Willkommen bei
FIRST-SEMESTER GERMAN!

GERN 101 (Section 105)

Winter 2026-27

Yellow Meander by Anni Albers

LAND ACKNOWLEDMENT

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.

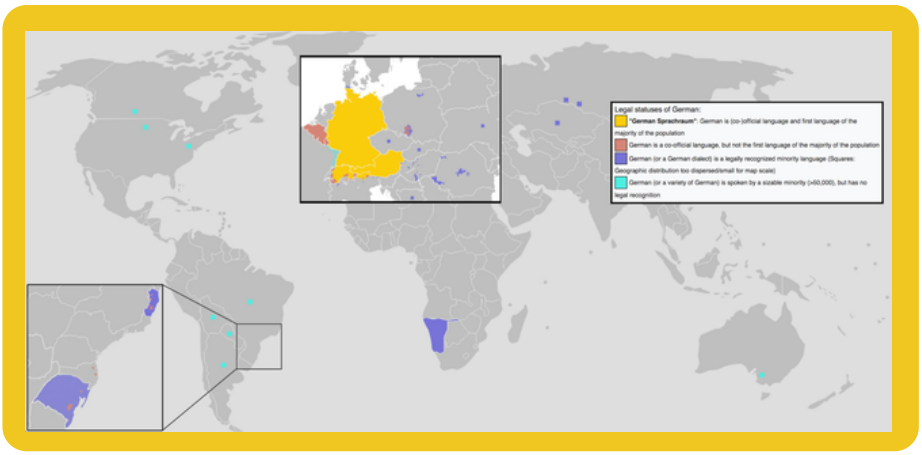
If you speak languages other than English, think about how you might speak about these topics in those languages. If you're not sure, reach out to someone who might!

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.

TIME AND LOCATION

Meetings:
Winter Term 1 2026-27
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 11:00am-12:00pm
BUCH D204

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. Daniela Hempen
Department of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies (CENES; siːnˈiːz)

Office hours:
Mondays & Wednesdays, 3:15pm–4:15pm
in person (Buchanan Tower 904)
or by appointment on Zoom

How best to contact me:
Email: daniela.hempen@ubc.ca or via Canvas email

As a native speaker of German with more than 30 years of teaching experience at UBC, I enjoy sharing my language and culture with students from around the world. Your curiosity and diverse perspectives continue to make teaching rewarding. Regular visits to Germany help me share the latest insights into the German language, culture, and everyday life with you.

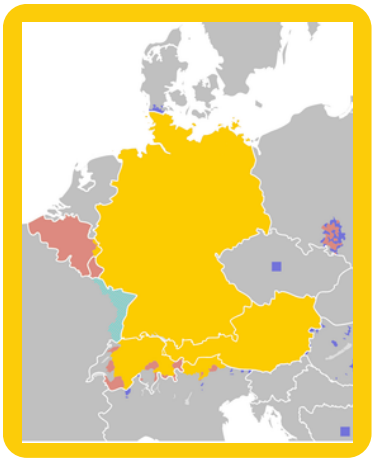
COURSE MATERIALS

1.Digital access to the textbook SAG MAL ['za:k mal]: 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.

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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

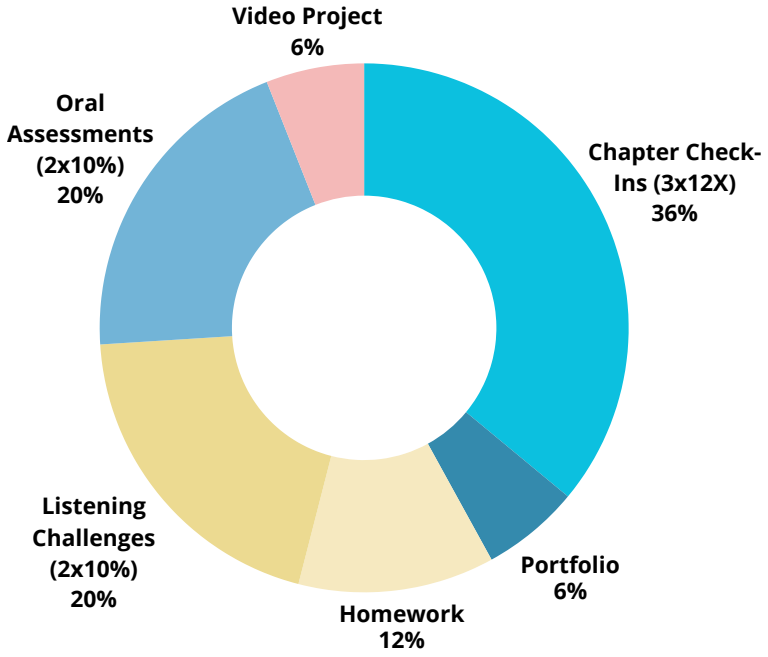


- to **speak and write in German** about family, friends, studies, interests and leisure, opinions and attitudes
- to **apply language skills** when communicating with speakers of German, such as greetings, introductions, requests for information, descriptions of people, expression of ownership, giving 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 differences
- 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!

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 on-site video project exploring German-Canadian heritage in Vancouver. More detailed information is available on Canvas!

Portfolio (6%)

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

Oral Assessments (20% = 2x10%)

Once in the term, you will upload a text you've written in response to a prompt your instructor will give you, as well as a video of yourself reading or performing the text you've written. The second oral assessment will be a short speech or dialogue you present to the class.

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.

COURSE PLAN

	SEP 9-11	Kapitel 1
	SEP 14-18	Kapitel 1
PORTFOLIO 1	SEP 21-25	Kapitel 1
	SEP 28-OCT 2	Kapitel 1
CHECK-IN 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
CHECK-IN 2	NOV 2-6	Kapitel 2
VIDEO PROJECT DUE	NOV 13	Kapitel 3
PORTFOLIO 2	NOV 16-20	Kapitel 3
LISTENING 2	NOV 23-27	Kapitel 3
CHECK-IN 3+ ORAL 2 (1)	NOV 30-DEC 4	Kapitel 3
ORAL 2 (2)	DEC 7	Final Class. Term ends 7 DEC.

Exact dates and times for all assignments are available on Canvas.

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- for example, by sharing notes.
- Start a **WhatsApp Group, a Spotify playlist, 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 9; 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 daniela.hempen@ubc.ca.

UBC MISSION AND COURSE POLICIES

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

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 assault. 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, spiritual and cultural 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.

USE OF GenAI

Use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) in completing assessments for this course is permitted for some assessments but not others. You may **not** use GenAI for **Chapter Check-Ins** or **Listening Challenges** because these assessments are designed to evaluate your own achievement of the course learning goals. However, Listening Challenges are open-book assessments and you may use your textbook and a dictionary.

You **may** use GenAI to revise and practise your **Oral Assessment scripts** and to revise your **Portfolios** and the **Culture Video Project**. However, learning to develop and communicate your own ideas is an important part of building your language proficiency and demonstrating your individual learning. Please see the assignment instructions on Canvas for details about permitted uses of GenAI and information on how to acknowledge or attribute its use in your work.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity means completing your work in GERN 101 with honesty, respect, integrity, and accountability. It is fundamental to teaching and learning and a shared commitment across the UBC community. You are responsible for understanding and meeting UBC's academic-integrity expectations and seeking clarification when needed.

Unless otherwise permitted, submit only your own original work and acknowledge all sources of words, ideas, and information. Assistance from others or from tools—including generative AI, translation software, grammar checkers, and other language-support tools—must be clearly acknowledged and used only when permitted by the syllabus or assessment instructions. Requirements may vary by activity, so read all instructions carefully and ask your instructor if you are unsure.

Do not cheat, copy, misrepresent work, seek an unfair academic advantage, or help others do so.

Academic misconduct can have serious consequences. As outlined in the Academic Calendar, students may receive a Warning Letter, be referred to the Diversionary Process, or face formal discipline through the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline.

Instructors **must** report suspected misconduct under UBC's regulations.

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

The following policies and procedures are an important part of the course 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
Resources to support Student Success
Accommodations for Religious Holidays and Days of Significance
Using Online Netiquette
Use of Electronic Devices at UBC
Centre 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."

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.

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.

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 201

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.

GERN 202

- 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.