



Instructor: Dr. Iris Bork-Goldfield

GRST 101.01: M/W/F 10:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m. in FISK 305

GRST 101.02: M/W/F 11:00 a.m.-11:50 a.m. in FISK 305

Office: Fisk Hall 409

Office hours: M / W 1:30-2:30; F 12:30-1:30p.m. or by appointment

Contact me via [Email](mailto:ibork@wesleyan.edu) <ibork@wesleyan.edu> or by phone 860-685-3753

Course Materials (All books can be purchased at the bookstore. Please note that we will use the books for this and next semester!)

- R. DiDonato, et al., **Deutsch: Na klar!** 6th edition, textbook and workbook → A special edition of the textbook for GRST 101 and 102 was created by the instructor and should be less expensive than the original textbook. It is available at the university bookstore. If you can find a cheaper version of the original textbook online you can buy that one. Just make sure it is the 6th edition. Please purchase a new paperback copy of the workbook.
- Cecile Zorach, *English Grammar for Students of German* (optional)
- Henry Strutz, *501 German Verbs* (optional)

You will also need:

A 3-ring binder or folder for handouts, index cards and/or notebook for vocabulary, and a thin notebook to keep a journal. Please check your email and Blackboard daily!

This semester you will begin to learn German and will also learn about Germany, and other German-speaking countries and their place in Europe. We will cover chapters *Einführung* to 6 with the following learning objectives and topics:

Einführung (introductory chapter)

- You will learn to introduce yourself, greet others and say farewells, say the alphabet and spell, say the numbers and useful classroom expressions
- Culture: Forms of address, inquiring about someone's well-being, postal codes and country abbreviations, German-speaking countries and their neighbors

Chapter 1

- You will learn to give information about yourself: characteristics, hobbies and interests, and how to inquire about others
- Grammar: nouns, gender and definite articles; personal pronouns; infinitives and present tense; verb *sein*; word order, asking questions; interrogatives
- Culture: University subjects, foreigners in Germany; and "meeting" the German author Nasrin Siege

Chapter 2

- You will learn about: Types of housing, furnishings, favorite activities
- Grammar: noun plurals, nominative and accusative case of definite and indefinite articles, weak masc. nouns, “*der*-words”, interrogative pronouns; negation “*kein-nicht*”, verb “*haben*”, stem changing verbs, demonstrative pronouns, the adverb “*gern*”
- Culture: Living arrangements, the euro

Chapter 3

- You will learn about family members, days of the week, months, holidays, celebrations, ordinal numbers
- Grammar: possessive adjectives, personal pronouns in the accusative case, prepositions with accusative, irregular verbs “*werden*” and “*wissen*”, usage of the verbs “*wissen*” and “*kennen*”
- Culture: German holidays and celebrations

Chapter 4

- You will learn to tell time in German, about daily plans, movies, music, and theater
- Grammar: separable-prefix verbs; modals; the verb “*möchte*”; the imperative
- Culture: German theater

Chapter 5

- You will learn about clothes, colors, types of foods, names of stores and shops
- Grammar: Dative case, verbs that require dative; dative prepositions
- Culture: Clothing sizes, shopping, prices, weights and measures; and "meeting" the Bavarian comedian and cabaret performer Karl Valentin

Chapter 6

- You will learn about places to eat and drink, and ordering in a restaurant
- Grammar: Two-way prepositions; describing locations; expressing time with prepositions, simple past tense of the verbs “*sein*” and “*haben*,” and with modal verbs, and the present perfect tense
- Culture: Regional food specialties, menus, sharing tables in restaurants, paying the bill, and meeting the German cook and author Ekkehard Müller

At the end of the semester you will be able to:

- Engage in simple conversation about yourself and your family, where and how you live, the weather; holidays, eating out, shopping, and more
- Ask simple questions and suggestions
- Speak in the present tense
- Read short, non-technical texts at the beginning level
- Write short paragraphs on topics related to chapters *Einführung* to 6
- Understand German spoken at a moderate conversational speed on topics dealing with everyday occurrences.

In order to reach these goals, it is important that you actively participate in all classroom activities and keep up with all out-of-class assignments, which include attendance at an Oral Practice Session (OPS) once a week. These one-hour classes are taught by Silvio Bussolera, our teaching assistant (TA), a native speaker of German. A balance of activities will help the development of your listening, reading, speaking and writing skills in German and give you a wide variety of cultural information. Assessment of progress will occur across skills throughout the semester. After each chapter you will take a take-home exam. I will also give short vocabulary tests throughout the semester. At the end of the course you will take a final exam in class and an oral exam.

In addition to our textbook, we will use audio and video materials to enhance and strengthen your language skills. I will provide some of these materials in class. They are also available on the Language Resource Center [website](#). The textbook [website](#) includes a variety of vocabulary and grammar self-quizzes, as well as cultural activities and the complete *Laboratory Audio Program*. For additional helpful sites online, please go to our course site on [Moodle](#).

Participation

Learning a language is a cumulative process. Therefore, attending class and actively participating in class are vital. You can't just get the notes from another student. You will want to keep up - and keep speaking, listening, reading, and writing! You don't have to get everything correct right away, and you shouldn't expect to understand every word. But you want to get the main idea. And most of all, you want to try! If you must miss a class due to illness or emergency, please send me an email, preferably before class. Homework, projects, tests, etc., in other classes do not constitute an illness or emergency. No more than two absences are allowed. Legitimately excused absences (i.e., a doctor's note or a note from a senior administrator such as a dean) do not affect your participation percentage. You are responsible for all work missed, and assignments must be turned in on the day they are due for full credit! **Cellphones need to be switched off during class!** If you have any questions, please contact me as soon as possible.

Grading and Academic Honesty

Upon matriculating, you were required to pledge to uphold the [Honor Code](#). You are expected to use only your own brain on tests, quizzes and exams. All tests but the final exam will be taken outside class. No books or notes are allowed. You will sign the honor code's pledge, "No aid, no violation," at the beginning of each test. If you do not follow the honor code you will receive an F for the test.

The final grade will be determined by:

Attendance and participation	15%	
Homework (incl. journal and vocab. tests)	20%	
Chapter tests (take-home exams)	25%	
OPS attendance		5%
Final Written Exam	25 %	
Final Oral Exam	10%	

The final semester grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

A+= 98.3 - 100	C+= 78.3 ↑	E+ =58 ↑
A = 95 ↑	C = 75 ↑	E = 55 ↑
A- = 91.7 ↑	C- = 71.7 ↑	E - = 51.7 ↑
B+ = 88.3 ↑	D+ = 68.3 ↑	F = 45 and below
B = 85 ↑	D = 65 ↑	
B- = 81.7 ↑	D - = 61.7 ↑	

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Please register with [Disabilities Services](#). If you need special accommodations in class, please let me know by September 12, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

I encourage you to participate in the events organized by the German House, and other German events on campus. Please look for announcements on Moodle or [German News](#)! **Items on this syllabus may change due to extenuating circumstances.**

VISIT MOODLE FOR YOUR HOMEWORK, NEWS AND UPDATES!

I am very much looking forward to working with you!