

German IV/Block – High School

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This fourth year course builds upon the first three levels of German. Students will continue to develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking, building vocabulary and grammar skills that move beyond practical scenarios to focus on cultural competency. Exercises based on authentic texts, as well as audio and visual materials from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, will teach students to think critically and express themselves on topics relevant to German culture, past and present. Topics include: the history of political resistance, current events, environmentalism, multiculturalism, multilingualism, important personalities in the arts, literature and sciences, and profiles of three major cities.

This course is aligned with the national ACTFL Foreign Language standards and focuses on the five aspects of foreign language instruction: communication, culture, connections, comparisons, and community. These are the "Five C's of the Foreign Language Education" as outlined in Standards for Foreign Language Learning: Preparing for the 21st Century.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

PREREQUISITES: German III

COURSE LENGTH: One Semester

REQUIRED TEXT: No required text for this course.

MATERIALS LIST: No required materials for this course

COURSE OUTLINE:

Unit 1: Widerstand und Dialog

- Thematic focus: Resistance to the Nazis (White Rose, Dietrich Bonhoeffer), poets in exile (Bertolt Brecht), Holocaust monuments and memorials, laws and debates regarding current rightwing extremism.
- Grammar and skills: Word order (normal, inverted, subordinate): how to construct simple and complex sentences and questions, how to formulate opinions and engage in debate.

Unit 2: Umwelt und Lebensstil

- Thematic focus: History of the environmental movement in Germany, the Green Party, living an environmentally friendly lifestyle, measuring one's ecological footprint, current debate about a national smoking ban
- Grammar and skills: Relative clauses (with and without prepositions), how to provide additional information about a noun phrase within a sentence, how to elaborate on ideas and defend one's opinions

Unit 3: Multikultur

- Thematic focus: Turkish-German guest workers, second generation children of immigrants, Afro-Germans, living between two cultures and languages, metaphoric writing
- Grammar and skills: Conjunctions (coordinating, correlative, subordinating, adverbial), how to draw temporal and causal connections between ideas

Unit 4: Lebensläufe

- Thematic focus: Biographies of Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, Albert Einstein, Lou Andreas-Salome; basic concepts and terminology in philosophy, psychology and physics, aphorisms
- Grammar and skills: Verbs (all tenses, modals, infinitival clauses), how to narrate a sequence in different tenses, biographical writing

Unit 5: Stadtrundfahrten

- Thematic focus: Historical, geographical and cultural background of three major cities in Germany, Austria and Switzerland; artists and art movements (Klimt, Hundertwasser, Jugendstil, Dada)
- Grammar and skills: Prepositions (with 4 cases, two-way prepositions, idiomatic use of prepositions, verbs with prepositions, wo and da compounds)

Semester 1 Exam

Unit 6: Jugendkultur

- Thematic focus: Youth culture, movements and trends from the early 20th century to the present; music, fashion, politics, lifestyle
- Grammar and skills: Reflexive pronouns, reflexive verbs (with and without prepositions), selbst vs. einander

Unit 7: Die Kunst des Beschreibens

- Thematic focus: Describing people, artwork, the physical world; objective and subjective descriptions
- Grammar and skills: Adjectives and adjective endings (with definite and indefinite articles, without articles, comparative and superlative forms)

Unit 8: Deutsche Erfinder

- Thematic focus: History of the automobile, film and aspirin; imagining the world without these inventions
- Grammar and skills: Subjunctive Mood (past and present, modals, wenn dann constructions)

Unit 9: Wie Sachen gemacht werden und wurden

- Thematic focus: German rituals and traditions; holidays, games, recipes, Wanderjahre
- Grammar and skills: Passive voice (past, present, future), alternatives to passive

Unit 10: Er sagte, er sei da gewesen

- Thematic focus: Use of indirect speech in journalistic prose, as a literary device and in the legal context; German birthrate, Dürrenmatt's Besuch der Alten Dame
- Grammar and skills: Direct vs. indirect discourse (past, present, future)

Semester 2 Exam