<p style="text-align:center">Course information</p>

TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
Department of Foreign Languages

Elementary German I - 80638 - GERM 1010 - 501

<p style="text-align:center">Dates: August 24th – December 10th, 2020
Time: MWF 11.15 am - 12.10 pm
You will participate in this class via two online platforms:</p>

MS Teams and Blink Learning

<p style="text-align:center">3 credit hours
Fall 2020</p>

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Julia K. Gruber
Email: jgruber@tntech.edu
Phone: via MS Teams calls
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9.00 am-10.00 am and by appointment

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

"I never knew before what eternity was made for. It is to give some of us a chance to learn German." – Mark Twain

"Dr. Gruber made sure we knew everything we needed to and was very good at ensuring the material was adequately covered. She is an excellent professor and I would never have learned as well as I did without her teaching methods and contributions."

"Dr. Gruber is one of my favorite professors. She cares so much about her students and makes learning a difficult language something that is attainable and fun. Her transition into the online semester was so smooth and she was so kind and willing to work with her students. I love Dr. Gruber!"

- Student evals from Spring 2020

Required:

➔ Patience & kindness.

This is one of my favorite courses to teach because I see students go from zero German in August to having basic conversations in German around Christmas. I love being in the classroom and interacting with my students three times a week and meeting them for extra-curricular activities organized by our German Klub. This course is not usually taught online. Considerable time has been spent preparing and transforming this course for online instruction.

It's perfectly understandable that you have doubts about taking a foreign language online; I had my doubts myself. But then I did workshops and training on delivering the content online, and I think it will work just fine. That said: I never consider students passive recipients, but active co-constructors in making sure that the class is successful. You are encouraged to take on an active role. As a teacher, I always focus on creating a positive learning environment. This is the number 1 thing students always comment on positively when they evaluate my teaching. We have one disadvantage: We have not met, and so we will have to put in the extra effort to get to know each other. People who connect help each other stay focused and positive. Throughout the course, you will work by yourself (alleine) and with students (zusammen). You will have to take the initiative at times to make the contact and the assignments happen -- if completing it involves more than your willingness and dedication. This is good practice for the "real world". There will be an opportunity to provide peer reviews for assignments you did as a team.

Working via MS Teams and trying out new apps are also good ways to prepare for "the real world out there". Be prepared to challenge yourself and to feel challenged at times. Be patient and gracious with yourself, each other and your instructor.

All that said, welcome to Germ1010! I am happy you are here and look forward to teaching you my native language!

Next steps:

➔ This semester, we will rely more on the online resources provided by our textbook. Please familiarize yourself with it as soon as possible. For example, find out where to access all the audio and video files.

➔ https://www.klett-usa.com/netzwerk-neu/r-2188/605#reiter=mediathek&dl_niveau_str=A1&dl_kategorie=2

➔ We will also try out new apps, but I will try not to overload you with apps. Instead, we will use some more regularly and try out a new one here and there. If it ever gets too much, please let me know. Don't wait until the end of the semester to complain. Constructive feedback is appreciated and welcome.

➔ Can't emphasize this enough: Get the required course materials!! One hard copy course book and one online work book. More info about those resoruces below. This is really important. Without the textbooks, you will fall behind quickly.

More than ever, you will need (reliable):

➔ **COMPUTER ACCESS:** Students are required to have high-speed Internet access. We will be using MS Teams:

➔ IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: We can't apply everything we do face to face online. Expect technical issues. Upside: we will learn short cuts and get more creative.

Next steps:

Please join the MS Team for this class (see code above at the top of the syllabus). Here, I will post the monthly/weekly schedule, updates, announcements, reminders, your homework assignment, other assignments, due dates, grades, extra credit and we will also share links and videos with each other.

➔ There are two different ways to join MS Teams.

1) You will receive an email with this link, but here it is:

   https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3addac6f9852f94b0c83bc19be2f574b12%40thread.tacv2/conversations?groupId=64365555-3d5d-48fe-a3f7-1e2f424ac672&tenantId=66fecaf8-3dc0-4d2c-b8b8-eff0ddea46f0

2) OR: Join MS Team with this code: **yudz2n1**

➔ I'd like each class to set up **a play list** this semester. The only requirement: The music you post must be by a German composer, singer or band and the piece has to do something with the content we covered. You will post one piece of music per module. We will try and cover four modules this semester.

➔ Quizlet links for vocab tests.
I will create a folder for you to access all quizlets pertaining to the chapters we're covering in this class. The link will be posted in MS Teams. I am a strong believer in self-assessment. Students will create their own quizlets and assess them themselves. All you have to do is send me a screen shot of your result. You can take quizlets as often as you like until you like your grade.

➔ Course flow: Throughout the semester and after our initial Monday meeting during the first week, on the **following** Mondays, you will study and prepare what we will cover on live session Wednesdays. Preparing content and trying to make sense of it ahead of time as a student is called a "flipped classroom". You will try and understand as much as possible ahead of time instead of the instructor (me) feeding you everything to digest. Fridays will be reserved for a live lesson dedicated to practice and questions/answers, fun quizzes, as well as group assignments.

➔ Back channel: If there is technical issue or you are sick/unable to class, you can reach me via email at jgruber@tntech.edu. Also, don't be shy about asking questions in general – it is very likely that you are not the only student with that question/problem. By coming forward, you are doing other students and me a favor and I will address all questions in messages and mini videos.

➔ Circumstances may change. As we proceed, it may happen that there are weeks when you are out sick; you might get better and then others might get sick; or I might not be able to be in class. Students will have to know how to work on their own. You will pair up with a student and exchange notes and teach each other. That way you are not only waiting for me to be better. Students are asked to manage their own learning and participation. If you are a freshman, this might be very new to you because you might have had teachers who were instrumental about your learning and progress. I am still here to guide you, but I will not hold your hand. I consider my students adults, who take responsibility. What we start doing may change later on. It's essential to have an attitude of resilience.

➔ Every participant must identify a quiet room with a stable internet connection. Don't go outside and don't join from an ipone or small ipad. Find a desk. Have some paper and a pencil/pen next to you. Test your equipment in advance. Learn how it works. Mistakes are to be expected – remember that we treasure mistakes: That's how we learn!
You might benefit from headphones and a microphone. This will improve the audio quality. Have all materials we need in one place. Clear your desktop from clutter. If you share your desktop, you might have things on there that you do not want the class to see. You can blur the background in MS Teams.

➔ Setting expectations for student behavior: You have to be attentive; it's easy to get lost in a chat, to start browsing. You should focus on what is going on in the class. Many of you are digital natives, but you may not fully understand how you should use the devices for this purpose, i.e. learning a foreign language. Familiarize yourself with the basic functions of MS Teams.

Text and References

REQUIRED MATERIALS: **You need two items for this class:**

Netzwerk A1 NEU Kursbuch & Netzwerk A1 NEU Übungsbuch

https://www.klett-usa.com/search-2188/quicksearch/result?schnellsuche=Netzwerk+Neu&schnellsuche_absenden=

⇨ *Netzwerk neu A1* Kursbuch (available in the on campus bookstore and online)
Stefanie Dengler et al.
Print Textbook
A1
176 pages
978-3-12-607156-7

⇨ *Netzwerk neu A1* *Übungsbuch*
Stefanie Dengler et al.
BlinkLearning Book Code for STUDENTS

Interactive Online Workbook - One-Year License
A1
NP00860715701

!!! You cannot purchase codes for the online book in the on-campus bookstore. Instead please read carefully and follow the steps below:

I have created a classroom on www.blinklearning.com for students to join and submit the online homework.

1) You will have to purchase your code for the online book here: https://www.klett-usa.com/tennessee-technological-university/c-2817

2) You will create an account on www.blinklearning.com and enter the class code **CL55638444**. If you have already purchased your online book, use your online code once you are in the online class. Click the Content tab and enter your book code. There is also an option to purchase a book once you have accessed the online class. I will assign online homework during the first week, so please make sure you get your code asap.

Computer Access: Since this is an online class, students are required to have high-speed Internet access for at least two hours/day.

Course Description
In Germ1010 at Tennessee Technological University students will develop basic abilities to communicate in German by building basic general vocabulary and comprehension skills. The content will be delivered online via a MS Teams Page. Students will interact with the instructor and each other online and complete at-home exercises before and after class. This will help students learn to interpret the language, interact in the language effectively, present ideas clearly, and increase their cultural awareness.

Course Objectives/Student learning outcomes
At the end of the course, the successful student should be able to handle novice- low level tasks, such as engaging in simple conversations, e.g. greeting and introducing, talking about family and

friends, daily life, family, hobbies, ordering a meal, and making purchases. The class will be conducted mostly in German.

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Understand most written and spoken German selected for beginning learners;
  Communication: Interpretive (Listen, Read/View)

- Speak and write in simple sentences with minor grammatical errors that do not impede communication;
  Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Write, Listen)
  Communication: Presentational (Speak, Write, Listen)

- Speak with pronunciation sufficiently accurate so as not to impede communication;
  Communication: Presentational (Speak, Listen, Read/View)

- Ask and answer oral and written questions related to familiar topics, such as personal information, school, careers, family, actions, and daily activities;
  Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Write, Listen, Read/View)

- Describe people, places, and things in the present;
  Communication: Presentational (Speak, Write, Listen, Read/View)

- Converse on an elementary level, observing basic courtesy requirements and social demands of the culture;
  Communication: Interpersonal (Speak, Listen, Read/View)

- Understand the diverse culture of the German-speaking world and describe some of its basic geographical facts. Cultures (Relating Cultural Products to Perspectives)The curriculum emphasizes the development of **intercultural competence** (the ability to communicate effectively with persons from other cultures), as well as **communicative language skills**. This approach reflects the latest trends in language education, and is aligned with Tennessee Technological University's goals of preparing students to succeed in the global environment. Such competence involves a greater understanding of cultural differences and similarities; instead of being a side issue, cultural understanding is fundamental to the class.

In speaking and writing activies, students are guided from contextualized form-focused exercises to more open-ended activities in which they express individual preferences and viewpoints. Speaking and writing tasks synthesize material, add depth to chapter content, and provide opportunities to communicate in real-life contexts. Your speaking skills will be tested throughout the semester by means of short videos you record. Sometimes you will get together with other students, sometimes you will record yourself. These videos will be marked as submitted or not submitted. They are low stake assignments because I want you to be able to focus on speaking freely and not stressing about mistakes you make. Mistakes are unavoidable. I am not a native speaker of English, therefore you will hear me make mistakes. Embrace your mistakes. Learn from

them, move on. Always remember that native speakers will think you're cute for trying to speak their language. They will welcome your effort.

Once per module/chapter, you will use https://talkabroad.com/ to find a native speaker and practice your German.

Listening practice is also provided in stages, ranging from highly structured to completely unscriptured excerpts of spoken language. *The Netzwerk Neu* video series and social media content puts students face-to-face with real speakers from the target culture, adding both visual and cultural interest to listening comprehension activities. All audio material is available on the Klett homepage.

Reading practice encourages students to negotiate meaning in the target language. I encourage you to start reading aloud as soon as we have covered the German alphabet. German is not difficult to pronounce. What you see is pretty much what you get. Practice reading aloud and try to speed up your reading as you practice. Listen to Deutsche Welle and/or German radio – there are a ton of streaming radio stations throughout the German-speaking world. Really dive into this German-speaking world. The more you read, the more you learn.

Vocabulary development is crucial to this communication-focused course. The *Übungsbuch* provides a vocabulary list at the end of each chapter, organized according to parts of speech. Within these sections, words are grouped semantically. The lists are followed by exercises that reinforce the new lexical items and support growing communication abilities even at the very beginning level. Regular vocab quizzes on quizlet.com will ensure that students regularly add new words to their vocabulary.

Pronunciation Practice is provided throughout each chapter. The activities help students develop strong pronunciation skills that enhance their ability to communicate effectively.

Major teaching methods
Demonstrations, discussion, recitation, reading, written assignments

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Topics to be covered: By the end of Germ1010, students will:

Be able to introduce themselves and others and say goodbye
Be able to talk about the everyday activities and objects, colors, nationality
Be able to talk about friends, hobbies, clothing and possessions
Have learned about the German speaking world
Be able to talk about family, shopping and other activities, useful everyday objects, occupations
Be able to describe people, places, and things
Be able to discuss daily routines, food and meals, abilities, necessities, wishes and likes
Have gotten to know one famous person in the German speaking world particularly well! 😉
Have had basic conversations with a native speaker

Grading and evaluation procedures

Grading Scale

A 93-100

B 85-92

C 75-84

D 70-74

F 0-69

Evaluation procedure

Oral Component		
In-class participation	15%	
Writing Component		
Homework and other		
Assigments	15%	
Skills Assessment		
(3) Chapter tests	10%	
(4) Vocabulary Quizzes	10%	
(4) Recordings	10%	
Final Exam		
Written Component	20%	
Oral Component `	20 %	
	100%	

In-Class participation: (15%)—Involvement in class activities. The more you prepared ahead of class, the more you will be able to participate. Active participation means speaking and collaborating in pair and group exercises, volunteering thoughtful questions and answers, and completing both in-class writing assignments and on-line preparatory assignments. A positive attitude is essential. Everyone's presence and effective participation supports our collective success. Classroom discussions stress communication over grammatical accuracy. Attendance will be kept by answering a daily question that must be submitted to the instructor.

Participation should be in **German** as much as possible when speaking with another student and with the instructor. Off topic discussions in English will hurt your daily participation grade. Learning a foreign language can be frustrating at first. Don't expect to become fluent by December. Set realistic expections. Nevertheless, like any skill, the more you practice, the better you become. Therefore, avoid translating into English. Try your best to work only in the foreign language. Enjoy the limitation.

All that said, our textbook is in German only, which is challenging at first, but I will help you understand and provide English translations. The google translator app will be your new best friend. Do not use it on exams, however, because I will be able to tell.

To confirm that you have read this syllabus, please post a picture of a (living or dead) German/Austrian or Swiss famous person you find interesting on the MS teams class note book and tell us who that person is and why you find him/her interesting.

➔ **Your classroom participation** counts 15% toward your final grade in this course. If you are absent, that counts as a zero for the day.

Homework and other written assignments: (15%)— These exercises in your online *Übungsbuch* are assigned regularly. This preparation is important when learning the language, but more importantly, it forms the basis for informed class participation and understanding. The chapter tests are very much based on the homework you do, so do it regularly. Other written assignments will be either submitted by you as an individual (alleine) or be completed as partner/group work (zusammen).

As is the norm in higher education, you can expect to spend about two hours outside of class on your homework, vocab learning etc.

Perhaps more than in other courses, each GERM 1010 class meeting builds on the last meeting.
- At the end of each live class, I will model new structures and vocabulary and ask students to summarize what they have learned. I will also give you material to prepare for the next class.
- At home, you will review the points from the end of class again before you begin your homework. You will then complete all the assigned homework before the next class and prepare for what will be covered.
- You will come to class ready to use the new structures. You are not expected to demonstrate mastery of each new structure, but you must be able to use new structures with some degree of success.

Chapter Tests: (15%)—Students will complete several short written tests (1 chapter test/chapter or module – I will use both these words interchangably to refer to sections in the book).
We will discuss the structure of these tests when we review, but they will be very similar to what we do in class/what you do for homework. Classroom exercises and homework should adequately prepare students.

Vocabulary Quizzes**:** (10%)—You will complete quizlets to self-assess your knowledge of vocabulary in context. There will be a due date for each quizlet; the link will be shared with you on our MS team page. You can screen shot your grade and submit it on the assignment page in MS Teams.

Final Exam: (40%)—The written component of the final exam will be similar to a chapter test. The oral component consists of a semester-long project. You will pick one famous person (dead or living) in the German-speaking world (Germany, Austria, Switzerland etc.) and build his/her personal file. Every time we learn how to say something: Mein Name ist … Ich komme aus … Ich wohne in … Meine Hobbies sind … Ich arbeite etc. You will add this info to your person's file in

your classnote book in MS Teams. At the end of the semester, you will become that person (extra credit for dressing up) and present yourself to the entire class.

Course Policies

Student Academic Misconduct 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.

University Plagiarism Policy

When you use (for example, quote or even summarize or paraphrase) someone else's media, words, data, ideas, or other works, you must cite your source. You should be especially careful to avoid plagiarizing Internet sources (for example, e-mail, chat rooms, Web sites, or discussion groups). It does not matter whether you borrow material from print sources, from the Internet, from online databases, or from interviews. Failure to cite your source is plagiarism. Students who plagiarize may receive an "F" or a "0" for the assignment, or an "F" for the course. For more info on plagiarism and what constitutes plagiarism, go to: http://iweb.tntech.edu/kosburn/plagiarism.htm

Disability Accommodation

Students with a disability requiring accommodations should contact the Accessible Education Center (AEC). An Accommodation Request (AR) should be completed as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the first week of the course. The AEC is located in the Roaden University Center, Room 112; phone 931-372-6119. For details, view the Tennessee Tech's Policy 340 – Services for Students with Disabilities at Policy Central.

COVID – 19

1. Students must take personal responsibility in following the recommended CDC COVID-19 guidelines. Students are expected follow all COVID-19 directives published by Tennessee Tech including, but not limited to, notices on Tennessee Tech's webpage, building and facilities signage, and similar publications. The university's Return to Campus Student Handbook can be found at https://www.tntech.edu/return/index.php.
2. According to Tennessee Tech University's protocols, face coverings must be worn (covering the mouth and nose) by students in the classroom at all times.

3. Students must abide by predetermined social distancing guidelines and seating arrangements. Movement during class sessions should be limited as to not endanger other students or faculty. Students should be conscious and respectful of others and their health concerns.
4. Students who refuse to comply with university protocols on these matters will be reported to the Tennessee Tech Dean of Students.
5. Students should direct all requests for excused class absences related to COVID-19, regardless of where the COVID-19 testing is performed, to Tennessee Tech's Health Services. The Office of Student Affairs will provide notifications to faculty members of student absences and the expected length of the absence.

Please sign here, take a screen shot send this page to me. Your signature and the completed mini assignment (see above) confirms that you have read the syllabus and are ready to learn German with me.

I have read the syllabus: _____ (date and signature)

I agree to have my pictures posted on social media: _____ (date and signature)