



## **CIEE Global Institute – Berlin**

<b>Course name:</b>	Communicative German Language
<b>Course number:</b>	GERM 0001 BRGE
<b>Programs offering course:</b>	Summer in Berlin
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	German
<b>U.S. semester credits:</b>	1
<b>Contact hours:</b>	15
<b>Term:</b>	Summer 2020

### **Course Description**

The course is designed for students with no previous knowledge of the German language. Students will develop basic German language comprehension and communication skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. By the end of the course, students will be able to employ simple sentences and expressions useful for everyday situations and settings (for example, at the supermarket, in a restaurant, at school, at the office, or with friends and family). The aim of the course is to provide basic linguistic tools necessary for students to communicate effectively and to gain a better understanding of the way of life in Berlin.

### **Learning Objectives**

Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to develop their skills in:

- Listening: understand familiar words and basic phrases, concerning themselves; their families and immediate surroundings.
- Reading: comprehend familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example on posters or in advertisements.
- Spoken Interaction: interact in a simple way, provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at a slower rate of speech and help students formulate phrases. Students can ask and answer simple questions related to immediate needs or on very familiar topics.
- Spoken Production: use simple phrases and sentences to describe where they live and people they know.

### **Course Prerequisites**

None.

### **Methods of Instruction**



This course is based on an overall communicative teaching philosophy, as taught for instance in the “natural approach” (by Tracy Terrell & Stephen Krashen) Our approach to teaching and language acquisition is a functional one, in which students apply German to learn German. We are committed to communicative language teaching, focusing methodologically on communication and meaning, while still paying attention to grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation.

In our language instruction we use a variety of instructional means, ranging from short grammar drills to dialogue-building, group work and role-playing. In each session, all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing) will be practiced, always with the goal to enhance students’ communicative competence. Classroom activities will include individual, partner and group work and will be complemented by homework exercises.

### **Course Materials:**

All materials will be provided by the instructor, based on the progress of the group and the students’ individual interests.

### **Assessment and Final Grade**

Students will be assessed according to the following criteria:

1. Participation:	40%
2. Homework Assignment 1:	10%
3. Homework Assignment 2:	10%
4. Homework Assignment 3:	10%
5. Final Oral Comprehension/Speaking Test:	30%
 TOTAL:	 100%

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Homework Assignments**

Homework assignments will be assigned after most sessions and will be checked frequently.

#### **Final Oral Comprehension/Speaking Test**

The oral comprehension and speak test serves as a final evaluation and involves cross-examination on the part of the students.



### **Participation**

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities. An occasional in-class quiz might be administered.

Participation is absolutely crucial to students' success and to the success of the entire class. Learning a language is an interactive process which has to be practiced in a communicative manner. Active participation in class is the key for success when acquiring a new language.

### **Attendance Policy**

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short-Term programs, unexcused absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning from the Academic Director, including notification to the student's home school. Unexcused absences that constitute more than 20% of the total course will result in automatic course failure and possible expulsion.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event. Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

An absence in a CIEE course will only be considered excused if:

- a doctor's note is provided
- a CIEE staff member verifies that the student was too ill to attend class
- satisfactory evidence is provided of a family emergency



Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Unexcused absences will lead to the following penalties:

<i>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</i>	<i>Minimum Penalty</i>
Up to 10%	No academic penalty
10 – 20%	Reduction of final grade
More than 20%	Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion

### **Modules**

NOTE: The distribution of the module content across the course meeting schedule will vary and depends on the learning rate of the individual class.

#### **Week 1**

- 1.1 Saying hello and goodbye; introducing oneself and others; talking about oneself and others; numbers 1-20; spelling words and names; talking about countries and languages

#### **Week 2**

- 2.1 The alphabet; first verbs in present tense; how to ask question; useful terms and expressions; numbers; 5 W questions; Yes/no (*ja/nein*) questions; conjugating the verb to be (*sein*).

#### **Due date for submission of Homework Assignment 1**

- 2.2 Talking about hobbies, days of the week, months and seasons of the year; definite and indefinite articles; personal pronouns; plurals of nouns; studying in Berlin; the nominative versus the accusative case; conjugating the verb to have (*haben*).

#### **Due date for submission of Homework Assignment 2**



### **Week 3**

- 3.1 Getting around a town and asking for the way; giving directions; negation with none (*kein*); prepositions with, to, at (*mit / zu / bei*); expressing wishes; ordering food in a restaurant; polite requests; public transportation in Berlin.

### **Due date for submission of Homework Assignment 3**

- 3.2 Talking about food; cooking and eating in Berlin; planning a trip to the grocery store; talking about food and meals; modal verbs.

### **Week 4**

- 4.1 Concluding Discussion

### **Final Oral Comprehension/Speaking Test**