

German 251

Course Objectives

This course has two primary objectives: to refine the skills and broaden the range of vocabulary that you acquired in German 111 and 112, and to deepen understanding and appreciation of German grammar so that you can begin developing your own idiom in using the language. The beginning of this course will be devoted to a quick review of the features of the language with which you are most familiar; the remainder will introduce you to their nuances and to more advanced features of the language. Although this course puts special emphasis on grammar and vocabulary, you will have ample opportunity to use the language creatively in daily speaking activities and regular writing exercises. Much of the classroom interaction in German 111 and 112 was dictated by the topics introduced in the textbook; the interaction in German 251 will be more authentic, as you begin to learn strategies for conversing extemporaneously with others.

Successful completion of this course will enable you to continue your study with German 252, where you will learn more advanced features of the language while beginning to compile your own language portfolio. This portfolio will document and evaluate the progress you make in writing, speaking, reading, and listening, and serves as an objective means of measuring the degree of your proficiency in the German.

What you should already know

By the end of German 112 you acquired the ability to use or recognize these grammatical features competently while speaking, writing, listening, and reading:

- Word order in simple sentences (SVOTPV; DAP-ADN; GT-ST)
- Word order after conjunctions such as “daß”, “weil”, “wenn”, “nachdem”, “bevor”, “als”
- Verb kinds (regulars, irregulars; modals; reflexives)
- Verb forms for commands and for factual statements (present and compound past)
- Case structures governing nouns and pronouns (nominative, accusative, dative)
- Prepositions governing accusative, dative, and AC/DC

You should already be able to discuss the following topics competently, although with frequent pauses, and with a limited store of vocabulary:

- Your identity (name, age, birthplace, appearance, occupation, marital status, likes and dislikes)
- Your family (name, age, birthplace, appearance, occupation, marital status, likes and dislikes)
- Your residence (current residence: location, possessions, location of possessions in residence, length of stay at residence, directions on getting to residence)
- Your daily routine (past and present time frames)
- Your feelings and emotional states
- Your health and hygienic practices
- Your educational program
- Social pleasantries (greetings, discussing weather)
- Issuing basic commands to others (formally and informally)

What you will be expected to have learned by the end of this course

By the end of German 251 you will be expected to show mastery of all of the grammatical features listed above, as well as their nuances, for use in speaking, writing, listening, and reading. In addition, you should exhibit a basic level of competence in using these structures:

- Use of simple past to narrate past events more effectively
- Infinitival phrases with and without “zu”: ich habe Lust / es macht mir Spaß / um zu / lassen / helfen / etc
- Verbs requiring prepositions: ärgern über / fragen nach / etc

You will also be expected to engage in meaningful conversation with others on the topics listed above, and as well as ...

- describe (or paraphrase) everyday, household objects with relative clauses
- narrate and summarize stories (fictional and real) in extended discourse