



Online Course Title	Berlin im Winter / Berlin in the Winter
Category	Language, Literature & Writing
Online Course Period	January 6th – January 26th 2021
Course Structure	<p>The course content is equivalent to an on-site course offering 45 contact hours. It takes place in form of synchronous sessions (50%) and asynchronous group and self-study (50%).</p> <p>The study time includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • virtual classroom lessons with the lecturer and the fellow students (50%) – including three synchronous sessions per week, combined with asynchronous teaching • group and/or pair exercises (20%) • assignments and self-study (30%) <p>The weekly schedule of virtual class room lessons consists of three sessions per week, and students will be divided into course groups based on their region and time zone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course days: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday • Group 1: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm (Berlin time, UTC+1) 17.00 pm – 19.00 pm (Beijing time, UTC+8) 20.00 pm – 22.00 pm (Sydney time, UTC+11) 3.00 am – 5.00 am (Chicago time, UTC-6) • Group 2: 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm (Berlin time, UTC+1) 11.00 pm – 1.00 am (Beijing time, UTC+8) 2.00 am – 4.00 am (Sydney time, UTC+11) 9.00 am – 11.00 am (Chicago time, UTC-6)
Technical Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully functional device (laptop, tablet, PC or smart phone) • Stable internet connection • Software: Zoom (video/audio), Moodle (e-learning platform) <p>Recommended hardware: external headset for better sound quality</p>
Course Level & Target Group	International undergraduate and graduate students as well as Ph.D. candidates of all subjects with an academic background and a strong interest in German language, culture, and politics and in the history of Germany and Berlin in particular. The course focusses on the language levels of B1 and B2.
Course Language	All classes will be conducted in German. English <i>may</i> occasionally be used as a metalanguage in order to explain grammatical structures, to provide additional information in the case of comprehension difficulties, or to avoid misunderstandings.
ECTS	5 ECTS
Instructor	The language courses are held by qualified language teachers. All teachers have academic degrees and ample international teaching experience. They are highly committed to the progress of their students.

Course Description

All students are taught according to their respective language competence. Participants will be placed in groups that match their individual level of language competence. Course management will assign students initially on the basis of self-assessments and language certificates submitted by the students. In the first week, however, the teachers will recommend that students change groups if they think that a different level is more suitable for them.

The course will be provided online using the communication platform Zoom. In order to guarantee the best and most comfortable learning conditions and excellent learning outcomes, courses are divided into three sections: 1) virtual classroom (synchronous and asynchronous study), 2) group exercises, and 3) self-study.

In the synchronous study section, teachers present topics, for example grammatical structures. This is also the place for checking homework and holding group exercises and group discussions. During asynchronous study, students acquaint themselves with video material, music material, literature / reading / text comprehension etc. The virtual classroom comprises 50% of the entire course.

In section 2, students will work together as a group. Groups will consist of a minimum of two and a maximum of four students. Students will be given different tasks that are adjusted to their respective level of language competence. The results of a group exercise will be presented in different ways (e.g., offline presentation, essay, a conversation or debate within the virtual classroom etc.), depending on the class level and on the assignment in question. Group exercises comprise 20% of the entire course.

Section 3, self-study, includes homework, preparation for the class, reviewing class work, and repetition. This section also comprises individual assignments. The form of assignments depends on the class level. Assignments include grammar tests, presentations, academic papers, essays, and commentaries. There will be short weekly assignments and a final exam/task at the end of the class. The self-study section accounts for 30% of the entire course.

Course Schedule

The respective schedule strongly depends on different aspects such as

- language level
- reading material
- the background of the students
- personal interests with regard to areas/topics

Lessons will comprise virtual classroom lessons (synchronous and asynchronous), group and pair work, and self-study sessions. Components of the language lessons are:

- grammar
- writing
- listening and reading comprehension
- conversation
- pronunciation (explicit phonetic instructions will not be provided).

Course Objective & Learning Outcomes

The course objective and the learning outcome are defined on the basis of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The following description of the courses address the respective language level, teaching method, focus, topics/content, and the course objective (learning outcome).

Intermediate Level B1+B2

This course is designed to improve primarily your writing, but also your speaking competence in German, to increase your vocabulary, to make you familiar with stylistic registers and different conventions of text types, and to help you develop effective reading and listening strategies. One of the foci is the development of your competence to self-correct in oral and written text production. All discussions are based on readings of (mostly authentic or literary) texts to facilitate the exchange of information, ideas,

reactions, and opinions. Course materials also provide cultural and historical background information. You will expand and deepen your knowledge of grammar and complex, German-specific grammatical structures through specific grammar exercises.

The course topics include, e.g.:

- people in Germany, German history and culture, and the social situation in the country
- specific German language structures (idioms, neologisms, slang, dialects, “Berlin talk”)
- the city of Berlin (history, politics, culture, people, society)
- foreigners in Germany (e.g., multiculturalism, migration, refugees)
- German media and music: topics from newspaper articles, films, popular songs

By the end of the course, students will be able to talk, read, and write about historical, cultural, and social topics, many of them in connection with Berlin and Germany, and use vocabulary and structures accordingly.

Readings

Reading materials will be available via Moodle during the course.

Assignments

In order to earn 5 ECTS, participants must actively attend all virtual classroom sessions. A minimum of 80% attendance in the virtual classroom is required. This means that students must not miss more than one synchronous session. Moreover, students are required to hand in the weekly assignments for progress checks (e.g., grammar, vocabulary, reading and writing skills etc.). Students also have to pass the final task of the class, the design of which depends on the class level and on the content of the class. Final exams/tests may take the form of grammar tests, essays, commentaries, academic papers, and presentations. The final exam will take place on the day before the last day of the course. Presentations have to be given on the last day of the course.

Assessment Components

The final grade will be composed of the weekly assignments (e.g., grammar and/or vocabulary tests, reading, listening, and/or writing tasks etc.), the results of the group and pair exercises, and of the self-study tasks (50%) and the results of the final exam (50%), which is designed according to the respective language level and the content of the class.

Expectations & Policies

Preparation for lively discussions in the virtual 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 schedule including handing over to the lecturer.

Commitment in online-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 honour code and the student code of conduct (see *FAQs* on www.huwisu.de).

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