WILLKOMMEN BEI
FIRST-SEMESTER GERMAN!
GERN 101 (SECTION 103)
WINTER T1 2026-27

Yellow Meander 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.

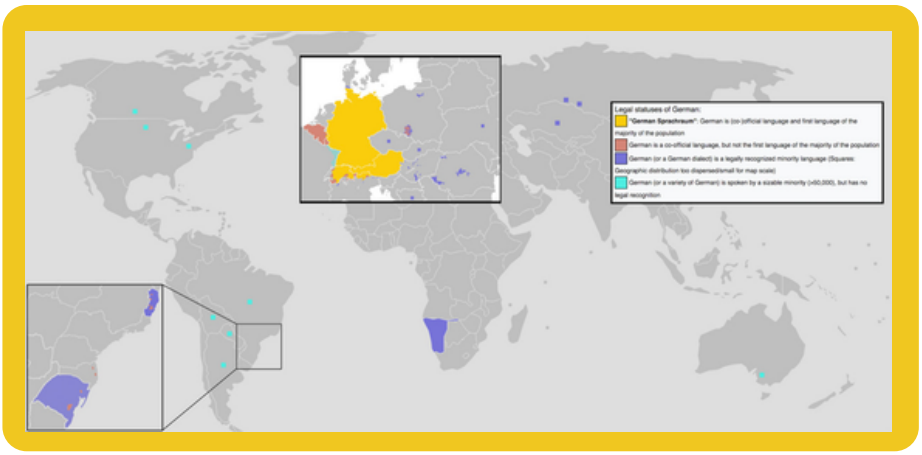
If you speak languages other than English, think about how you might speak about these topics in those languages. If you're not sure, reach out to someone who might!

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 1 2026-27
Mon/Wed/Fri 1:00pm-2:00pm
BUCHB 218

GERN 101 requires no prerequisites; in fact, it is intended solely for students **who are new to the language**. If you have some knowledge of German or are unsure of your level, please send an e-mail to Dr. David Gramling at david.gramling@ubc.ca!



YOUR INSTRUCTOR

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

Office hours:
Monday & Wednesday, 11:00am–12pm
in person (Buchanan Tower 928)
or by appointment on Zoom

How best to contact me:
Email: uma.kumar@ubc.ca
or via Canvas email

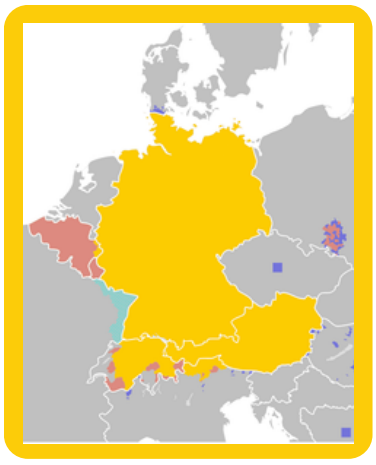
WHAT WE'LL NEED

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-month or 12-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

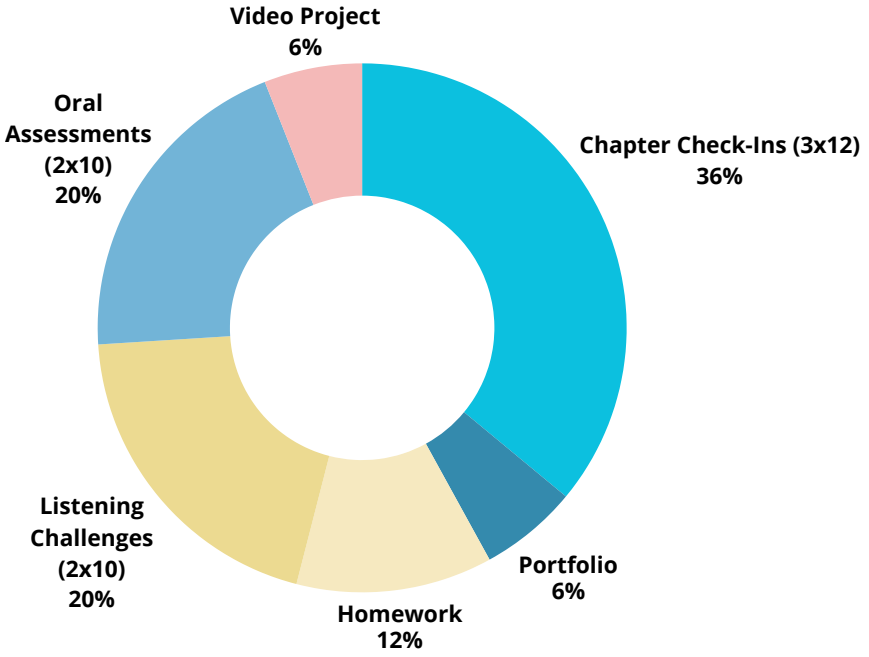


- to **speak and write in German** about family, friends, studies, interests and leisure, opinions and attitudes
- to **apply language skills** when communicating with speakers of German, such as greetings, introductions, requests for information, descriptions of people, expression of ownership, giving instructions, asking and answering questions
- to **comprehend and enjoy** fundamental spoken and written German
- 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 our understanding of **our own languages and cultural backgrounds**

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.

Video Project (6%)

You will complete an onsite video project exploring German-Canadian heritage in Vancouver. More detailed info on Canvas!

Portfolio (6%)

The portfolio is an ongoing document for your personal exploration with German. You will hand in contributions for the portfolio twice in the semester. More detailed info on Canvas!

Oral Assessments (20% = 2x10%)

For the first oral assignment, 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 second 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 (20% = 2x10%)

Twice in the term, you will do a listening comprehension task at home and respond to a set of basic comprehension questions about it so you can track your comprehension over time.

Chapter Check-Ins (36% = 3x12%)

At the end of each chapter in *Sag mal,* you will complete a short online quiz in class or at the Centre for Accessibility if you are granted Academic Concession.

There are no traditional final exams or midterms in this course.

OUR PLAN FOR THE TERM

	SEP 8-11	Kapitel 1 + Land Acknowledgments
	SEP 14-18	Kapitel 1
PORTFOLIO 1	SEP 21-25	Kapitel 1
	SEP 28-OCT 2	Kapitel 1
CHECKIN 1	OCT 5-9	Kapitel 2
ORAL 1	OCT 14-16	Kapitel 2
LISTENING 1	OCT 19-23	Kapitel 2
	OCT 26-30	Kapitel 2
CHECKIN 2	NOV 2-6	Kapitel 3
VIDEO PROJECT	NOV 13	Kapitel 3
PORTFOLIO 2	NOV 16-20	Kapitel 3
LISTENING 2	NOV 23-27	Kapitel 3
CHECKIN 3 + ORAL 2	NOV 30-DEC 4	Kapitel 3
ORAL 2	MON DEC 7 FINAL CLASS	

Formal Examination Period Dec 11-22

SICH WOHL FÜHLEN: TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF IN GERN 101

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** with the completed **Student Self-Declaration Form** (page 11; also available on Canvas) if you need a first-time concession for an assignment or quiz. If you require more than one in-term concession, we will help connect you with the appropriate professional resources at UBC for further support.
- **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."

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

There is so much to explore after GERN 101! 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 CENES include:

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

GMST 335: **German Horror Film** (Dr. Jason Lieblang)

GMST 475: **Media Studies** (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. David Gramling, david.gramling@ubc.ca! They are 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.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Faculty of Arts

STUDENT SELF-DECLARATION – ACADEMIC CONCESSION

Read the Arts academic concession webpage and your course syllabus before completing this form. If you are already registered with the Centre for Accessibility and your concession is related to your registered medical condition or disability, contact your Accessibility Advisor.
Select your reason for using this form:

□ Your instructor requires you to complete this form for a first-time in-term concession.
□ Academic Advising requires you to complete this form in support of your academic concession case.

Is this your first time using this form this term? Yes □ No □

Will you be requesting concession in another course? Yes □ No □

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____ **Student number:** _____ **Degree:** _____
Email: _____ **Telephone:** _____ **Year level:** _____

DECLARATION OF MISSED COURSEWORK:

Imissedcourseworkonthefollowinggrounds.Click through an option to read a description:

□ Medical circumstances
□ Compassionate grounds
□ Conflicting responsibilities (does not extend to conflicts with other courses or travel)

Description and title of missed coursework _____

Approximate dates in which coursework was impacted _____

Has your reason for missing coursework been resolved? Yes □ No □ Email of instructor_____

Course name/code _____ Number/section _____ Session _____ Term _____

AGREEMENT OF STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

By submitting this self-declaration form, I confirm and acknowledge that:

□ The details and report of my conflicting responsibility, medical circumstances, or compassionate request, as set out in this declaration are true and accurate.

□ The submission of false information on this Academic Concession Self-declaration Form will be considered a form of academic misconduct and investigated and penalized accordingly.

□ Arts Academic Advising Services reserves the right to request additional supporting documentation, and may require more detailed documentation in the event of repeated academic concession requests.

The submission of this declaration does not ensure the granting of the academic concession, such a determination will be made by Arts Academic Advising or my Instructor(s).

Student signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Privacy Notification: The informationon this formiscollectedunder the authority of section26(c) oftheFreedomofInformationandProtection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and will only be used and disclosed for purposes related to your request for an academic concession. Questions about the collection of this information may be sent to Arts Academic Advising.