



German I

Approved by KSD Board of Education: May 18, 2025

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the language and cultures of the German-speaking world. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the sound system and verb structures in the present, past and near future tenses. They will describe themselves, ask questions to elicit information about each other, discuss school-related activities, likes and dislikes, hobbies and pastimes. Students will experience culture through a variety of media and researching various German-speaking locations. They will develop their proficiency through daily oral participation, role-playing, class discussions, listening, reading and writing activities. Students will complete daily homework assignments and will show proficiency through oral interviews, written quizzes, presentations and unit exams.

Grade Level: 8th-12th

Unit Scope and Sequence

Unit 1: The Influence of Language and Culture on Identity

Unit 2: How Science and Technology Affect Our Lives

Unit 3: Factors That Influence the Quality of Life

Unit 4: Families in Different Societies

Unit 5: Environmental, Political, and Societal Challenges

Unit 6: The Influence of Beauty and Art

Course Enduring Understandings:

- Learning about other cultures benefits us as individuals in a larger society.
- Language study is a window to discovering the norms, values, and cultural qualities of a people and their culture.
- The study of a world language and the ability to communicate with it foster a life-long appreciation and an open mind for cultures different from our own.

Course Essential Questions:

- How does learning a language help me understand cultures that are different from my own?
- How am I part of a global community?
- How will I use my language skills outside of the classroom?
- How does language connect me to individuals and cultures to promote empathy and tolerance?

GERMAN I

Unit 1: The Influence of Language and Culture on Identity

This introductory unit provides an overview of the German language and culture with a focus on identity. Students will compare and contrast their own culture with German-speaking cultures.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
• The rules for how one addresses one another vary by culture. • Politeness is perceived differently among different cultures. • Sentence structures vary among different languages. • Languages have rules for how to write the letters and/or characters associated with their written language.	• What similarities and differences are there between the written form of German and English? • How do German speakers address one another? How do these rules differ from how people address one another in your home culture? • How does one show politeness in German-speaking cultures? How do these cultural rules differ from your home culture? • What are some common, everyday words and expressions in German?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
• Culturally appropriate greetings and farewells • Basic personal information and terminology • Cultural aspects of German-speaking societies • German pronunciation and sound system • Numbers, days of the week, months, year • Basic school related vocabulary • Weather vocabulary • Subject pronouns • Regular present tense of common verbs • Verb sein to describe people and things	• Identify memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in informational texts. • Identify memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in fictional texts. • Understand memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in conversations. • Provide information by answering a few simple questions on very familiar topics, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express some basic needs, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express basic preferences or feelings, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Introduce themselves using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express likes and dislikes using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals.

GERMAN I

Unit 1: The Influence of Language and Culture on Identity

	• Name very familiar people, places, and objects using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Identify some typical products related to familiar everyday life in their own culture and other cultures. • Identify some typical practices related to familiar everyday life in their own culture and other cultures. • Communicate with others from the target culture in familiar everyday situations, using memorized language and showing basic cultural awareness. • Use appropriate rehearsed behaviors and recognize some obviously inappropriate behaviors in familiar everyday situations.
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Missouri Learning Standards

Communication—Communicate in Languages Other Than English

- 1.1: Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.
- 1.2: Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics.
- 1.3: Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

Culture—Gain Knowledge and Understanding of Other Cultures

- 2.1: Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied.
- 2.2: Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.

Connections—Connect With Other Disciplines and Acquire Information

- 3.1: Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language.
- 3.2: Students acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures.

Comparisons—Develop Insight into the Nature of Language and Culture

- 4.1: Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studied and their own.
- 4.2: Students demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.

Communities—Participate in Multilingual Communities at Home and Around the World

- 5.1: Students use the language both within and beyond the school setting.
- 5.2: Students show evidence of becoming life-long learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment.

GERMAN I

Unit 2: How Science and Technology Affect Our Lives

In this unit, students will learn to talk about their interests and compare them to those in German-speaking cultures using simple sentences and common expressions.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
• Our interests are shaped by our experiences. • Our personal interests can help us connect to others with similar interests.	• What influences our interests? • How does culture shape our interests? • Why do our interests change over time? • How can I use my interests to contribute to my community?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
• Verb conjugations in the du-, ihr-, and sie-forms • Common vowel-changing verbs • Position of the conjugated verb in a statement sentence. • Position of the conjugated verb in a question. • Vocabulary needed to talk about personal interests, hobbies, and sports.	• Identify memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in informational texts. • Identify memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in fictional texts. • Understand memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in conversations. • Provide information by answering a few simple questions on very familiar topics, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express some basic needs, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express basic preferences or feelings, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Introduce themselves using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express likes and dislikes using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Name very familiar people, places, and objects using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Identify some typical products related to familiar everyday life in their own culture and other cultures. • Identify some typical practices related to familiar everyday life in their own culture

GERMAN I

Unit 2: How Science and Technology Affect Our Lives

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GERMAN I

Unit 3: Factors That Influence the Quality of Life

In this unit, students will learn to talk about daily experiences, and compare them to experiences of people living in German-speaking communities.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
• While communities around the world have unique cultural traditions, they share common values. • Comparing experiences across cultures helps us better understand our own culture as well as that of others.	• How can I help create a positive environment? • What makes our experiences meaningful? • How do my experiences in my community compare to the experiences of those living in German-speaking communities?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
• Definite and indefinite articles in the accusative case (der, den, ein, einen, die, eine, das, ein). • Modal verbs können, dürfen, müssen, and sollen. • Coordinating conjunction denn and the modal verb mögen. • Vocabulary to discuss: ○ Schedule ○ School supplies ○ Agreements/disagreements	• Identify memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in informational texts. • Identify memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in fictional texts. • Understand memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in conversations. • Provide information by answering a few simple questions on very familiar topics, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express some basic needs, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express basic preferences or feelings, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Introduce themselves using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express likes and dislikes using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Name very familiar people, places, and objects using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Identify some typical products related to familiar everyday life in their own culture and other cultures. • Identify some typical practices related to

GERMAN I

Unit 3: Factors That Influence the Quality of Life

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GERMAN I

Unit 4: Families in Different Societies

In this unit, students will learn about the diversity of family structures in German-speaking cultures.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
• The concept of family can vary even within the same culture. • Many factors shape our idea of the role family plays in our lives.	• How do you describe family? • What roles do you play within a family? • How does my space represent my identity and my experiences?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
• Vocabulary related: ◦ Family members and relationships ◦ Items in personal space ◦ Household responsibilities • Grammar concepts ◦ Possessive adjectives ◦ Personal pronouns in the accusative ◦ Separable prefix verbs or trennbare Verben	• Identify memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in informational texts. • Identify memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in fictional texts. • Understand memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in conversations. • Provide information by answering a few simple questions on very familiar topics, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express some basic needs, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express basic preferences or feelings, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Introduce themselves using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express likes and dislikes using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Name very familiar people, places, and objects using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Identify some typical products related to familiar everyday life in their own culture and other cultures. • Identify some typical practices related to familiar everyday life in their own culture and other cultures.

GERMAN I

Unit 4: Families in Different Societies

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GERMAN I

Unit 5: Environmental, Political, and Societal Challenges

In this unit, students will learn how the choices they make impact their lives. They will also learn how to provide advice to others related to these choices.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
• Our food choices influence our wellbeing. • Our decisions shape our lives.	• What do people's choices reflect about their culture? • How does my lifestyle affect my food choices? • How do my choices affect my health? • How can I live a healthier life? • Why is it important to be aware of the impact our choices can make? • How can people support each other's wellbeing?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
• Coordinating conjunctions aber, denn, oder, sondern, and und. • Accusative prepositions durch, für, gegen, ohne, and um. • Vocabulary related to regional specialties and their descriptions. • Imperativ or command form • Vocabulary related to healthy foods	• Identify memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in informational texts. • Identify memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in fictional texts. • Understand memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in conversations. • Provide information by answering a few simple questions on very familiar topics, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express some basic needs, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express basic preferences or feelings, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Introduce myself using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express my likes and dislikes using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Name very familiar people, places, and objects using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of

GERMAN I

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GERMAN I

Unit 6: The Influence of Beauty and Art

In this unit, students will explore how beauty and art shape everyday life in German-speaking cultures.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
• Beauty and art influence how people live. • Different cultures have different ideas about what is considered beauty and art.	• How do people in German-speaking cultures define beauty and art? • How do we describe beauty and art?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
• Singular possessive adjectives in the dative case • Pronouns in the dative case • Verbs danken, passen, and stehen in the dative case • Vocabulary related to fashion	• Identify memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in informational texts. • Identify memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in fictional texts. • Understand memorized or familiar words when they are supported by gestures or visuals in conversations. • Provide information by answering a few simple questions on very familiar topics, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express some basic needs, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express basic preferences or feelings, using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Introduce themselves using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Express likes and dislikes using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Name very familiar people, places, and objects using practiced or memorized words and phrases, with the help of gestures or visuals. • Identify some typical products related to familiar everyday life in their own culture and other cultures. • Identify some typical practices related to familiar everyday life in their own culture and other cultures. • Communicate with others from the target

GERMAN I

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