

St Athanasius Academy
Class Syllabus – German 1
2021 to 2022 school year

Instructor: Dn. Michael De Haven, PhD

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Course Description:

In this class, we will begin our exploration of the German language and the culture of German-speaking countries. We will learn to listen, read, speak, and write at an introductory level, with emphasis on speaking and listening, building up your ability to communicate in a variety of basic, everyday situations, and to understand simple, contextualized use of the language. For this beginning course, we will emphasize building vocabulary, with basic grammar introduced in context. No prior experience in German is required!

Class Times:

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:00 PM Eastern Time

Required learning materials:

All learning materials will be provided by the instructor. Students should have a binder with two sections: the first for notes taken during class and the second to maintain a vocabulary log. Templates for the vocabulary log will be provided by the instructor.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the class, you will be able to:

- Use and understand practiced words and phrases dealing with a variety of high-frequency topics,
- Create and understand sentences using basic sentence structures and memorized phrases,
- Recognize and imitate generally acceptable social behaviors related to language use,
- Extract main ideas, key words, and basic information from sources intended for native speakers.

Class Expectations and Policies:

- **Attendance:** While we do not have an official attendance policy, it is important to make every effort to attend as often as possible. Class time is an opportunity to interact in the language, to ask questions, and to engage in discussion. Recorded sessions are not as effective as live interaction, but will be available if you are unable to attend. If you are going to miss or be late to a class, please contact me ahead of time so that we can create a plan for you to make up what you missed.

- **Class behavior:** It is important for you and for your classmates that class time be orderly and with as few distractions as possible. In order to facilitate this, please...
 - Log in to class on time and keep your camera on while class is in session.
 - Keep yourself muted unless asked to speak.
 - Raise your hand before you speak.
 - If you make a comment, please keep it related to what we are discussing in class.
 - If homework was assigned for class, have it completed and ready.
 - Do not eat or drink anything during class. It's hard to speak German with a mouth full of food.
 - Do not use any electronics like phones or games during class.
 - Do not use applications on your computer other than what is necessary for class.

- **Class Participation:** Class time is your opportunity to try out what you are learning and to help each other learn, to get feedback, and to ask questions, so it is important that you participate actively in class:
 - Pay close attention while I am presenting information. I will be using a lot of German, but will also provide context clues that will help you understand what is going on. Paying attention to these details will help you understand what is being said and will help you learn the material.
 - Take notes during class and ask questions if something isn't clear. Plan to take notes on paper, rather than on a computer or tablet.
 - When put into pairs or groups, participate fully in the activity. If you don't understand what is going on, please let me or your group know.
 - Speak as much German as possible! I will provide phrases and questions you can use in class, so please learn these. If you have a question that you think you can ask in German, do it!
 - Don't be afraid to make mistakes! Even native speakers make mistakes.
 - Be respectful of each other and help each other out.

- **Homework:** Learning a language can be challenging and requires frequent and consistent effort. In order to help you with this, students are expected to do work outside of class time. Instructions for assignments will be posted along with the due date. Please complete assignments before the due dates.

- **Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism and cheating are not only serious academic offenses, they are incompatible with Christian virtue as they are a form of lying. Any assignment you turn in must be your own work.
 - Plagiarism is defined as copying information from a source without giving proper credit to the source.
 - Cheating is defined as giving or receiving help that has not been authorized by your teacher. You are permitted to use your own notes, learning materials from class, and dictionaries. Except for basic questions, such as about the meaning of a word or phrase, or help understanding an assignment, any outside assistance

from friends, family members, tutors, classmates, online translators, translation software, and native or expert speakers of German is not permitted.

- Any assignment that shows signs of plagiarism or cheating will receive a zero.

- **Grading:** Grades will be weighed as follows:
 - Assignments (homework, projects, logs): 50%
 - Assessments (quizzes, written and oral assessments): 30%
 - Participation: 20%

- **Late Policy:** Please make every effort to turn your work in on time! If you are struggling with an assignment, please contact me so that I can help you with it. If circumstances arise that may prevent you from turning in an assignment on time, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can arrange for you to turn it in late. Late assignments will receive a penalty of 5% of the total points per day late.