GERN 102 (LEARNING GERMAN 2) AT A GLANCE

no finals or midterms

Instructor's Assignments *discussions, presentations, etc.*	5%
Portfolio *personal exploration with the German language*	5%
Online Homework *grammar, vocabulary, etc.*	12%
Listening Comprehension Challenges	21%
Oral Assessments *prompts from instructor + conversation*	21%
Short Online Quizzes *to be completed at home*	36%

Click here for Information on the German Language Foundational Courses at UBC

- Meant for those with a year of high-school German (or GERN 101), this class helps students speak articulately about their past experiences and future plans. Cultural aspects focus on multicultural German-speaking societies. Emphasizes creative oral expression, no high-stakes in-class tests. Cultural topics include: diverse foods, coffeehouses, multicultural holidays, fashion, history of flags, understanding the word "Heimat"/Homeland, diversity and diaspora, housing and living arrangements.
- Welcomes learners from all backgrounds and languages. Students completing this course achieve the equivalent of A1 proficiency on the Common European Framework of Reference.

Get Involved

Here are some tips for how to connect with the CENES community during your time in this course:

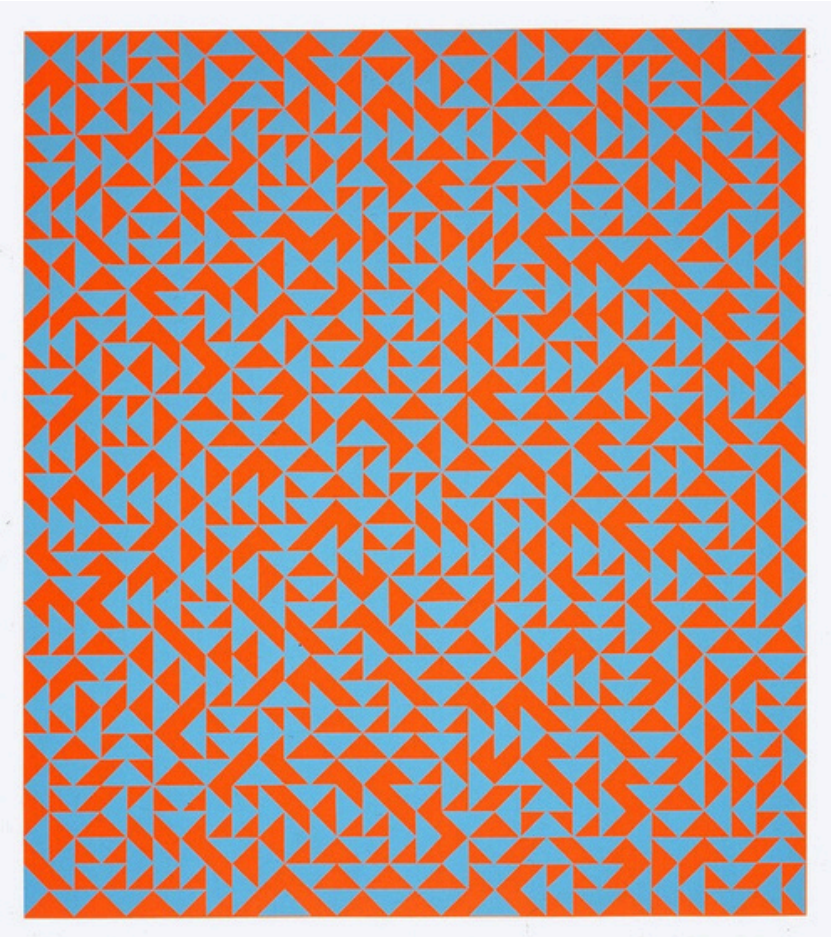
- ☐ Check out our German Studies Instagram Page: **@ubcgermanstudies**.
- ☐ Join the **CENES Discord Server.**
- ☐ Subscribe to the **CENES student listserv** to stay up to date with CENES news and events.
- ☐ Come **study with us [link]** every [Monday afternoon] on the ninth floor of Buchanan Tower.
- ☐ Make an advising appointment to **learn more about our Majors/Minors.**
- ☐ **Follow us** on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

CENES

The Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies

Get inspired for your multilingual, multicultural future with CENES Major and Minor programs in German, Nordic, Slavic and Modern European Studies!

WILLKOMMEN BEI
SECOND-SEMESTER GERMAN!
GERN 102-204



Untitled by Anni Albers

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

UBC Vancouver 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 Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

As we learn together in this class, it is important to consider our presence on this territory, and, further, how we might support efforts to protect Indigenous land rights.

It's also important to acknowledge this land in all the languages we use. Here is how you might do so in German:

Die UBC Vancouver befindet sich auf dem traditionellen angestammten und nicht abgetretenen Territorium des xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) Volkes. Das Land, auf dem der Campus liegt, war immer und ist bis heute ein Ort des Lernens für die Musqueam, die hier über Jahrtausende ihre Kultur, Geschichte und Traditionen von einer Generation zur nächsten weitergegeben haben.

If you speak languages other than English, think about how you might speak about these topics in those languages. If you're not sure, reach out to someone who might!

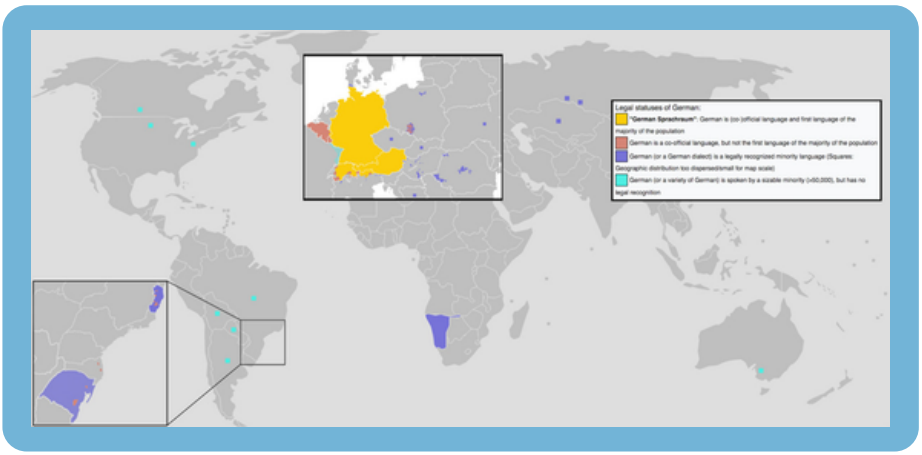
Where did you grow up? Have you traveled anywhere recently? Check out native-land.ca for an introduction to the territory of the Indigenous peoples in the regions of the world most familiar to you.

WHEN & WHERE

Meetings:
Winter Term 2 2025-26
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from
10:00–11:00am in BUCH B 209

Zoom PMI
604.802.7409

GERN 102 requires GERN 101 as a prerequisite. If you have some knowledge of German or are unsure of your level, please send an e-mail to Dr. Biz Nijdam at biz.nijdam@ubc.ca!



YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Uma Kumar
Department of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies
(CENES, "seh-ness")

Office hours:
Mon/Wed/Fri 11am–12pm (Buto 928)

How best to contact me:
uma.kumar@ubc.ca

My name is Uma Kumar.

've been teaching German language and literature since 2007 at UBC. I grew up in Mumbai (India) and started learning German in college. For more info: https://cenes.ubc.ca/profile/uma-kumar/

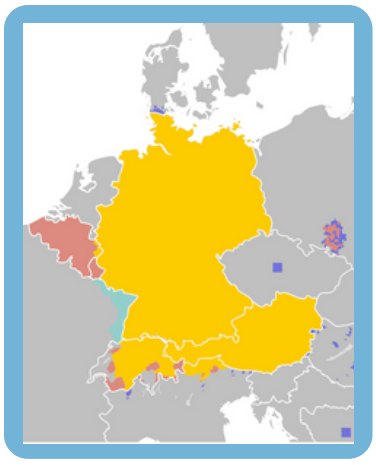
WHAT WE'LL NEED:

1) 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 or loose-leaf format. Both formats include either a 6- 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 text book through its first four semesters, so you'll get your money's worth!

2) CANVAS will be used for accessing additional course material and initiating discussions. To log in to Canvas and learn more visit: https://students.canvas.ubc.ca. You can direct all technical questions to the Learning Technology Hub: lt.hub@ubc.ca.

WHAT WE'LL LEARN

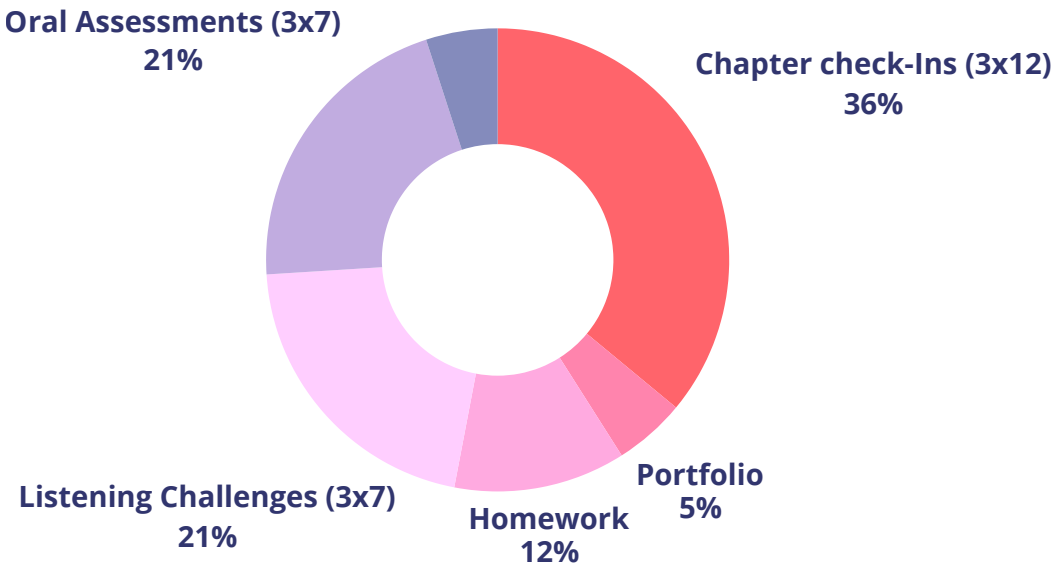


- to **speak and write in German** about practical and cultural traditions around food and eating, themes of home life and daily routines, and cultural festivities and celebrations
- to **apply language skills** when communicating with speakers of German in a variety of interactions, such as expressing good wishes, ordering food, purchasing clothing and doing household chores
- to **comprehend** basic aural, spoken and written texts in German
- to speak and write in German about past events and actions
- to **apply learning strategies** to succeed in learning German and in other future learning of foreign languages
- to identify 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 your understanding of your **own language(s) and cultural background(s)**

There's nothing to fear in language learning. No one's perfect, but the effort 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!

WHAT ABOUT GRADING?

Marking and assessment in UBC German classes are designed to encourage your progress and to coach you toward your goals. Here's how we do it.



Homework (12%)
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.

Instructor Assignments (5%)
Instructor assignments are at the instructor's discretion - they can be in the form of written texts, discussion contributions or short presentations

Portfolio (5%)
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.

Oral Assessments (21% = 3x 7%)
For the first two oral assignments, you will post a video in response to a prompt your instructor will give you. This will be in the form of a dialogue with a peer from your class. For the third assessment, you will present a short conversation / presentation with someone from your group, in-person at the end of term. More details on Canvas.

Listening Comprehension Challenges (21% = 3x 7%)
Three times in a semester, you will do a listening comprehension task and respond to a set of basic comprehension questions about it so you can track your comprehension over time.

Chapter Check-Ins (36% = 3x 12%)
At the end of each chapter in Sag Mal, you will complete a short quiz in class on Canvas with LockDown Browser. There are no traditional final exams or midterms in this course.

OUR PLAN FOR THE TERM

	JAN 5-9	Kapitel 4
	JAN 12-16	Kapitel 4
PORTFOLIO 1	JAN 19-23	Kapitel 4 + Culture Today: Imbissessen, Vielfalt und Integration
LISTENING 1	JAN 26-30	Kapitel 4 + Culture Today: Gehen wir in ein Restaurant?
CHECKIN 1+	FEB 2-6	Kapitel 5
ORAL 1	FEB 9-13	Kapitel 5 + Culture Today: Celebrating Pride and Inclusion
MIDTERM BREAK	FEB 16-20	
PORTFOLIO 2	FEB 23-27	Kapitel 5 + Culture Today: Diverse Festivities & Organizations in Germany
ORAL 2	MAR 2-6	Kapitel 5 + Culture Today: Diversity in Fashion and Body Positivity
LISTENING 2 +CHECKIN 2	MAR 9-13	Kapitel 6
	MAR 16-20	Kapitel 6
PORTFOLIO 3	MAR 23-27	Kapitel 6 + Culture Today: The German Flag
CHECKIN 3+LISTENING 3	MAR 30-APR 3	Kapitel 6 + Culture Today: Gender Equality
ORAL ASSESSMENT 3	APR 8-10	Final Class. Term ends 12 APRIL.
	APRI 14-25	Formal Examination Period

SICH WOHL FÜHLEN: TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF IN GERN 102

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, or by posting on the Canvas discussion forum. 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. If there is an assessment that day, we will make alternate arrangements.
- **Find a favourite song in German** and memorize the lyrics so you can sing along!
- **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.

UBC POLICIES AND HELPFUL RESOURCES:

The following policies and procedures are considered part of the class syllabus and policy. Feel free to talk them over with your instructor!

UBC Attendance Policy
Applying for Academic Concession
UBC's Academic Code of Honour
UBC's current COVID-19 Policy
Resources to support Student Success
Accommodations for Religious Holidays and Days of Significance
Using Online Netiquette
Use of Electronic Devices at UBC
Center for Accessibility: Support for Disabled Students

UBC Calendar Entry for this course:
"Introduction to the language. Ability to communicate accurately in a variety of everyday situations, speak about past events and express ideas and hypotheses in German."

HMM... WHAT ABOUT A MAJOR OR MINOR IN GERMAN?

There is so much to explore after GERN 102! Courses range from culture and film studies, to literature and historiography, philosophy and language, sexuality and gender, media, activism, and society.

Our professors are experts in fields ranging from Comics and Games studies to Queer Studies and Critical Race Theory. Our Honours students participate in community and capstone projects, including our annual undergraduate research conference and journal.

Courses offered in Term 2 include:

GMST 121: **German Fairy Tales and Popular Culture** (Dr. Biz Nijdam)

GMST 335: **German Cinema** (Dr.Ilinca Iuraşcu)

GMST 424: **Selected Issues in German-speaking Culture** (Dr. Geoffrey Winthrop-Young)

These courses require no prerequisites. And don't worry! Many courses in UBC German are taught in English. Your new German knowledge will be a bonus!

Questions? Reach out to your instructor or to the director of undergraduate studies, Dr. Biz Nijdam, biz.nijdam@ubc.ca! She is a joy to be around and would love to chat with you.

You can also check out more information about courses offered this term and next on our Instagram @ubcgermanstudies.

THE GERMAN PROGRAM HELPS YOU TO:

- Experience and contribute to our multilingual world
- Recognize how multilingual meanings impact people and processes—in complex, subtle, and profound ways
- Describe how monolingualism and linguistic nativism intersect with racism, nationalism, classism, ableism, and other forms of oppression

Undoing the effects of monolingualism, Anglocentrism, and linguistic nativism

- describe the means by which knowledge is made in diverse Germanophone contexts—including collaborative, historical, methodological, linguistic, social, aesthetic, creative, technological, material, and political processes
- interpret texts and narratives using various literary, linguistic, and multimodal frameworks
- help undo colonial processes of knowledge production—both those arising from Germanophone colonial modernity and in Canada's colonial past and present

Knowing—from a multilingual, Germanophone standpoint

- Speak, read, and write in German creatively and confidently, taking pride in the accents and heritage language proficiencies you came to the program with (English, German, Mandarin, Persian, Cree, etc.
- Work across languages—through translation, interpretation, code-mixing, assistive technology, etc.
- Understand that language is constantly changing amid social and historical fluidity

Enjoying using German—with confidence

- Express what it means for you to be alive and human today
- Express what responsibilities you have to other people, communities, land, and ecologies
- Identify the complexities of historical, sociopolitical, and cultural processes that particularly affect German-speaking people and places

Living and being alive in a volatile age

- Identify and describe how power works in the settings that matter to you and your communities
- Describe Germanophone societies' specific responsibility to redress genocide, eugenics, Nazism, colonialism, settler colonialism, and the ongoing effects of empire
- Use resources from cultural history and experiences of crisis from the 20th century and before to pursue justice and responsibility in the 21st century
- critique propaganda, linguistic deceit, obfuscation, linguistic racism, elitism, authoritarianism, hate, exclusionary purism, and various forms of fascism in linguistic, visual, and symbolic form

Aiming for planetary justice & public responsibility

- Strive to comprehend beyond your own personal experience and standpoint, through processes of listening, reflecting, conceptualization, analysis, and translation
- View knowledge and language as a commons, rather than a possession
- Identify the difference between the use of language and knowledge to manipulate or gain power over others, and the use of language to uplift and nourish others
- Identify how your experiences shape you differently than do those of a person of another gender, sexuality, race, religion, background, immigration status, ethnicity, language, accent, embodiment, age, language, and worldview

Modelling intellectual humility

UBC CENES

These course materials were designed and prepared by Dorothee Leesing, Emilie Kneifel, and David Gramling in 2022

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Department of Central, Eastern & Northern European Studies (CENES)

GERMAN LANGUAGE FOUNDATIONS

GERN 101

First-semester German
Previously GERM 100

Cultural topics include: Germanophone countries, new and classic films and music, German colonialism and ethnic diversity, The Holocaust / Shoah, gender and non-binary identities, Indigenous land acknowledgements in German. Book: Sag Mal, Chapters 1–3.

GERN 102

Second-semester German
Previously GERM 110

Cultural topics include: Diverse foods, coffeehouses, multicultural holidays, fashion, history of flags, understanding the word "Heimat" / Homeland, diversity and diaspora, housing and living arrangements. Book, Sag Mal, Chapters 4–6.

GERN 201

Third-semester German
Previously GERM 200

Cultural topics include: Climate emergency, alternative modes of travel, fairy tales, German history, health care and wellness, technology and digital communication. Book: Sag Mal, Chapters 7–9.

GERN 202

Fourth-semester German
Previously GERM 210

Cultural topics include: Professions and training, recycling and reuse, social safety nets, urban life, trades and skilled work, job applications and interviews, internships, nature and life outdoors. Book: Sag Mal, Chapter 10–12.

- No traditional, high-stakes tests or long, tedious, scary exams
- Focus on spoken language, using various video media for assessment and practice
- Portfolio-building helps you see how far you've come and what your own personal goals and horizons are
- Learning materials are interactive, easy to use, frequently online, multimedia, accessible, and focused on diverse real-world experiences

How are you marked (graded)? What course materials do we use?

Learning language is about joy, meaning & community.

Get to know German using a variety of learning strategies, in a low-stress environment. Develop your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Step by step, improve your ability to express your own ideas, and enjoy interacting with others meaningfully in real-life contexts. Explore diverse ethnic, social, gender, and regional experiences of today's Germanophone cultures, together with other students, in a small, friendly, and inclusive class.