

Syllabus GERN 101 Learning German 1

Willkommen bei GERN 101 Section 102!

Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I am an uninvited guest on stolen land. UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site. I understand that I would not be able to work, teach and learn on this land if it weren't for the history of genocide and the ongoing colonization of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Ich möchte hiermit die xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) würdigen, die dieses Land und diese Gewässer seit Jahrtausenden pflegen und respektieren und auf dem sie seit Jahrtausenden gelebt, gelehrt, gelernt und gewirkt haben und das sie nie verkauft oder anderswie abgegeben haben. Ich möchte mich bei den xʷməθkʷəy̓əm dafür bedanken. Ebenso dafür, dass ich als ungebetener Gast auf diesem Land, an diesen Gewässern arbeiten, lehren und lernen darf. Ich bin mir bewusst, dass dies nur aufgrund historischen Genozids und andauernder Kolonialisierung Indigener Völker in Kanada möglich ist.

As a learning community and as individuals, we will consider our presence on this Indigenous territory, and, further, how we might support efforts to protect Indigenous rights in general and Indigenous land rights in particular.

When & Where

GERN 101 Section 102 meets during the Winter Term 1 2025/26 on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:30–11:00 a.m. in Buchanan B 318.

GERN 101 is a 3-credit course. Active participation is encouraged and will be rewarded.

There's nothing to fear in language learning. So-called “mistakes” are a necessary part of the process — they are proof that you are learning. Let's think of “mistakes” as a small deviation of the expected. Be brave, use the language as much as you can. Feel free to mix German with English — I do it all the time. The effort of learning an additional language is worth it! Learning German gives your voice, intellect, identity, emotions, and culture a new dimension, but it takes a bit of time and

patience. Please be gentle with yourself and others. Let me know if you're ever feeling like you need some encouragement!

Your Instructor (aka your cheerleader)

Dr. Caroline Rieger

Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies

My name is Caroline Rieger. Please call me Caroline. I've been teaching German for close to 30 years, and I'm also a researcher in applied linguistics. I grew up in rural Luxembourg (close to the Belgian border) and started speaking German at age 3; it wasn't until I was 14 that I began learning English.

My office is in Buchanan Tower on the 9th floor, room 923. Feel free to visit any time.

Office Hours

Although, I have not set aside a specific time for office hours this term, you are more than welcome (and encouraged!) to visit me in my office with any questions you might have about the course, your assignments or anything related to the German language. I look forward to meeting and getting to know each of you.

If you want to make sure that I am available, please make an appointment. Send me an email with two to three suggested time slots that work for you (in person or via Zoom) — evening hours are fine if Zoom meetings work for you.

My email: carolin@mail.ubc.ca or caroline.rieger@ubc.ca

I check my email Monday to Friday (and occasionally on weekends).

What We'll Need: Course Materials

Digital access to the textbook **SAG MAL!** ("Zahg mahl"): An Introduction to German Language and Culture. 3rd Student Edition, by Christine Anton & Tobias Barske. Student Package with Online Access Code to Supersite Plus (SSPlus) and Web Student Activities Manual (wSAM).

Sag mal! is available through the UBC Bookstore in a digital format. That means you can buy it online and avoid the long lines. It includes either a 6-, 12- or 36-month access code to Supersite, the online platform integrated with the *Sag mal!* materials. The German Language Program uses all of the *Sag mal!* textbook through its first four semesters (GERN 101, 102, 201 and 202).

Costs for the materials with a 6-month access code: \$119.95 [9781543319781];

Costs for the materials with a 12-month access code: \$174.70 [9781543329087];

Costs for the materials with a 36-month access code: \$206.56 [9781543316070].

You'll need your access code as quickly as possible, so you can do your homework and start practicing German. As soon as you purchase your access code, register as a student in this UBC class: **GERN 101 Learning German 1 Section 102** and check for your assignments.

If you need to check it out before committing to the materials and the course, please check out the **VHL Grace Period Instructions (Student)** on Canvas and follow the directions.

Please note that the bookstore also offers more costly packages that contain grammar slides (in German). They are not required and would be for self-study only.

You'll also need CANVAS.

You can direct all technical questions to the Learning Technology Hub: lt.hub@ubc.ca.

If you experience any difficulties with Canvas, please contact the IT Hub right away.

What We'll Learn: Course Learning Outcomes

We learn:

- to **speak and write in German** about family, friends, studies, interests and leisure, opinions and attitudes;
- to **apply language skills** when communicating with speakers of German, such as greetings, introductions, requests for information, descriptions of people, expression of ownership, giving instructions, asking and answering questions;
- to **comprehend and enjoy** fundamental spoken and written German and become aware of the lexical and structural characteristics of the German language;
- to **apply learning strategies** to German, as well as future language learning;
- to get to know the **rich dimensions of human diversity** that characterize Germanophone cultures, including but not limited to linguistic, racial, ethnic, social, regional, gender and ability difference;
- to enhance understanding of **our own languages and cultural backgrounds**.

What about Grading: Assignments and Assessment

- Homework: Sag Mal! Supersite Assignments (20%)
- Portfolio (14%)
- Chapter Check-ins (3 x 12%)
- Listening Challenges (3 x 5%)
- Oral Assessments (3 x 5%)

Homework: Sag Mal! Supersite Assignments (20%)

Your textbook is linked to a great online platform called Supersite, where you will practice grammar, vocabulary, and other knowledge introduced in each chapter for every class period (always due on the day before class at 11:59 p.m. at the latest). You have unlimited attempts to do each assignment and will not be evaluated on accuracy. If you do the homework on time you will get 100% of the grade; if you are late by one weekday you will get 90% of the grade; if you are late by two weekdays you will get

80% of the grade; if you are late by more than two weekdays, but less than 7 weekdays, you will get 50% of the grade. Any later submission will result in 0% (unless you have concession, see UBC policies).

Portfolio (14%)

The portfolio is an ongoing document for your personal exploration with German. You will hand in contributions for the portfolio three times in the semester (see details on Canvas). The portfolio will not be graded until you submit the 3rd one. However, you will receive 1% of the Portfolio grade for punctual submission of each (total 3%); you will lose the 3% if you do submit after the due date (unless you have concession, see UBC policies).

Chapter Check-ins (36% or 3 x 12%)

At the end of each chapter in Sag mal!, you will complete a short (ca. 30 minute) online quiz at home. These will be available on Canvas for a 24-hour period (always on a Friday, please see schedule). [There are no traditional final exams or midterms in this course.]

Listening Challenges (15% or 3 x 5%)

Three times in a semester, you will do a very short listening comprehension task so you can track your comprehension over time. The listening comprehension tasks consist of a very short recording of spoken German and a set of basic comprehension questions about it. They will be available on Canvas for a 24-hour period (always on a Friday, please see schedule).

Oral Assessments (15% or 3 x 5%)

The first oral assessment will be a small group assignment on NOV 13, 2025 in class. The second one will be a Vlog (short video clip); it is due at the end of the term (DEC 9, 2025) and more details will be communicated later in the term.

For the 3rd one, I will evaluate (mostly the quantity of) your oral contributions in class over the course of the entire semester.

GERN 101 Section 102 (Tentative*) Course Schedule

Please note that every assignment is always due on the day indicated no later than 11:59 PM.

The Sag mal! Supersite Homework is assigned on the site itself, when signed up for the following UBC course: **GERN 101 Learning German 1 Section 102**.

Class Date	In-class	Sag mal! Supersite Homework	Assignments to be submitted on CANVAS
TU SEP 2	IMAGINE DAY NO CLASS		IMAGINE DAY NO CLASS
		Due SEP 3: 1) Familiarize yourself with the syllabus. 2) Buy <i>Sag Mal!</i>	
TH SEP 4	Introduction Kapitel 1		
		Due SEP 8: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TU SEP 9	Kapitel 1		
		Due SEP 10: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TH SEP 11	Kapitel 1		
		Due SEP 15: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TU SEP 16	Kapitel 1		
		Due SEP 17: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TH SEP 18	Kapitel 1		
			FR SEP 19 Listening 1
		Due SEP 22: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TU SEP 23	Kapitel 1		
		Due SEP 24: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TH SEP 25	Kapitel 1/2		
			FR SEP 26 Check-in 1
		Due SEP 29: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	

Class Date	In-class	Sag mal! Supersite Homework	Assignments to be submitted on CANVAS
TU SEP 30	NO CLASS National Day for Truth and Reconciliation NO CLASS		
		Due OCT 1: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TH OCT 2	Kapitel 2		
			FR OCT 3 Portfolio 1
		Due OCT 6: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TU OCT 7	Kapitel 2		
		Due OCT 8: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TH OCT 9	Kapitel 2		
		Due OCT 13: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TU OCT 14	Kapitel 2		
		Due OCT 15: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TH OCT 16	Kapitel 2		
			FR OCT 17 Listening 2
		Due OCT 20: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TU OCT 21	Kapitel 2		
		Due OCT 22: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TH OCT 23	Kapitel 2		
			FR OCT 24 Portfolio 2
		Due OCT 27: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TU OCT 28	Kapitel 2		
		Due OCT 29: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TH OCT 30	Kapitel 2		

Class Date	In-class	Sag mal! Supersite Homework	Assignments to be submitted on CANVAS
			FR OCT 31 Check-in 2
		Due NOV 3: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TU NOV 4	Kapitel 3		
		Due NOV 5: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TH NOV 6	Kapitel 3		
TU NOV 11	NO CLASS	Remembrance Day NO CLASS	Remembrance Day NO CLASS
		Due NOV 12: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TH NOV 13	Kapitel 3 Oral 1		
		Due NOV 17: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TU NOV 18	Kapitel 3		
		Due NOV 19: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TH NOV 20	Kapitel 3		
			FR NOV 21 Listening 3
		Due NOV 24: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TU NOV 25	Kapitel 3		
		Due NOV 26: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TH NOV 27	Kapitel 3		
			FR NOV 28 Portfolio 3
		Due DEC 1: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TU DEC 2	Kapitel 3		
		Due DEC 3: Assignments on the Sag mal! Supersite for GERN 101 Section 102	
TH DEC 4	Kapitel 3		

Class Date	In-class	Sag mal! Supersite Homework	Assignments to be submitted on CANVAS
			FR DEC 5 Check-in 3
TU DEC 9			ORAL 2

*Changes to the schedule (if any) will be announced on the Course Canvas Site with an updated Course Schedule.

Sich wohl fühlen

We know that it isn't easy to learn a language. But it can be fun and joyful, and it is definitely important. Being able to actually speak a language—rather than just reading it off a machine translation platform—opens you up to new friendships, knowledge, opportunities, and worlds.

Here are some beginning tips for how we can make this term a good one.

- Make a friend! Introduce yourself to a student or two who sit nearby. This way, if one of you comes down with a cold and has to miss class, you can help each other by e.g. sharing notes.
- Start a WhatsApp Group, a Spotify music page, or a class Instagram. Just for fun! Having a community helps the learning along!
- Contact your instructor if you're feeling ill and cannot attend class or finish a homework assignment on time.
- Practice a bit of German every day.
- Find a favourite song in German and memorize the lyrics so you can sing along!
- Watch video clips or movies in German — with or without subtitles.
- Find a book from Dr. Hempen's selection of Easy Readers by clicking [here](#) or send her an email about it at hempen@mail.ubc.ca.

University and Course Policies

Feel free to discuss any of these with me.

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions.

Details of the policies and how to access support are available on [the UBC Senate website](#).

Academic Concessions

Under UBC's academic concession policy (<https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,329,0,0>), students seeking academic concession for any of three reasons: conflicting responsibilities; medical circumstances; and compassionate grounds, should do the following.

If you miss marked coursework for the first time (assignment, exam, presentation, participation in class) and the course is still in-progress, speak with me immediately to find a solution for your missed coursework.

If you are an Arts student and this is not the first time you have requested concession or classes are over, fill out Arts Academic Advising's [online academic concession form](https://students.air.arts.ubc.ca/academic-concession-form/) <https://students.air.arts.ubc.ca/academic-concession-form/> immediately, so that an advisor can evaluate your concession case.

If you are a student in a different Faculty and this is not the first time you have requested concession or classes are over, please consult [your Faculty's webpage on academic concession](#), and then contact me where appropriate.

Academic Integrity

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply when the matter is referred to the Office of the Dean. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences. A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the [UBC Calendar: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Students might additionally consult the Academic Integrity Hub here: <https://academicintegrity.ubc.ca/academic-integrity-hub/> and/or this Canvas module on writing and plagiarism: <https://academicintegrity.ubc.ca/resources/>

Artificial Intelligence Tools

The use of artificial intelligence tools, such as Chat GPT and GenAI, **for the completion of coursework is not allowed**, unless specifically authorized by me for a specific assignment. Its use without my permission would violate academic integrity. See <https://academicintegrity.ubc.ca/chatgpt-faq/>.

Please also keep in mind that these tools are biased and not (or not yet) reliable, especially when it comes to the finding, summarizing and assigning of scholarly sources.

If you would like to use such tools to support your learning (aside from graded coursework), feel free to do so.

Academic Accommodation

Academic accommodations help students with a disability or ongoing medical condition overcome challenges that may affect their academic success. Students requiring academic accommodations must register with the [Centre for Accessibility](#) . The Centre will determine that student's eligibility for accommodations in accordance with [Policy LR7: Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Academic accommodations are not determined by your instructors, and instructors should not ask you about the nature of your disability or ongoing medical condition, or request copies of your disability documentation. However, your instructor may consult with the Centre for Accessibility should the accommodations affect the essential learning outcomes of a course.

Early Alert

I participate in the Early Alert Program which helps me support students who are facing difficulties that are interfering with school. If you are feeling stressed, please notify me and indicate that you would like assistance. While I am not trained to help with personal problems, I can get you help from people who are. Any information that they receive from you (or me) is strictly confidential and is in the interest of your academic success and wellbeing. Please note that they will share no information with me (whether or not I initiated the contact). For more information, please visit [EarlyAlert](#).