German as a Foreign Language - Basic Course I, exit level A1.2 (6 ECTS, 6 hours)

Course Objectives:
Initial development of all four skills (reading, listening speaking, writing) based on the course book „Menschen“ A 1.1 (chapters 1 – 12) and „Menschen“ A 1.2 (chapters 13 – 16).

Objectives for Communication Skills:
• Understanding everyday speech
• Expressing personal needs
• Introducing oneself and others
• Requesting and understanding information about a person
• Using and understanding simple vocabulary on everyday life and shopping
• Filling in simple forms on personal data
• Writing and answering simple messages
• Asking and giving the time
• Speaking about hobbies and favourite activities
• Making appointments
• Speaking about past events
• Basic communication and small talk

Grammar:
Simple sentence structures (positive sentences and questions); prepositions (place and time); personal and possessive pronouns; predicative adjectives; modal verbs (möchten, können, mögen).
mögen); present and past tense of important verbs; ordinal numbers; plural; nominative, dative, accusative; simple connecting words (und, aber, oder, etc.); simple adverbs (doch, etc.)

Assessment criteria:
Regular class attendance, active participation, written homework, written and/or oral tests.

German as a Foreign Language - Basic Course II, exit level A2.1 (6 ECTS, 6 hours)

Course Objectives:
Development of all four skills (reading, listening speaking, writing) based on the course book „Menschen“ A 1.2 (chapters 17 – 24) and „Menschen“ A 2.1 (chapters 1 – 9).

Objectives for Communication Skills:
• Describing a person
• The human body and health: the parts of the body, illnesses, a doctor’s appointment, accidents, at the hospital
• The home: moving house, furnishing and decorating a room, housework
• Rules and prohibitions
• Making comparisons
• The weather
• Travel (to cities and countries/regions): describing landscapes, reading advertisements
• Expressing preferences and wishes, writing postcards
• Planning a weekend, organising a city tour, visiting a friend
• Events: making suggestions, making appointments, accepting/refusing an offer, making agreements
• Holidays and celebrations: congratulations, presents; family and childhood memories
• Shopping: food and drinks; dialogues in a shop (groceries, fruit and vegetables etc.)
• At the coffeehouse: ordering food and drinks (expressing preferences); sports
• Work: career aspirations, plans

Grammar:
• Perfect tense, past tense of “haben” and “sein”
• Modal verbs (e.g. “werden”)
• Imperative; Conjunctive II (könnte, sollte, würde); expressing wishes
• Prepositions (mit, ohne); changing prepositions with dative and accusative; prepositions of time
• Nominative and accusative of personal pronouns
• Possessives: nominative, dative, accusative
• Comparisons (comparative and superlative)
• Declinations of adjectives (nominative, dative, accusative)
• Articles (definite, indefinite, no article)
• Conjunctions (denn, weil, deshalb)
• Ordinal numbers

Assessment criteria:
Regular class attendance, active participation, written homework, mid-term test(s), final test, oral exam.
German as a Foreign Language - Intermediate Course I, exit level A2.2 (6 ECTS, 6 hours)

Course Objectives:
Continued development of fundamental competences based on the course book Menschen (Hueber Verlag) A 2.1 (chapters 9-12) and A 2.2 (chapters 13-24). Transition from elementary to independent language use.

Objectives for Communication Skills:
• Reading and listening comprehension training: interviews, newspaper articles, reports, nonfiction, user manuals, commentaries, etc.
• Continued development of everyday communication: expressing one's own opinion, reporting or explaining things, discussing films and books, making presentations, speaking persuasively, talking about habits, communicating interest or lack thereof, etc.
• Continued development of writing skills: nonfiction, personal letters, directions, commentaries and brief reports
• Word fields (to choose from): post, media, weather, the internet, travel and traffic, books, the press, in a hotel, events, mobility.

Grammar:
• Conjunctions
• Clauses
• Relative pronouns and clauses
• The passive voice
• Indirect questions
• Perfect vs. simple past
• Prepositions
• Reflexive verbs
• Declination of adjectives
• Verbs with the dative and accusative
• Simple past of modal verbs

Assessment criteria:
Regular class attendance, active participation, written homework, mid-term test(s), final test.

German as a Foreign Language - Intermediate Course II, exit level B1 (6 ECTS, 6 hours)

Course Objectives:
Continued development of fundamental competences based on the course book "Menschen" (Hueber Verlag) B 1.1 (chapters 1-12) and B 1.2 (chapters 13-16). Transitioning from simple to more complex communication, standard vs. colloquial language, a wide variety of topics, independent work and group activities.

Objectives for Communication Skills:
• Understanding complex texts
• Training fluent and spontaneous language use
• Production of coherent and accurate (semi-)formal texts on various topics (describing and reporting)
• Being able to discuss advantages and disadvantages
• Presenting and discussing different points of view
• Being able to express and recount one's own experiences

Grammar:
• Infinitive constructions
• Sentence structure in main and subordinate clauses
• Connecting words and phrases
• The past subjunctive
• Designations of time and place
• Verbs with prepositions
• The passive voice
• Declinations of adjectives

Assessment criteria:
Regular class attendance, active participation, written homework, written tests, presentations.

German as a Foreign Language - Advanced Course I, exit level B2 (6 ECTS, 4 hours)

Course Objectives:
This is a general language course that should bring students to the B2 level and train all skills (reading, listening speaking, writing, grammar, vocabulary). Participants should gain the ability to produce longer complex texts, both spoken and written, whereby emphasis is placed on fluency, spontaneity and accuracy.

Objectives for Communication Skills:
• Composition and delivery of oral presentations, as well as summarizing current long-form articles from the press
• Detailed description and commentary of statistics
• Describing, commenting on and forming opinions of images relevant to a concrete problem
• Representing one's own perspective with well-founded argumentation
• Proficiency in presentation and moderation techniques

Grammar:
• Practise and review of individual advanced grammar chapters as needed (e.g. complex sentences with the passive voice, present / past participles as adjectives, indirect discourse, nominalization, syntax)

Assessment criteria:
Regular class attendance, active participation, written homework, written tests, final exam, presentations / summaries (see above)
German as a Foreign Language – Advanced Course II, exit level C1 (6 ECTS, 4 hours)

Course Objectives:
Achievement of the Common European Framework of Reference level C1, as well as further expansion of skills in reading, listening, writing, grammar, vocabulary and speaking.

Objectives for Communication Skills:
• Writing: summarizing complex, long-form informative texts; formal / informal correspondence with established guidelines; analysis and argumentative evaluation of statements in texts; description, comparison and interpretation of statistics / images; correcting errors in texts (word choice, sentence structure and grammar, text coherence, and style)
• Speaking: presentations, brief reports, debate, discussions
• Listening: news radio, documentaries, commentaries, editorials
• Feature articles in Austrian, German and Swiss press, possibly including literary texts (short stories, poems etc.)

Grammar:
• Particularities of modal verbs
• Direct and indirect discourse / verbatim citations and paraphrasing
• Two-part connecting devices
• Modal particles
• Functions of the word "es"
• Verbal vs. nominal style
• Noun-verb linking
• Adjective declination with and without articles
• Sequence of tenses

Assessment criteria:
Regular class attendance, active participation, homework, course work, tests, mid-term and final exams

Text Production I, exit level A2 (2 ECTS, 2 hours)

Course Objectives:
Becoming familiar with and practicing basic writing strategies and simple text types

Objectives for Communication Skills:
• Rhetorical patterns for lists, comparison, argumentation, introductions and transitions in writing, politeness in letters and e-mails.
• Simple written presentation and interpretation of figures and facts, strategies for written summaries, formal letters

Grammar:
Grammar exercises related to specific text types
• Comparatives, articles, syntax, subordinate clauses (relative clauses, causal and conditional sentences, indirect questions)
• Idiomatic phrases
• Correction and analysis of mistakes in one's own and others' texts
Assessment criteria:
Regular class attendance, active participation, written homework, mid-term and final exams

Text Production II, exit level B1 (2 ECTS, 2 hours)

Course Objectives:
Transition from simple language proficiency to more complex and varied expression, standard and colloquial speech, complex topics, increasingly independent work and group activities.

Objectives for Communication Skills:
• Comprehension of complex texts on both concrete and abstract topics
• Discussion of one's own specialty
• Fluent speech and spontaneous language use
• Production of clear and detailed texts about a variety of topics
• Expressing advantages and disadvantages of different opinions
• Reading and understanding examples of contemporary literary texts
• Presenting topics of debate and discussing various viewpoints
• Writing essays and reports, transmitting information, establishing one's position for or against certain positions
• Writing texts emphasizing the personal significance of events and experiences

Grammar:
• Infinitive constructions
• Syntax in main and subordinate clauses
• Linking words and phrases
• Special cases of negation
• Present subjunctive
• Indefinite pronouns
• Prepositional objects
• Adjectives and verbs with prepositions
• Word composition: prefixes, verbs with prefixes

Assessment criteria:
Regular class attendance, active participation, written homework, mid-term and final exams, mini-presentations

Text Production III, exit level B2 (2 ECTS, 2 hours)

Course Objectives:
This course is primarily intended as a preparation for the German Ergänzungsprüfung (EPD, Level B2+), and should contribute to improvements in written language skills with special consideration of individual criteria such as sentence construction, vocabulary, grammatical correctness, etc.

Objectives for Communication Skills:
• Speed reading exercises: the ability to read and reproduce the most important points of a text in one's own words
Grammar in Situations I, exit level B1 (2 ECTS, 2 hours)

Course Objectives:
Continued development of fundamental skills; creating more confidence with the use of German grammar structures through practice and reinforcement

Objectives for Communication Skills:
• Training correct language use (group and individual activities, grammar games, explanation of grammatical phenomena

Grammar:
• Review of adjective declination
• Active / passive: passive present, passive perfect, passive preterit, passive with modal verbs
• Syntax, conjunctions and correct word order
• Present and past participles; formulating relative clauses as participles and vice versa
• Present and past subjunctive: unreal wish statements, unreal conditionals
• Relative clauses

Assessment criteria:
Regular class attendance, active participation, homework, midterm and final exams.

Grammar in Situations II, exit level B2/C1 (2 ECTS, 2 hours)

Course Objectives:
Continued development of fundamental skills; creating more confidence with the use of German grammar structures

Objectives for Communication Skills:
• Training correct language use (grammar games, group and individual exercises, presentation / explanations of grammatical phenomena, correcting text excerpts as well as challenging one's own writing and speaking process)

Grammar:
• Active and passive: present passive, perfect passive, preterit passive, modal verbs in the passive voice, static passive; examples for rendering anonymous and depersonalization
• Verbs with prepositions
• Important prepositions with the genitive, dative, accusative, and a review of two-way (dative or accusative) prepositions
• Exercises of syntax, conjunctions and correct word order
• Subjunctive (present and past), subjunctive of modal verbs, direct and indirect discourse, etc.
• Present and past participles; formulating relative clauses as participles, etc.
• Review: declination of adjectives

Assessment criteria:
Regular class attendance, active participation, homework, midterm and final exams

Phonetics I (1 ECTS, 1 hour)
This course deals with various aspects of German phonetics and meets 14 x 45 minutes or 7 x 90 minutes to focus on the following topics:
• Syllables and word emphasis in German
• Sentence emphasis and pauses
• The sounds used in the German language
• Special emphasis on individual sounds commonly found to be difficult (umlauts, e-sounds, ch, consonantal and vocal R, etc.)
• Regional variants; upper Austrian dialect

During the course, students have the opportunity to work on or become acquainted with pronunciation rules with a special focus on the aforementioned topics, and to practice pronunciation in various social contexts (individually, with partners, in small groups, and as a class).

They receive worksheets with the following types of audio and written texts:
• Pronunciation exercises (for review in class)
• Texts geared towards pronunciation training
• Myriad authentic texts (stories, poems, rhymes, dialogues, songs, riddles...)

Certificate Preparation Course German, B1 – C2 (3 ECTS, 2 hours credits)

General objective:
preparation of candidates to the different standardised German tests / diplomas (ÖSD – Österreichisches Sprachdiplom) of B1 – C2 levels, finding one’s adequate level, getting used to the test situation.
(examination fees!)

Topics
Students train exams in „real“ situations, learn about topics, test types and standards. Mock tests of various kinds.
Introduction to language and culture: German as a foreign language
(3 ECTS, 3 hours)

General objective:
„Find your level“. Students are to be prepared for and placed into „their“ levels before semester starts. Level descriptions see above.