singular and plural forms of nouns
- negation
- forming questions and simple sentences
- use of some prepositions
- accusative form (direct object)
- dative: some examples

TEXTBOOKS

Grammar content and textbooks according to student's needs, as participants with different backgrounds will be asked for their exact needs on the first day of the course. Furthermore, we will have to ensure that the textbook we use is new to everybody in the class.

Commonly used books are, e.g.:

Pluspunkt Deutsch A1
Panorama A1
Studio 21 A 1
Menschen A 1

COURSE SCHEDULE

The respective schedule strongly depends on different aspects such as

- the course book and reading materials
- the background of the students
- individual interests with regard to areas/topics

ASSIGNMENT INFO

Modes of assessment: reading, listening comprehension, writing, speaking, grammar and short presentations according to the level and topics covered in class.

Please note that homework is considered part of the course commitments.

Students will also be asked to work in pairs or in small groups and to contribute to oral discussions in class – due to our communicative approach and in order to use the language not only in written texts, but also in speaking.

Progress checks with different focus according to topics covered (e.g. grammar, vocabulary, readings skills etc.): 50 % - Active participation in the class discussion (and possibly presentations on higher levels): 50% - A minimum of 80% class attendance is required. Failure to fulfill one of the mentioned components results in failure of the class.

YOUR INSTRUCTORS

The language courses are held by qualified language teachers. The lecturers all have academic degrees and international teaching experience. In the varied teaching sessions, they are highly committed to the learning progress of the students.

The course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: 17 August 2023