

GRMN 1001 “Elementary German I”
Summer 2026

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Required course package: Sag Mal **3rd edition**, by Christine Anton, Tobia Barske, Megan McKinstry, Vista Higher Learning, Boston 2021.

A. Course Description and Goals:

This asynchronous introductory German course is designed to develop practical German skills in speaking, interpreting, writing, and listening. It is meant for students with no prior knowledge of German. Asynchronous means that students work on their own without designated class meetings. Students should recognize their responsibility in and the value of daily, regular language practice in order to advance their German skills and understand the level of autonomy and self-motivation required to be successful in an online language course. In this course, chapters 1-4 are covered.

B. Learning Objectives:

At the end of the course, students will be able to

- explain elementary-level German grammar structures,
- recall elementary-level German vocabulary,
- engage in simple conversations in which they provide and obtain basic information,
- demonstrate a deeper understanding of the similarities and differences between German-speaking and English-speaking cultures.

C. Course Material:

Required textbook: Sag Mal **3rd edition**, by Christine Anton, Tobia Barske, Megan McKinstry, Vista Higher Learning, Boston 2021.

Your student access code to Sag Mal Supersite Plus at vhlcentral.com includes vText (an online, interactive, laptop/iPad compatible student edition textbook) & WebSAM (an online workbook/video manual and lab manual with access to Supersite Plus textbook’s online resources (assignments, audio, video, reference tools, assessment, gradebook, teacher- student communication, etc.)). The package can be purchased online at <https://vistahigherlearning.com/school/georgiainstituteoftech>

Please follow these steps:

1. Click on the above link and create an account
2. Choose “German”
3. Click on “GRMN 1001 Sag mal, **3rd edition**”
4. Go to the **tab “Codes & other materials”**. There you have a choice of 6-, 12- or 36-months access.

If you do not want to go fully digital, you may opt for the following course package: Loose Leaf Student Edition with WebSAM & vText for Sag Mal. This course package can be ordered online using the links above. For this package click on the “loose-leaf format” tab and add to cart.

Getting Started with VHL: You will be provided with a link on Canvas to setup your account.

D. Course Requirements:

1	VHL activities	14%
2	7 Journal Entries on Canvas	14%
3	Virtual Chat on VHL	16%
4	4 Video Clips (5% per Video)	20%
5	4 Quizzes (4% per Quiz, 30 min)	16%
6	4 Chapter Tests (cumulative) (5% per Test, 60 min)	20%
	Total	100%

1. VHL Activities:

The VHL Supersite Activities must be completed and submitted by the designated deadline on the VHL calendar. Late submissions result in a lowering of your grade; see the “Late Submission” policy below. Activities will be computer-graded, instructor-graded, or both. The grade for VHL assignments is determined by the activities completed and the percentages earned.

2. Journal Entries:

To practice your German skills, you are required to submit 7 journal entries (each worth 2%) on Canvas. Rather than emphasizing accuracy, the purpose of this assignment is to help you make first steps to “think in German” through journaling. After each journal entry, you will add a reflection on the writing process using German. The reflection will be in English. Since this is a language course, no AI use is permitted. Use of AI tools to check your grammar and vocab or write the assignment (e.g., MS Copilot, DeepL, Google Translate) are considered plagiarism. See the “AI Use” and “Plagiarism” policies below.

3. Virtual Chats:

For the virtual chats, you will need to make sure you have Adobe Flash Player installed. When on VHL, these chats are indicated by a 2 people icon, where one is outlined and one is shaded in grey. You can record the virtual chats on your own. Should there be any difficulties with the chat tool, you can use another recording device, like your phone, and email the instructor the link. The same evaluation criteria apply for the video clips. See below.

4. Video Clips:

In addition to the VHL Online Class Activities, you will do four 3-5-minute video clips where you demonstrate your oral skills. The assignment is a video recording that will evaluate students’ knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, and culture, and **the level of improvement** in their pronunciation and fluency. Students will create a video of themselves speaking in German based on a given theme and time requirement. **Do not read from notes, but speak freely!** Students will record and post their video on Canvas. The same rules regarding AI Use and Plagiarism apply as for Journal Entries. See policies below.

5. & 6. Quizzes and Tests:

Quizzes and tests will be administered at the end of each section of a chapter at a designated time. The exam can only be submitted within the timeframe allowed. You need to complete the quizzes and tests on your own **without assistance** from another student, AI, other internet resources, your notes, etc. Anything else would be a violation of the Georgia Tech honor code (<https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code>).

E. Grading Scale:

100 – 90% = A, 89 – 80% = B, 79 – 70% = C, 69 – 60% = D, 59 – 00% = F
Pass/Fail Students: You need a grade of C to pass the course.

F. Policies:

1. Academic Integrity Policy:

Cheating, plagiarism, and all forms of academic dishonesty are expressly forbidden in this class, and by the university's Honor Code (<http://honor.gatech.edu/content/2/thehonor-code>) and the student Code of Conduct (<https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>). The first cheating on quizzes, exams, and all other course assignments will lead to an automatic zero; the second cheating will immediately earn you a failing grade for the entire course. I will also pursue further disciplinary actions according to Georgia Tech's policies and procedures (see <http://honor.gatech.edu/plugins/faq/> for more information on this). All submitted work must be your own original work. The original thoughts, ideas, and drafts must be your own work.

2. AI Use:

Any written/oral work that forms the basis of your final grade in the class **MUST be your own original work**.

Because this is an online language course, using AI tools (e.g., MS Copilot, DeepL, etc.) or the help of advanced German speakers to draft any assignment is considered plagiarism. **Do not plagiarize**. Copying sentences from an AI tool counts as plagiarism. This includes all chapter quizzes, tests, VHL activities, and assignments described above. I will report any and all indications of academic dishonesty to the Vice Provost of Student Services.

3. Dictionary Usage:

To ensure the development of your German language skills, it is in your best interest to **refrain from using translators** as much as possible. By allowing yourself to learn the words you are working with through context within the videos or interactive activities on VHL, you are allowing yourself to develop a deeper connection with the word and will be more likely to be able to recall the word at a later time. If you must use a dictionary, please use <https://en.pons.com/translate> or <https://www.leo.org/german-english/>. These particular resources will allow you to see the word you are searching for in a variety of contexts and usages so that you may choose the correct one.

4. Late Submission:

Late submissions will be accepted up to the quiz date of the respective section and incur a **flat 20% penalty**. Activities submitted after the quiz dates receive **0 points**.

5. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/> as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also email me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

6. Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

7. Mental Health Resources

We value your well-being and want to support students experiencing mental health challenges. GA Tech Psychiatry: 404-894-2585 (during business hours); Counselor on call: 404-894-2575 (also available after-hours). If you or someone else are experiencing a mental health crisis, call 1-800-273-8255 (24 hours).

G. Further Information

Helpful German Lessons on YouTube:

- Deutsch für Euch (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKXwOxsa60E>)
- Deutsch mit Marija (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCAI6jmeW5hWz2-jaLPqLUQ/videos>)
- Easy German (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbxb2f9e9oNgglAoYqsYOtQ>)
- Learn German with Anja (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZwegPHTG4gvnR0WLzaq5OQ>)
- Learn German with Herr Antrim (<https://www.germanwithantrim.com/>)
- Learn German with Jenny (<https://www.germanwithjenny.com/>)
- 24h Deutsch (ab A2) (<https://www.goethe.de/de/spr/ueb/24h.html>)

Considering a major or minor?

Adding a language to your degree or course of study is a great way to keep in touch with matters of international business and even simply the globalizing world. Business, Technology and Engineering are all sectors in which Germany prides itself and partners with other countries on the global scale. Georgia Tech offers a minor in German, as well as three different options for majors: B.S. in Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies (ALIS), B.S. in Global Economics and Modern Languages (GEML), and a B.S. in International Affairs and Modern Languages (IAML). For more information on the programs go to: <https://modlangs.gatech.edu/languages/german>

Study Abroad

Whether it be in the form of an internship, faculty-led study abroad, or a full semester of study, spending time abroad is a fantastic way to hone your language skills and develop intercultural competence while gaining valuable experience and boosting your resume. Georgia Tech has multiple opportunities for study abroad in Germany, which include partnerships with the Technical Universities of Munich and Berlin,

with RWTH Aachen, the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich, and the University of Stuttgart. For more information, please go to: <https://oie.gatech.edu/>

The signature faculty-led summer study abroad is the German Language for Business and Technology (LBAT) program. You can earn up to 9 credits within a 9-week journey through Austria and Germany. The minimum requirement to be eligible for LBAT is GRMN 2001. For more information, please go to <https://modlangs.gatech.edu/lbat/germany>.

German Club at GT: The GT German Club meets regularly to watch movies and to discuss various topics. You can find out more about their activities through the GroupMe App, the FB page, and Instagram.

The International Plan: Are you signed up yet? Interested? Check it out! For more information, please go to www.modlangs.gatech.edu.

UNSDGs Endorsement Statement

The German Program in the School of Modern Languages at Georgia Tech wholeheartedly endorses the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and understands them to be at the center of our pedagogic and research mission.

