



American Junior Year at Heidelberg University Summer Program 2024

Course Descriptions

Intermediate German I

Instructor: Dr. Windham

Hours: 5 hrs/day (45 contact hours over three weeks)

Credits: 3

Description: Intermediate German I & II is designed for students who have completed the beginner level (i.e., the first two semesters of German). Working systematically through more complex grammatical structures (e.g., subjunctives, relative clauses, etc.) in the context of engaging materials and field trips, students gain the level of proficiency/fluency required to enter third-year German at their respective home schools.

Basis of Grade: In-class participation, short presentations, a longer final project/presentation, regular essays (first and final versions)

Intermediate German II

Instructors: Dr. Windham

Hours: 5 hrs/day (45 contact hours over three weeks)

Credits: 3

Description: This course is a continuation of Intermediate German I

Basis of Grade: See Intermediate German I

The two courses are taken back to back in six weeks, with students earning 6 credit hours for 90 contact hours. Ca. 80% of class time is spent inside the classroom, with the remaining 20% spent on faculty-led co-curricular excursions.

Advanced German I

Instructor: Breithaupt

Hours: 5 hrs/day

Credits: 3

Description: This course guides students who have completed the intermediate sequence

(i.e., at least four semesters) toward greater proficiency/fluency in everyday German and academic discourse. Course content is built around two weekly co-curricular excursions and site visits, with readings and reaction papers flanking each site visit.

Basis of Grade: In-class participation, several short and one longer presentation, weekly reaction papers and re-writes after instructor feedback

Advanced German II

Instructors: Breithaupt

Hours: 5 hrs/day

Credits: 3

Description: This course is a continuation of Advanced German I

Basis of Grade: See Advanced German I

The two courses are taken back to back in six weeks, with students earning 6 credit hours for 90 contact hours. Ca. 80% of class time is spent inside the classroom, with the remaining 20% spent on faculty-led co-curricular excursions.

German/ European Studies Seminar

Contemporary Controversies in German Culture

AJY Code: GER 307

Instructors: Dr. Wrage

Hours: 45 contact hours, including mandatory attendance of cultural events, site visits in Heidelberg and Berlin

Credits: 3

Description: This course is designed for advanced students of German language and culture who wish to further develop their German language skills and learn to debate the most central issues and controversies of contemporary affairs. In terms of content, we will delve into the political system and federal/regional elections, debates about sustainability and climate protection, and the controversy surrounding Berlin's Humboldt Forum (which in turn has brought Germany's colonial past into focus), among other topics. We will also enrich the course with field trips and guests - for example, we will incorporate a visit to the Berlin Humboldt Forum into the course and talk to representatives of the parties' youth organizations about the election and the formation of the government. At the end of each module, after a thorough study of facts and arguments and sometimes artistic contributions (e.g. political satire, film), there will be a model debate in which all course participants will take on a role that they have specifically rehearsed. This course is also specifically about preparing for these debates by studying and practicing idioms, phrases, and grammatical structures that will be used both in the debate itself and in short presentations and essays.

Readings: Reading material will be provided.

Basis of Grade: Regular attendance, participation in discussions, presentations, 3 4-page essays (first and final version).