

School of Modern Languages
GRMN 2001 Intermediate German I
Fall 2026

Instructor: Kathrin Köppe
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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8:30-9:30 and by appointment
Office: Swann Building / Room 232
Required course package: *Sag mal* 3rd edition, by Christine Anton, Tobia Barske, Megan McKinstry, Vista Higher Learning, Boston 2021.

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence

Course Description

GRMN 2001, Intermediate German I, aims to build oral and written communication skills in German at the intermediate level and improve cultural awareness and literacy of the German-speaking world. GRMN 2001 contributes to students' education in the humanities by teaching both the German language and the humanistic cultures of the German-speaking world.

General Information:

This course is the third semester of German study at the university level. It is in your best interest, however, to study daily. Students should recognize the value of language study, be genuinely interested in learning to communicate in German, and fully understand the level of autonomy and self-motivation required to be successful in a language course. **Students should plan on spending a minimum of 6 hours per week on this course.** We will complete Chapters 9-12 in 'Sag mal'. At the end of the semester students will be able to engage in complex conversations in which they provide and obtain detailed information. Students will also gain a deeper understanding of the similarities and differences between German-speaking and English-speaking cultures.

Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Use German to communicate with peers and instructor both orally and in writing to create a shared community experience.
2. Employ strategies to comprehend texts (in written, aural, and video form) written by and for German speakers.
3. Employ strategies to express ideas orally and in writing related to familiar topics in presentational contexts.
4. Employ strategies to express ideas in interpersonal contexts in culturally appropriate ways, including identifying and signaling comprehension breakdown, asking and answering questions, and requesting information.
5. Understand and communicate the basics of German-speaking cultures, modes of life, and customs.
6. Develop intercultural awareness through the study of the similarities and differences among and the relationships between language and culture systems.
7. Be prepared to continue developing German language skills and cultural understanding in GRMN 2002.

Course Materials

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

Purchasing Course Materials:

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:

- Create an account,
- choose German,
- click on GRMN 2001 'Sag mal', 3rd edition
- There you have a choice between *Print + Digital access* or *Digital access only*. Each option with 6-, 12- or 36-months access.

Getting Started with VHL:

To set up your account and sign up for the course please read the student instructions in the following link:

for **GRMN 2001 A:**

Evaluation Criteria (Grade Breakdown)

VHL activities	12%
Oral exam	10%
2 Video Clips (10% per Video)	20%
4 Quizzes (2% per Quiz)	8%
3 Chapter Tests (cumulative) (8% per Test)	30%
Final Exam (cumulative)	20%
Total	100%

Description of Graded Components

Video Clip (Kapitel 9 & 11): In addition to the VHL Online Class Activities you will have to do two 3-5-minute video clips where you demonstrate your oral skills. The video clip is a video recording that will evaluate students' knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and culture, and their proficiency in speaking. Students will create a video of themselves speaking in German based on a given theme and time requirement. **Do not read!** Students will record and post their video on Canvas. (Please see **Translator and Dictionary Usage**)

Quizzes (4)

There will be 1 quiz per chapter, and it will include grammar and vocabulary covered by the quiz date.

Tests (3)

Tests will have to be taken on the assigned days. They are cumulative in nature. If you must miss a test, notify me in advance and we will arrange a make-up opportunity.

Oral Exam

For the oral exam, you will prepare a dialogue with a classmate and speak freely for 5-10 min (free speech – no reading allowed).

Final Exam

This is a cumulative, written final exam during finals' week.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

100 – 90% = A

89 – 80% = B

79 – 70% = C

69 – 60% = D

59 – 00% = F

Week-by-Week Schedule

Weeks 1-4 - Unit 1 (Chapter 9, Health)

- Grammar lessons on reflexive verbs in accusative and dative; reziproke verbs and reflexive verbs with prepositions; subjunctive
- Vocabulary building related to body parts; morning routine; personal hygiene; health; remedy and well-being
- Culture Lessons on cultural products, practices, and perspectives related to the German health care system; pharmacies; public swimming pools; Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, the brand *Nivea*

Weeks 5-7 - Unit 2 (Chapter 10, City Life)

- Grammar lessons on subordinating conjunctions; adjectives as nouns; expressing future tense; prepositions of direction; nationalities
- Vocabulary building related to running errands and banking, businesses and government buildings, asking for and giving directions; city traffic; places in a city
- Culture Lessons on cultural products, practices, and perspectives related to pedestrian zones in German inner cities, the home country, the German Postal Service, the director and actor Matthias Schweighöfer

Week 8-11 – Unit 3 (Chapter 11, Profession and Career)

- Grammar lessons on relative pronouns; present perfect tense versus simple past; future II; adjective declination
- Vocabulary building related to job applications, office supplies, on the phone, words and phrases related to occupations and work
- Cultural Lesson on cultural products, practices, and perspectives related to small family-owned companies in Germany; the cuckoo clock; Robert Bosch; social insurance; the difference between employee, civil servant and worker; the Marshall plan

Week 12-14 – Unit 4 (Chapter 12, Nature)

- Grammar lessons on subjunctive in the past tense; present participle; passive voice
- Vocabulary building related to nature and outdoor activities; pollution and the environment
- Cultural Lesson on cultural products, practices, and perspectives related to landscapes in Germany; Alexander von Humboldt; recycling in Berlin; environmental organizations in Germany

Week 15-16 – oral exams and preparation for the final exam

Course Expectations & Guidelines

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit

<http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on an assignment, project or exam will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Attendance and/or Participation

Active participation is essential to the success in this course. To ensure a high-quality learning environment in this class, you are allowed to miss 3 class periods without documentation and without repercussions. If you miss more than 3 classes, you are running the risk of receiving a lower course grade, as one percent of the final grade percentage will be deducted per extra unexcused absence.

To document absences, you must bring documentation from the dean of Students. The document must state the date and time of your appointment explicitly, as well as the duration of your absence and contact information of the issuing body.

Translator and Dictionary Usage: It is in your best interest to refrain from using translators as much as possible. By allowing yourself to learn the words you're working with through context within the videos, essays 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 retain and recall the word at a later time. If you must use a dictionary or translator, 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're searching for in a variety of contexts and usages so that you may choose the correct one. If you choose to continue learning German, PONS or LEO are a great resources to continue using as it also shows you the case and gender among other grammar heavy terms that will help you in future conjugation and sentence structures. Using a translation program or AI is considered plagiarism. (Please see **Collaboration and Group Work**)

Collaboration and Group Work

Language learning occurs in a community of people. This semester, you will participate in multiple small group activities both oral and written.

However, the following forms of assistance are not allowed for doing any of the work in this course: copying (from someone else's assignments or from another source [a reading in a textbook, the Internet, etc.]) without clear attribution of the source; having another student, a tutor, or a friend suggest changes or correct the work you are to turn in; completing assignments in consultation with other students ("working together") unless specified by your instructor; translating directly from another source; and especially **using electronic translation programs**. These restrictions apply to any work turned in for this course, even daily homework assignments. The issue of digital plagiarism has raised concerns about ethics, student writing experiences, and academic integrity. GT subscribes to a digital plagiarism detection program called Turnitin, which may be used to check assignments submitted in this course.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

No late assignments or extensions will be granted. Please plan accordingly. Contact your instructor in case of extenuating circumstances.

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 expectation 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.

Campus Resources for Students

The Center for Academic Success (success.gatech.edu/) offers a variety of academic support services to help students succeed academically at Georgia Tech (e.g. tutoring, peer-led study groups, study skills, etc.).

The Office of Disability Services (disabilityservices.gatech.edu/) ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to all programs and activities offered at Georgia Tech. They provide documentation and officially sanctioned requests for accommodation for students, and serve as a resource for instructors as they build learning environments to meet the needs of all students.

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 e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

OMED: Educational Services (omed.gatech.edu/) is the unit charged by Georgia Tech with the retention, development, and performance of the complete student learner who is traditionally underrepresented: African American, Hispanic, and Native American. OMED's programming and academic support services are aimed at equipping all students with strategies to navigate the Georgia Tech environment.

Support for Students in Distress

Counseling Center counseling.gatech.edu/ 404-894-2575

Dean of Students (Student Life) studentlife.gatech.edu/ 404-385-8772

GT Police police.gatech.edu/ 404-894-2500

Stamps Health Services health.gatech.edu/ 404-894-1420

Modified Operations and Digital Learning Days:

In the event of a weather-related event on campus or other an emergency situation that requires modified operations, I will contact all students via Canvas about cancelling class or our plans for a digital learning day.

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/>

There is also a 9-credit summer study abroad program, **the German Language for Business and Technology program**, that takes students on a 8-week journey through Austria and Germany. Students wishing to participate in this program must have completed GRMN 2002. For more information, please go to <https://modlangs.gatech.edu/lbat/germany>

Helpful German Lessons on YouTube:

- www.modlangs.gatech.edu (Registration questions, Student Resources, **International Plan, Study abroad, LBAT, German Internships –please note: this is the exciting part, but you need to plan ahead**)
- www.leo.org or <http://en.pons.eu/> (online dictionary)
- www.dw.de
- www.nthuleen.com

Endorsement Statement for the UN SDGs (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals)

The German Program in the School of Modern Languages at Georgia Tech wholeheartedly endorses the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030) and understands them to be at the center of our pedagogic and research mission.



ZIELE FÜR NACHHALTIGE ENTWICKLUNG

17 ZIELE, DIE UNSERE WELT VERÄNDERN

