

# GERM 1010 Introductory German I



## Course Information

**GERM 1010-001** Class time: MWF 10:10—11:05

**GERM 1010-002** Class time: MWF 11:15—12:10

Fall 2019

Tennessee Tech University

Dept of Foreign Languages

Dr. Martin P. Sheehan



## Course Description

This course, the first in the three semester German sequence at Tennessee Technological University, is designed to develop your ability to communicate in German while increasing your general vocabulary and comprehension skills. A mixture of monitored, in-class interactions and online, at-home exercises will help you improve your ability to **interpret** the language, **interact** in the language, and **present** your ideas to others. All class activities will also increase your cultural awareness. At the end of the course, successful learners should be able to handle novice level tasks, such as communicating and exchanging information about familiar topics as well as engaging in short social interactions in everyday situations. The class will be conducted in German. **(3 Credits)**

**Prerequisites:** Students at this level **are NOT expected** to be familiar with basic German vocabulary or grammar structures.

## Professor Contact Details

**Office: Oakley Hall 227**

**Phone: 931-372-6535**

**Office Hours: MW 1:30 – 2:50pm and by appointment**

**Email: [msheehan@tntech.edu](mailto:msheehan@tntech.edu)**

I check my email regularly on weekdays at 9:30am & 4pm.

Please expect a response within 24 hours, or within 48 hours on weekends and holidays.

## Required Materials



Course book (**Used for GERM 1010, 1020, and 2010**):

Traksdorf, Coleman, Rarick, Weidauer (2019). *Impuls Deutsch 1: Intercultural, Interdisciplinary, Interactive* ("MACHEN" **Course book**). Stuttgart, Germany: Ernst Klett Sprachen.

Online workbook:

Rarick, Traksdorf, Geithner, Weidauer (2019). *Impuls Deutsch 1: Intercultural, Interdisciplinary, Interactive* ("LERNEN" + „ZEIGEN“ **Workbook**). Stuttgart, Germany: Ernst Klett Sprachen.

**CLASS CODE: CL41796782**

## Major Teaching Methods

A mixture of textbook and on-line exercises, in-class activities (individual, pair, and group work), homework assignments, and worksheets.

## Course Topics

Producing and comprehending simple sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. basic personal and family information, hobbies, abilities, local geography, shopping, travel, employment, etc.). Responding appropriately to basic questions and constructing knowledge from a variety of basic German language texts.

## Attendance Policy

**Attendance** at all class sessions is **integral** to the course and therefore **mandatory**. The **maximum** number of absences allowed in this course is **three (3)**. If you are absent, you earn a zero for the day. Any absences beyond three will lower your final grade by 10 points. You must arrive **punctually**. If you arrive after Dr. Sheehan **closes** the classroom door **when class begins**, you will be marked late. **Being late three times will equal one absence.**

## ADA Statement

Students requiring accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS). An Accommodation Request (AR) should be completed as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the first week of the course. The ODS is located in the Roaden University Center, Room 112; phone 372-6119. For details, view the Tennessee Tech's Policy 340 – Services for Students with Disabilities at [Policy Central](#).

## University Plagiarism Policy

Maintaining high standards of academic integrity in every class at Tennessee Tech is critical to the reputation of Tennessee Tech, its students, alumni, and the employers of Tennessee Tech graduates. The Student Academic Misconduct Policy describes the definitions of academic misconduct and policies and procedures for addressing Academic Misconduct at Tennessee Tech. For details, view the Tennessee Tech's Policy 217 – Student Academic Misconduct at [Policy Central](#). Plagiarism, in any form, will not be tolerated, nor will any other behavior that undermines academic integrity.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, successful students should be able to ask and answer personal questions in the present, and communicate effectively in the following contexts: the university, the family, and in a travel environment. Furthermore, students will learn an appreciation for German-speaking cultures.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to

- Understand most written and spoken German selected for beginning learners; **Interpretive (Listen, Read/View)**
- Speak and write in simple sentences with minor grammatical errors that do not impede communication; **Interpersonal (Speak, Write, Listen); Presentational (Speak)**
- Speak with pronunciation sufficiently accurate so as not to impede communication; **Presentational (Speak)**
- Ask and answer oral and written questions related to familiar topics, such as personal information, school, careers, family, actions, and daily activities; **Interpersonal (Speak, Write, Listen, Read/View)**
- Describe people, places, and things; **Presentational (Speak, Write)**
- Converse on a novice level, observing basic courtesy requirements and social demands of the culture; **Interpersonal (Speak, Listen, Read/View)**
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diverse culture of the German-speaking world and describe some of its basic geographical facts. **Cultures (Relating Cultural Products to Perspectives)**

## Grading Policy

<b>30%</b>	Attendance and Participation MACHEN assignments
<b>15%</b>	Blink assignments (Online Homework)
<b>10%</b>	LERNEN assignments
	ZEIGEN assignments
<b>20%</b>	Chapter tests
<b>10%</b>	Project
<b>15%</b>	Final Exam
<b>100%</b>	Total

**Grading Scale:** 100-90= A; 89-80=B; 79-70=C; 69-60=D; 59-0=F

## Explanations and Expectations

### Participation

Learning a new language is one of life's most rewarding experiences. Over time, your new skills will become like a set of tools that will set you apart in your daily life, in your future career, and when you travel. But beyond these superficial and immediate benefits, increasing your competence in a foreign language will change you. You will learn to connect with new people and places—from the past and present—in deeper, more meaningful ways. You will become not merely a passive recipient of new knowledge, but you will also become able to actively engage with worlds that were previously closed to you.

Our textbook, *Impuls Deutsch*, takes a unique, progressive approach to the teaching and learning of German. It is written from the stance that the best way to learn a language is to use it **actively**. To support your active learning, this course uses a "flipped classroom" instructional model.

## Our Flipped Classroom

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This course's flipped classroom has three parts:

A) LERNEN (*studying, learning, preparing*) – **at home**

**WHAT:** The LERNEN assignments will help you learn and practice new structures at your own pace *prior* to coming to class. Everything that follows depends on this step, so you must commit to independent study and preparation before every class.

**DUE:** The assignments in the LERNEN workbook in Blink are always due at the beginning of the class that you are preparing for. For example: If we are covering unit 19 next time in class, do all assigned LERNEN activities (see iLearn for more detailed list of assigned activities) **before** that class. You are not allowed to hand in any LERNEN assignments late.

**POINTS:** You are only practicing at this point, so not everything has to be 100% accurate. You will get full points for each individual activity if the instructor has the impression that you took that assignments seriously, practiced, and have we able to do most (not necessarily all) of it correctly (= at least 80 %).

B) MACHEN (*doing, making, performing*) – **in class**

**WHAT:** When we meet in class, you will now already come with an awareness of the material so that we can proceed directly to practice and group work. Your instructor will generally not lecture or introduce new material during this time period. Instead, the instructor will create situations in which you can actively use new structures during the class period. Remember, you are not expected to have a 'perfect' performance in class—learning a language always means accepting uncertainty and making informed guesses. The emphasis is on **using** the material to express yourself verbally with increasing confidence, variation, and accuracy.

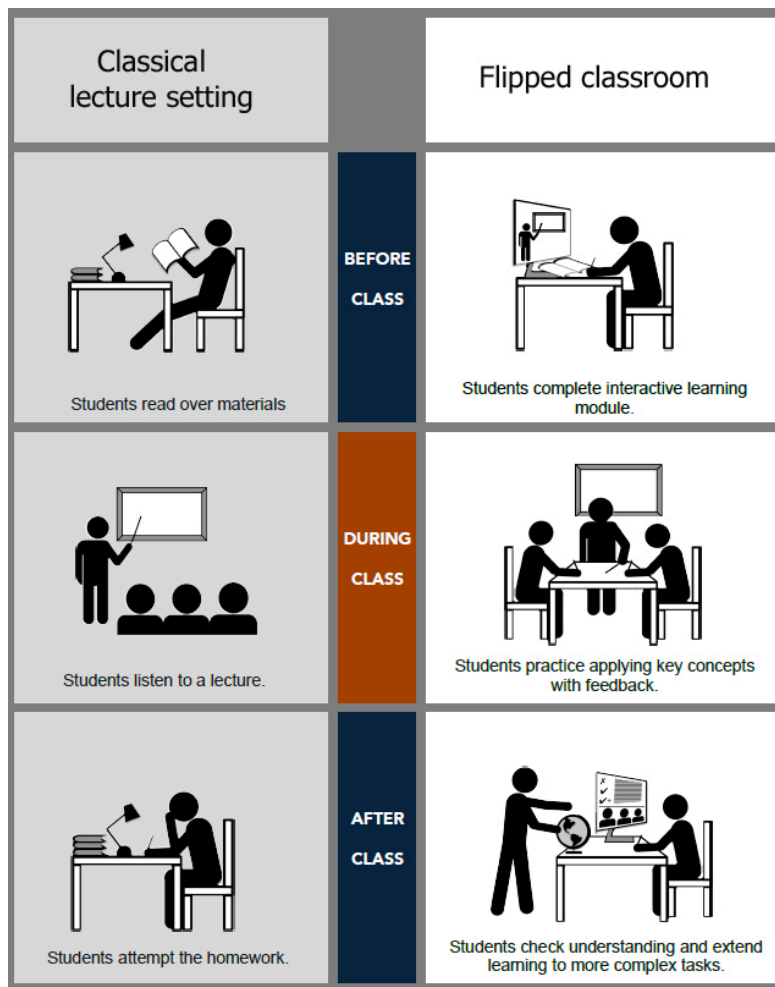
C) ZEIGEN (*showing, demonstrating*) – **at home**

**WHAT:** After each class, you will have time to revisit and/or reflect on the covered material.

**DUE:** The ZEIGEN assignments in of a particular chapter are due before we meet for our next class. It is highly recommended that you complete these exercises on the same day the material is incorporated in class.

**POINTS:** Now you are not practicing anymore; you are showing/demonstrating that you understand what you learned in LERNEN and practiced/used in MACHEN. You will receive points matching how much of each activity was done correctly.

*-adapted from Dr. Niko Tracksdorf*



As a summary: After each class, you are showing and demonstrating what that you understand what we did in the class (ZEIGEN), and you are studying, learning and preparing for the next class (LERNEN). For example, after unit 4 in class, you will do the ZEIGEN assignments for unit 4, and the LERNEN assignments for unit 5 at home. Then you come prepared to do unit 5 in the then class. Then again: ZEIGEN for 5 and LERNEN for 6, and so on.

Participation will be in **German** when you speak with other students and with the professor. If anyone in class (including Herr Sheehan) feels compelled to ask or say something in English, then he or she must ask "**Darf ich etwas auf Englisch fragen/sagen?**" and wait for permission. Any discussions in English will **negatively** impact your daily participation grade. Offenders will be warned indirectly and/or directly if I hear English in our classroom.

You **must** come to class prepared to **participate in our class activities and to support our classroom's positive learning environment**. Active participation means **speaking and collaborating** in pair and group exercises, **volunteering** thoughtful answers, and **completing** both in-class writing assignments and on-line preparatory assignments.

This positive learning environment requires you to **stay on-task**. If during partner work your group finishes early, you are expected to **complete the exercise again** (switching roles if possible) until the allotted time has elapsed.

Courtesy notifications about your attendance should always be sent prior to class when feasible, and you are responsible for both making up missed work and preparing for the next session. While attendance is not part of your grade, participation counts as 20% of your final grade, and **you can only participate when you are in class!** Please remember that your classmates rely on your contributions in class to make their own learning experience successful!

### Blink Learning

These exercises Blinklearning.com are assigned for each class meeting and will have clear due dates. **You will always have Blink homework.** Daily preparation and practice are vital when learning the language, but more importantly, these assignments form the **basis** for informed class participation and understanding. All assignments are due by **11:15 am on the day they are due**. I accept **NO LATE WORK**.

### Project

In order to demonstrate your ability to gather, analyze, synthesize, and present information, you will complete 1 project assignment this semester. We will discuss in class what is expected and how your ability to complete the project's tasks will be assessed.

### Chapter Tests

You will complete 2 chapter tests in class throughout the semester. These tests will help you and me evaluate the progress of your listening, reading, and writing skills. Classroom exercises and our online assignments should adequately prepare you.

### Final Exam

The written component of the final exam will have a similar format to the chapter tests. While much of the test will focus on Chapter 3's themes and materials, this exam will also revisit communication goals from the previous chapters.