



SCHOLÉ ACADEMY
CLASSICAL ACADEMIC PRESS

German **1**

Mrs. Helga Maier

Yearlong Course

2023-2024

ELIGIBLE STUDENT:

Grades 9th–12th This course is designed as an introductory German course; no prior German knowledge or instruction is required.

Please note: This course is the equivalent of one high school credit in a foreign language.

REQUIRED TEXTS

There are no required texts for this course. All course materials will be provided by the instructor.

NOTE: While there is no primary text, as of this publication. I will add book recommendations as I receive updates from the educational community in Germany. As such, students should also be prepared to regularly print PDF files supplied by the instructor.

COURSE SCHEDULE

ORIENTATION SESSION:

The date and time of the student/parent orientation will depend on the particular section in which you are enrolled, but all orientation sessions will be scheduled during the week prior to the start of the class.

CLASS SESSION DATES: The dates of your class depend on the particular section in which you are enrolled. Consult the Scholé Academy [academic calendar](#) for details concerning scheduled, school-wide breaks.

OFFICE HOURS: Your teachers are available outside of scheduled class times! During “Office Hours” students may raise questions, seek assistance, or review class material. This can happen via email or a meeting in the Zoom classroom. Your teacher will do their best to respond within 24-48 hours; please keep in mind that they likely will not respond immediately to messages after 5 p.m. EST.

GERMAN 1 COURSE DESCRIPTION

English is a Germanic language and out of all the European languages it is most closely related to German. This course will introduce the German language and culture through basic vocabulary, grammar, and conversations.

Western civilizations have significantly been influenced by German philosophers, theologians, authors, and poets. Studying and “decoding” some of their quotes will be part of this class, as well as repetition of basic vocabulary as used in context.

Students will not only uncover the fundamentals of German grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, but will study parts of German history and modern cultures. The aim of German 1 is to cultivate delight in the language and language learning.

At this introductory level I will be speaking German as well as English, so students can become familiar with and start to identify spoken German. Students are also encouraged to use German as much as possible.

The course map highlights the key points of grammar to be covered each quarter. By the end of the year students will have covered conjugations and two cases. They will be familiar with the beginnings of syntax, learning to identify tense, person, number, and the case, number, and gender of nouns.

Classwork and homework will consist of written exercises, memorization of vocabulary and review for assessments. Students will also be encouraged to build their own German reference

grammar in their notebooks. This will enable them to study well for assessments as well as provide a reference for translations and exercises.

It is intended to allow flexibility to adapt the pace of this class if, after correspondence with students and parents, the need should arise to proceed more slowly. Mastery is more important than quantity – *multum, non multa!*

COURSE MAP

QUARTER 1

1. alphabet, pronunciation
2. greetings
3. conjugation verbs, Present tense
4. formation of questions
5. cases: nominative and accusative
6. readings and review

QUARTER 2

7. conjugation
8. perfect tense
9. definitive articles
10. articles in nominative and accusative
11. questions words: wer, wen, was
12. readings and review

QUARTER 3

13. indefinite articles
14. plural forms of nouns
15. question words: wie viel / wie viele
16. modal auxiliaries: mögen, müssen
17. negations: kein/ keine

18. readings and review

QUARTER 4

19. modal auxiliaries: können, dürfen

20. emphasis words and their use

21. verbs with stem vowel change

22. personal pronouns

23. verb conjugations in present tense

24. readings and review

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS: EXECUTIVE FUNCTION SKILLS

Students enrolling in Scholé Academy's German Program will be expected to show development of Executive Function Skills throughout the year. Executive Function Skills speaks to a set of qualities and skill sets students can develop and hone their better approach to the courses, lectures, readings, and teachers they will encounter in their future academic coursework.

Since we are learning a language together and will be using German to answer questions and engage in simple dialogue, it is of utmost importance that students come to class with a courageous willingness to make attempts without worrying about making mistakes. In this spirit, the classroom will be an environment of respectful, joyful, and friendly learning, which will facilitate the study of a difficult language.

This disposition is that of an 'engaged student.' Scholé Academy commends four other important skills which ought to be observed by students.

An Engaged Student: One who is willing to step into the arena of class discussion, ask questions, supply answers, and consider how the discussion at hand applies to oneself.

Note Taking: A student must be engaged with the class by taking notes on important and relevant content in an organized fashion. They should then independently consult those notes for assignments and in preparation for assessments. It is essential that all students acquire a notebook for use during the class, as this will keep them organized by subject.

Attention to Detail & Preparedness: These students are ones who consistently adhere to deadlines, submission requirements, adhere to style guides and codes, confirm technology is working prior to the start of class, are responsible to determine how to proceed after an absence, are responsible for consulting their course syllabus and adjusting as the class proceeds, etc.

Critical Reflection: These students are ones who receive feedback to their submissions, and then apply that feedback to future assignments rather than repeating mistakes. These students

also glean information from the live class critiques of fellow students and learn from others what mistakes to avoid.

Initiative/Maturity: This student will be proactive in listening to the teacher's comments, assessing how they apply to his/her work, taking the initiative to schedule office hours with the teacher if necessary.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS IN ACTION

The ultimate goal for the student will be to acquire a foundational knowledge of German vocabulary and grammar and to communicate effectively at a basic level in a variety to everyday contexts and to understand basic spoken and written German in common situations. Students will also develop knowledge of and appreciation for the cultures of the countries where the language is spoken. More importantly, the students will develop the virtues of love, humility, courage, constancy, diligence, and patience. **The greater goal is that students develop an appreciation of the beauty and power of language. This appreciation will inform their other studies and their lives in the world.**

A large portion of the class will involve regular classroom participation, taking notes on grammar and vocabulary, and reading adaptations based on the readings. Students will receive homework derived from texts studied in class and supplementary exercises designed by the instructor. Students will also be encouraged to use some online tools.

During class time, students will review answers, pose questions, and explain and justify their answers and solutions. They will be required to take notes documenting the new content covered each class. Each week the teacher will lead discussions informed by issues and problems raised by students, as well as issues introduced by the teacher.

In this class, students will be expected to listen attentively and participate actively in class discussions and practices. This includes active use of German when reading aloud, relaying answers, and engaging in simple teacher-led conversation. Students are expected to arrive to class on time with all assigned material completed. The instructor will facilitate learning for the student, but the responsibility for staying up to date with classwork and assignments is ultimately the responsibility of the student.

Students who have not submitted their homework to the appropriate Schoology assignment folder prior to the start of class will not be permitted to join the live class session. Those students will be asked to leave the Zoom session to work privately until they have completed the day's assignment. After they have completed their homework submission, they will be permitted to rejoin the class in session. Time spent in a breakout room will constitute an absence from class.

All assignments will be due in the appropriate Schoology Assignment folder prior to the start of class each day. Students turning in late work will not be able to receive full credit. Students will submit their work by scanning their homework pages and uploading it into the Schoology

assignment window as **one PDF document**. **Photographs of completed assignments will not be accepted as they are incredibly difficult to read.**

STUDENT GRADING AND EVALUATION

While pursuing German 1 through Scholé Academy will be “restful” and enjoyable, we also recognize the need to provide grades for students who will be using this course as part of their prepared college transcript. It is a delicate balance to achieve both restful learning and excellent academic performance. Earning a specific grade should not overshadow achievement goals for mastery of this discipline. Grammar (for our purposes, the German language in all its dimensions), like the studies of Logic and Rhetoric, is a “core” discipline in Classical Education and learning to own the concepts introduced in this class will be a necessary and significant component of future success in upper-level Classical Education. In that sense then, attaining a mastery of German is its own reward, though the teacher will assign the following grades to your student’s level of achievement: *magna cum laude* (with great praise); *cum laude* (with praise); *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory) and *non satis* (not sufficient).

Ideally, every average student working diligently should do praiseworthy work (*cum laude*). Those who excel beyond this expectation will receive *magna cum laude* for their efforts. Work which demonstrates minimal but sufficient mastery will be designated *satis*. *Non satis* designates work that demonstrates insufficient mastery; a student with a consistently *non satis* grade will not be recommended for continuation to the next level of German. Additionally, we will provide a transcript with a traditional percentage grade to the requesting parent at quarterly intervals. All students will receive both a Scholé evaluation and a percentage grade at the end of the year.

STUDENT EVALUATION: MASTERY PORTRAIT

In this course students will receive the foundations of linguistic training that will set them on the path to full mastery of the German language. A knowledge of German will also lead to a more sophisticated understanding of English grammar, syntax, and style. This course will provide the components necessary to achieve mastery of the foundations of the German language, and help students develop an analytical mind. Speaking German and learning about the cultural context of the language we study will also help engage the student in development of their moral virtues. These three aspects of the course would comprise the “learning target.”

At the completion of this course *cum laude* students will be able to:

- use German to introduce themselves, talk about families, hobbies, school life, the weather, food, and colors.
- Identify stems and endings of verb conjugations

- Use rules and stem changes for noun plurals
- Know basic syntactical functions of nominative and accusative cases
- Use the present tense systems for forming questions and statements

Additionally, they will have attained the skills necessary to have basic German conversations, to listen and speak. As well as to translate simple German conversations and short stories.

Students will also be guided in the development of the virtues of truth, goodness, and wisdom. The ancients believed that the arts of speaking and acting well were interconnected. This study of German will deepen the students understanding of a foreign as well as their own language and culture.

STUDENT EVALUATION: ASSIGNMENTS, TYPES & WEIGHTS

The teacher will communicate with students regarding assignment feedback and grading through the free online grading system, Schoology. The teacher will provide students with more detailed information and access to the German 1 course page.

Students' grades will have the following weight (out of 100):

1. Class Participation: 15
2. Homework assignments: 25
3. Regular quizzes and tests: 35
4. oral assessments: 25

The incremental nature of the assessments is in place to ensure that students are continually reviewing previous material.

Typically Speaking:

- magna cum laude is the grade range of 94% or above.
- cum laude is the grade range of 85-93%
- satis is the grade range of 75-84%
- non satis is any grade lower than a 74%

This reflects the student's mastery and ability to move on to the next level.

Students and their parents will receive quarterly feedback from their teachers in the form of a quarterly update.

STUDENT EVALUATION: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students will often take tests and/or quizzes privately at home. Students are on their honor to abide by Scholé Academy's Learning Philosophy which assumes the personal cultivation of Student-Virtues described in the Student-Parent Handbook. **We ask that parents proctor quizzes and tests to help keep their children accountable.**

Specifically, cheating and plagiarism are punishable offenses. Copying the work of other students is prohibited and proper citation of all sources is essential.

THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:

We will be using the free online “virtual classroom” software provided by Zoom. The live, interactive nature of our courses is foundational, and we require cameras to be on during all class sessions. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom. Courses will be managed through our learning management system, Canvas.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

German is Helga Maier's first language. She has inherited her love for languages and learning languages from her mother, who would always study the language of a new European country their family was visiting. She began teaching German to English speakers on the mission field, when Americans came to work alongside her to reach Germany, her home country, for Christ. She has since earned a certificate for an English as a foreign language teacher and have studied Classical Education through ClassicalU, where she has earned level I. She has taught German at a private after-school program in Connecticut and is still teaching several private students, from beginner levels to preparing for the German entry exam to universities in Germany. Most recently she has taught German to high school students at Chapel Field Christian Schools, a Classical Christian School in upstate New York.

Please note: While this syllabus addresses details specific to this course, it is not extensive. Parents should also read the Student-Parent Handbook located on scholeacademy.com and be familiar with the ideas, policies, and procedures outlined.