

# American Junior Year

2017-2018

UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG  
INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTER  
sample courses



[www.heidelberg.edu/ajy](http://www.heidelberg.edu/ajy)

---

---

# INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CENTER

---

**Course: Exercises in German Grammar and Vocabulary (Levels B1-B2)**

AJY D044

**Instructor:** Various members of the faculty

**Location:** International Study Center, Universität Heidelberg

**Class hours per week:** 8

**Credits:** 5

**Description:** This course is designed as an advanced language course for international students taking regular coursework at the University of Heidelberg. In addition to advanced topics in German grammar, vocabulary enhancement is one of the principal goals of the course.

**Readings:** Handouts by the instructor.

**Basis of grade:** Regular graded homework assignments, written exam.

**Course: Adv. Exercises in German Grammar and Vocabulary (Levels C1-C2)**

AJY D045

**Instructor:** Various members of the faculty

**Location:** International Study Center, Universität Heidelberg

**Class hours per week:** 4

**Credits:** 3

**Description:** This course is designed as an advanced language course for international students taking regular coursework at the University of Heidelberg. In addition to advanced topics in German grammar, vocabulary enhancement is one of the principal goals of the course.

**Readings:** Handouts by instructors.

**Basis of grade:** Regular assignments and a final exam.

**Course: The Language of Economics and Business in Germany**

AJY D046

**Instructor:** Ruhm

**Location:** International Study Center, Universität Heidelberg

**Class hours per week:** 4

**Credits:** 4

**Description:** The class provides an introduction to the German language of economics and business. Emphasis is placed on active class participation, homework assignments, and individual practice with the language of economics in the German-speaking world. The goal of the class is to increase proficiency in discussing economic and business-related topics in German.

**Readings:** Articles from newspapers and journals.

**Basis of grade:** Classroom participation, final exam.

**Course: The Language of German Films**

AJY D047

**Instructor:** Bürkert

**Location:** International Study Center, Universität Heidelberg

**Class hours per week:** 4

**Credits:** 4

**Description:** Goals of the course: 1) to improve the oral and written communicative competence of students with the help of films and accompanying materials, b) to provide an overview of the history of films in the context of societal developments, c) to combine language learning with information about the society and culture of Germany, d) listening comprehension and active use of information from the films, e) reading comprehension of film scripts, critiques, biographical information, etc. Students will be familiarized with basic

concepts of film dramaturgy and film analysis.

**Readings:** Alice Bienk, Einführung in die interaktive Filmanalyse, 2006. Walter Faulstich, Filmgeschichte, 2005. Werner Kamp, Manfred Rüssel, Vom Umgang mit Film, 1998, Rüdiger Steinmetz, Filme sehen lernen, 2005.

**Basis of grade:** Regular attendance and active class participation. Two written exams.

**Course: Creative Writing in German I**

**AJY** D049a

**Instructor:** Pichlmaier

**Location:** International Study Center, Universität Heidelberg

**Class hours per week:** 4

**Credits:** 4

**Description:** The course's aim is to hone the creative writing art in a foreign language. Students should be at A2.2 level.

**Readings:** Writing samples of other students in the class. Teacher will also provide short sample texts.

**Basis of grade:** Two written exams.

**Course: Creative Writing in German II**

**AJY** D049b

**Instructor:** Odenthal

**Location:** International Study Center, Universität Heidelberg

**Class hours per week:** 4

**Credits:** 4

**Description:** "Creative Writing for level B1" (Mittelstufe 1) is designed for students who would like to get to know the German language from its creative side. This is only possible if you are able to change your point of view from that of a language learner, who is accustomed to following the rules, to that of a language acrobat, who is willing to experiment and play with the language. This course will provide students with the impetus and skills to take a more creative approach when expressing themselves in German. By practicing various types of written composition on their own and in groups, students will improve their command of the language and become more comfortable with different styles of composition through creative experimentation.

**Readings:** Writing samples of other students in the class.

**Basis of grade:** Two written exams.

**Course: Creative Writing in German III**

**AJY** D049c

**Instructor:** Grzimek

**Location:** International Study Center, Universität Heidelberg

**Class hours per week:** 4

**Credits:** 4

**Description:** The course's aim is to hone the creative writing art in a foreign language. Creative works will be written during the course of the week and turned in via e-mail every Friday. During class on Monday, the papers will be reviewed in a workshop setting.

**Readings:** Writing samples of other students in the class. The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka and selected fairy tales from the Brothers Grimm.

**Basis of grade:** Two written exams.

**Course: German History**

**AJY** D061b

**Instructor:** Schadewaldt

**Location:** International Study Center, Universität Heidelberg

**Class hours per week:** 2

**Credits:** 3

**Description:** This course will deal with German history in a European context. Beginning with the

Middle Ages, we will trace the major historic developments in the course of German history up to 1945. Along the way we will focus on the conditions and factors, such as the delayed formation of a German nation state, which paved the way for conflict. On the basis of historic accounts, descriptions, artwork and photographs, we will explore these chapters in German history. We also plan to visit the Friedrich Ebert memorial in Heidelberg's historic city center one afternoon, which is a museum exhibit in honor of Germany's first president at his birthplace.

Outline of Lectures:

1. Politics and Culture under Charlemagne
2. Germany on the Eve of Reformation
3. The Thirty Years War
4. The Rise of Prussia
5. The French Revolution and Germany and the Era of Napoleonic wars
6. The 1848 German Revolution
7. Society and Politics in the Kaiserreich
8. Germany on the Eve of World War I
9. Domestic and Foreign Policy during the Weimar Republic
10. Visit to the Friedrich Ebert Archiv
- 11 & 12 National Socialism and World War II
13. After 1945 (the two Germanies, Unification, Current Issues)
14. Final Exam

**Readings:** Students are provided with weekly handouts.

Kopp, Guido (u.a.): Die Deutschen. Vom Mittelalter bis zum 20. Jahrhundert. C. Bertelsmann, München 2008.

Cornelissen, Joachim (Hrsg.): Geschichte 2N. Vom frühen Mittelalter bis zum Zeitalter des Absolutismus. Bayerischer Schulbuch Verlag, 5. Auflage, München 1991.

Additional handouts distributed in class.

Film series: [www.diedeutschen.zdf.de](http://www.diedeutschen.zdf.de)

**Basis of grade:** Regular attendance and active participation, written final exam, term paper and oral presentation(s) as agreed upon with the instructor.

**Course: Visual Art and Language**

**AJY D066**

**Instructor:** Wauschkuhn

**Location:** International Study Center, Universität Heidelberg

**Class hours per week:** 2

**Credits:** 3

**Description:** In this course students will be acquainted with various forms of visual art (painting, sculpture, photography). They will learn to verbalize their impressions and opinions of the artwork, and describe what they perceive in words. In addition, students will be able to improve their verbal and reading comprehension skills through oral presentations about the artists and their works of art, and analyzing texts about and by diverse artists. Four excursions to museums and art collections in Heidelberg, Mannheim and the vicinity thereof will take place in the course of the semester. These outings will be complemented by guided tours, short student presentations and group discussions.

**Readings:** Reading list will be distributed at the beginning of the semester.

**Basis of grade:** Regular attendance and active participation, written final exam, term paper and oral presentation as agreed upon with the instructor.

**Course: German Philosophy**

**AJY D102**

**Instructor:** Hinfurtner

**Location:** International Study Center, Universität Heidelberg

**Class hours per week:** 4

**Credits:** 4

**Description:** This four-hours course reaches out to students of all majors who would like to read the most important texts of German Philosophy in their original language. The course intends to provide students with the necessary methodological skills.

Given the difficulty of German philosophical texts, regarding both the contents as well as the language used, each class-meeting will focus on a short paragraph of text only. Students will first discuss the linguistic difficulties, and then analyze the meaning of the provided text. Grasping all aspects of a text will also enable the course participants to express their insights both orally and in writing. Topics include Ethics, Moral Philosophy, Epistemology, Aesthetics, Utopia, and Legal Philosophy.

**Readings:** Excerpts from:

G. W. F. Hegel, Vorlesungen über die Philosophie der Geschichte.  
F. Nietzsche, Vom Nutzen und Nachteil der Historie für das Leben.  
F. Engels / K. Marx, Manifest der Kommunistischen Partei.  
F. Engels / K. Marx, Die deutsche Ideologie.  
K. Marx, Zur Kritik der Politischen Ökonomie.  
L. von Ranke, Über die Epochen der neueren Geschichte.  
T. W. Adorno / M. Horkheimer, Dialektik der Aufklärung.  
T. W. Adorno, Negative Dialektik.  
K. R. Popper, Hat die Weltgeschichte einen Sinn.  
R. Koselleck, Über die Verfügbarkeit in der Geschichte.  
Thomas Morus: Utopia.

**Basis of grade:** Regular and active participation, weekly reading assignments, 5pp term paper.