Language Program Course Descriptions

The German Language Program is composed of the 100, 200, and 300 levels (roughly the first 3 years) of German instruction available at the University of Washington.

This chart provides an overview of the skill levels and content covered in each course:
Curriculum Overview (PDF)

See below for descriptions of courses in each level.

German 101-102-103

The first-year program consists of a series of three language courses. In these courses, we follow a communicative/task-based approach to language learning. It springs from the idea that languages are best learned when real-world information and real language use become the focus of student activities. The course contents take a balanced approach to engaging students in speaking, listening, reading and writing of German from the beginning. Throughout the courses, you will listen to and read comprehensible German and have ample opportunities to use German in autograph, interview, information-gap, role-play, writing and other personalized and theme-based activities.

The course series aims at low intermediate or A2 level according to the Common European Framework of References (CEFR).

German 102H-103H

Some of the first-year level courses are also offered in a hybrid format. Hybrid courses only involve three contact hours per week, and students are expected to fulfill a portion of the course work in a computer-assisted environment. All hybrid courses are marked with an "H", (e.g., 102H).

Note: Not all first-year language courses are offered as hybrid courses. The types of course formats that are offered each quarter may vary.

German 111 Hybrid

This course reviews the content introduced in 101 and 102 and requires background knowledge for both levels. It is recommended to those students who need to refresh their knowledge of German. To find out whether this course is the best choice, it is recommended that students take a placement test. German 111 is only offered as a hybrid course.
German 201-202-203

Courses at the 200-level build on the foundation established at the 100-level and follows a similar approach. This series aims at high intermediate/advanced low or the B1 level according to Common European Framework of References (CEFR).

German 201 - Intermediate

Combines engaging cultural topics with authentic readings and contextualized grammar in a unifying context. Provides intensive practice in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Extensive grammar review. Prerequisite: either 103 or 103H, or a score of at least 57 on the placement test.

German 202 - Intermediate

Combines engaging cultural topics with authentic readings and contextualized grammar in a unifying context. Provides intensive practice in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Extensive grammar review. Prerequisite: either 201.

German 221 - The German Express (10) VLPA

Combines in one quarter the contents of 201 and 202, with special emphasis on speaking, listen and reading skills. Limited to students who have demonstrated exceptional skills in first-year German. Recommended: GERMAN 103.

Germ 203 Intermediate

Intensive practice in speaking, reading and writing. Review of German grammar. Oral practice is based on literary and cultural readings.

This course may be taken with 301.

German 300-level courses

The goal of the 300-level courses is to lead students towards the “Mittelfesten Niveau”, i.e. the B2-level according to the European level description for languages (Europäische Referenzrahmen).

Prerequisite: Germ 203 or equivalent or B1 certification

German 301

The primary focus is on the development of advanced-level German through reading, listening, speaking and writing targeting the B2-level. The content is organized around short literary texts and an award winning German movie. Provides intensive work in strengthening vocabulary and a systematic overview of advanced grammar. 301 and 302 may be taken out of sequence.

German 302

The primary focus is on the development of advanced-level German through reading, listening, speaking and writing targeting the B2-level. The content is organized around short literary texts and an award winning German movie. Provides intensive work in strengthening vocabulary and a systematic overview of advanced grammar. 301 and 302 may be taken out of sequence.

German 303
The primary focus is on the development of advanced-level German through reading, listening, speaking and writing targeting the B2-level. The content is organized around short literary texts and an award winning German movie. Provides intensive work in strengthening vocabulary and a systematic overview of advanced grammar.

German 400-level courses

German 401

Loosely structured around the theme of love and identity, the course engages in a series of short stories by well-known German authors, a recent film based on Goethe's life as a young writer, and the novel Der Vorleser by Bernhard Schlink. Aiming at B2/C1 level skills and following a communicative and task-based approach, the course provides intensive practice in speaking and writing, and further targets selected grammatical topics at the advanced level.

Prerequisites: At least two of the following courses, Germ 301, 302 or 303, equivalent courses at the B2 level, or the B2 Zertikat.

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