

German 1, 2012-13

Procedures and Expectations

(Syllabus)

Freedom High School, 8th Period; room L212

Instructor: Dr. Dave Shepherd (dave.shepherd@lcps.org)

Textbooks: *Komm mit!* level 1 with textbook and consumable grammar workbooks

This is a full-year high-school-level language course. If successfully completed, this course will count toward the Advanced Studies high school diploma.

Grading and assessment

Assessment is, generally, a determination of a student's progress. Assessment may or may not result in a grade, and not all assessments will be calculated in determining a student's course grade. There are generally two types of assessments: formative and summative.

Formative assessments

Formative assessments are "checks for understanding" that allow the student and teacher insight into the student's level of understanding and mastery. These can take many forms: short informal quizzes, in-class practice, worksheets games, contests, and so on. These may or may not be announced in advance. The results of these assessments will not be calculated as part of the grade, but will be reported as a source of feedback.

To give students and parents an idea of student progress, the following general scoring scale will be used (may be modified to fit different objectives):

- 4 – Exceeds objective.** This shows an exceptional proficiency in the objective.
- 3 – Meets objective.** This shows adequate proficiency in the objective.
- 2 – Progressing in objective.** This shows that you are developing proficiency, but have not yet achieved it.
- 1 – Inadequate progress.** This shows that you have made very little progress in the objective.

Summative assessments

Summative assessments are graded activities that will demonstrate your level of achievement of mastery of or proficiency in a topic of set of topics. These assessments will be graded on a point scale (the kind of 0-100, A-F scale with which you are familiar) and will count toward your quarter, semester, and final grades. These assessments will be given after we have studied and explored a topic for some time. These will always be announced in advance. Summative assessments may appear in any of the following formats:

- Quizzes
- Tests
- Take-home assignments
- In-class assignments
- Projects
- Presentations
- Writing

During each unit there will usually be three small **quizzes**. These are summative assessments for each section, or *Stufe*, of a given unit. There will also be other short summative assessments throughout the year.

There will be regular chapter **tests**, usually one for each unit. These are cumulative summative assessments intended to measure mastery and proficiency in a given unit (usually a chapter of the book). In some quarters there may be a supplementary **project**.

There will be at least one **CPA evaluation** each quarter, for speaking and/or for writing. CPA stands for "Communicative Performance Assessment," a standard rubric used across Loudoun County. This assessment will allow you to show your ability to communicate on a specific topic in the language.

All graded summative assessments will count equally toward the quarter grade.

According to the policy of the Freedom High School Department of World Languages and Cultures, students will be offered the opportunity to correct smaller assessments, such as quizzes, which focus on a few concepts. Corrections must be done during an appointment made with the teacher outside of regular school hours. Corrections are not offered for larger cumulative assessments.

Homework is assigned regularly, usually each class. Homework completion will NOT be calculated in determining your quarter grade. Formative assessments will often be based on homework assignments, in preparation for summative assessments. See the attached statement of departmental policies for World Languages and Cultures.

Plagiarism and cheating

As in all academic settings, cheating and plagiarism (the copying of work from any source) will not be tolerated. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, the following: sharing answers during tests, copying projects or research from books or the Internet, using a phone or other item during a test, and use of online translators or translations. According to FHS policy, a student who cheats will receive a grade of "0" on the assignment and will be referred to the office; a parent/guardian will also be notified.

Daily Requirements

Bring the following items to every class meeting:

Your textbook.

Your OWN pen/pencil and paper. These will NOT be supplied by the teacher!

You may **NOT** bring the following things:

Food, drink, or chewing gum. (Plain water is allowed.)

Electronic devices, including cell phones. (These will be confiscated if they are brought to class. Cell phones, in particular, **MUST** remain off during all class periods.)

Things we will do this year:

- Learn about how to use the German language to talk about school, food, friends, etc.
- Learn the basics of German grammar (both similar to and different from English!)
- Learn about the geography and culture of Germany
- Play many games for bragging rights among your friends and classmates

Why you took the right language...

- Freedom High School has an active German Club.
- German is the native language of over 100 million people in Central and Western Europe.
- It is among the top five most frequently used languages on the Internet.
- In Europe more people speak German than English, Spanish, French or Italian.
- German is the most commonly used second language in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.
- German is required or recommended for more academic (university) programs than any other language.
- German is important for students of Music, Art, Sciences, Psychology, Politics, Architecture, and Law, among many other fields.
- Bilingualism in German and English is a very valuable skill in the North American job market. Studying German can help you earn more money later on!
- German is fun! (Deutsch macht Spaß!)

Don't be afraid to tell **ALL** your friends why they should take German!

German 1, 2012-13 Supplies List

You will need the following supplies for German I. You are expected to have these for every class.

- Some sort of binder to organize your work. No particular type is required.
- 3-hole lined notebook paper
- Blue or black ballpoint pens (**no light-colored gel ink, please!**)
- Pencils
- A **book sock** or some other kind of cover for your textbook

You may be asked to supply certain materials for a project each quarter, such as poster board, construction paper, etc. Required materials will vary depending on the assignment.

Do not ever bring any food or drink (except water) into the German classroom. Chewing gum is strictly forbidden in room L212.

STUDENT: I have read this German 1 syllabus, and I agree to come to class each day with completed homework, my German binder, my own paper, pen and pencil, and my German textbook. I will participate fully by speaking German each day.

Student's signature

PARENT/GUARDIAN: I have read both sides of this sheet and understand what is expected of my son or daughter in German.

Parent's or guardian's signature

Parent's email address

**Please bring this page to class signed and filled in.
Please keep the syllabus for your own reference and review.**