



# Europa - Kolleg, Kassel e.V

## Kassel, Germany

### ACADEMIC INFORMATION

#### **COURSE EQUIVALENTS**

Alma College offers several levels of German language study through Europa-Kolleg, Kassel e.V. This institution organizes its curriculum around four- and eleven-week courses. Students may begin their studies near the middle of a level and complete it within a four-week period, then move on to the next higher level for a full 11 weeks.

Students' prior experience may place them at a level whereby they finish a complete eleven-week course, following it up at the next level for four weeks. The resulting transcript from Alma College for a given student will probably look slightly different from that of other students in the program; however, it will always contain a mix of courses that reflect the student's actual experience and level of proficiency.

Summer sessions may involve combinations of three- and four-week programs. They function in a similar fashion.

In the Winter Semester, a three- or four-week break occurs following the initial 11-week session.

Following are the Europa-Kolleg, Kassel e.V. levels with the course equivalents recognized by Alma College:

#### *ANFÄNGERKURS (A)*

Is Equal To  
GERMAN 111-112

Intensive Beginning German I-II: An intensive audio-lingual course for beginners in German. The primary objective of the course is to enable students to begin early and meaningful communication in German by acquiring necessary basic skills. All four language skills are emphasized: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The secondary objective is to provide students insight through participation in German culture and society. **Offered in summer only.**

#### *FORTGESCHRITTEN- ENKURS (F1)*

Is Equal To  
GERMAN 231 or 232,  
or  
GERMAN 251 or 252  
Four credits each

**GERMAN 231-232** Composition and Conversation: A systematic study of grammar and further development of speaking and writing skills through reading, discussion, intensive laboratory and classroom drill.

**GERMAN 251-252** Aspects of German Culture: Intermediate-level investigation of various aspects of contemporary German civilization

and culture through speaking, writing, laboratory exercises, reading exercises, and discussion.

#### *FORTGESCHRITTENENKURS (F2)*

Is Equal To  
GERMAN 311, 312, or 313  
Four credits each.

**GERMAN 311-312** Advanced Conversation and Composition: Refinement and extension of language skills through consideration of contemporary issues and experiences from newspapers, magazines, and audiovisual material. Expanded oral composition, intensive and extensive written composition. Review of selected grammatical problems. Laboratory exercises.

**GERMAN 313** Review of selected grammatical problems; refinement of speaking, reading, and writing skills through extensive classroom and laboratory practice.

## GERMANY ACADEMIC INFORMATION/continued

**OBERKURS (O)**  
Is Equal To  
German 401, 402, or 403.  
Four credits each.

**GERMAN 401** Advanced Composition and Stylistics I: Concentration on areas of composition and style, both oral and written, which pose difficulty for the advanced student; emphasis also given to advanced oral practice.

**GERMAN 402** Advanced Composition and Stylistics II: Continued oral and written investigation into advanced grammar, with attention to individual problems defined in previous study; reading of contemporary cultural and literary sources; advanced oral practice.

**GERMAN 403** Advanced Composition and Stylistics III: Extensive investigation into points of concern for advanced German students, stressing intensive and extensive reading, conversation, and writing to allow mastery of stylistic difficulties and idiomatic expressions. Questions and abilities investigated beyond the normal range of German study.

At all levels, the language offerings of Europa-Kolleg, Kassel e.V. (including Current Topics at the F2 and *Oberkurs* levels) constitute a full course load. In a semester, this is equivalent to 16 standard credits.

**GERMAN 380:** Current Topics in Germany. Three credits. This course is taught as a regular, included feature of the morning intensive language program. Readings and conversations based on contemporary social, political and cultural events in Germany and Europe. Classes will meet approximately 4 hours weekly as a

part of the morning language session. Prerequisite: F2 or Oberkurs placement. May be taken twice for credit.

### CREDIT

Alma College students will receive from 4-16 semester credits for each completed semester in Kassel. For most American institutions this reflects a standard load of four courses, four credits each. From language classes, students on three- or four-week summer programs may earn four credits. Students on seven- or eight-week programs may earn eight semester credits. Those on 11- or 12-week sessions may earn 12 credits.

### PLACEMENT

After arriving in Kassel students are given a placement test during the first full day of class. This test will determine where students should best continue their German study. If, after the first few class days, any student thinks that he/she has been misplaced, a course change may be requested. Students may need some review before they are ready to begin concentrated work in Germany. As Europa-Kolleg, Kassel e.V. exercises complete control over the placement process, Alma College does not become involved in questions involving placement. Alma College recognizes accomplished proficient learning, and it resists artificial inflation of either placement or course numbers. It is not in a student's best interest to enroll in courses at a level at which he/she cannot really function.

### GRADING

The grades for overseas work combine the results of **tests** and **courses** from Europa-Kolleg, Kassel e.V. with a written **essay** evaluated by the German faculty on the Alma College campus. Students should by all means take the examination that corresponds to

their level of accomplishment, as it comprises 75-80% of the final grade.

### EXAMS AND TRANSCRIPTS

Officially recognized examinations (*Grundbaustein Deutsch; Zertifikat des Europa-Kollegs; Diplom des Europa-Kollegs*) are offered at the end of each semester to students who have successfully prepared in courses leading to them. When they are sure of each student's proficiency level, the German faculty on the Alma College campus will establish the official program from the list of Course Equivalents. This occurs normally after the completion of studies in Kassel. At this point students receive an interim grade of I (Incomplete) for the courses on the program. This notation is removed upon evaluation of the written essay. The Program of Studies in Germany adheres to the Alma College policy that stipulates a six-week period to remove I (Incomplete) grades. Thus, it is incumbent on each student to contact the department immediately upon completion of coursework.

**NOTE: No examinations are given following any of the summer courses.**

### THE GERMAN ESSAY

Students at F2 level or higher must present for each semester of study an essay of between eight and ten pages. The essay, that should be typed and in German, will deal with a mutually agreed-upon topic. Students are requested to contact Dr. Holly Liu in the Department of Modern Language at Alma College without delay after they have finished their work in Kassel, especially if they intend to stay on in Europe following the end of the program. The essay may be begun before the completion of coursework and submitted as the program ends. This strategy removes any difficulty of "incomplete" work lingering on after the semester or year is over.

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The essay is evaluated primarily according to the linguistic skill shown in German. Students should certainly prepare their essay as carefully and as earnestly as they do any extended written exercise. Such an essay usually requires more than two drafts. Accuracy in grammar and typing is essential.

**NOTE:** Students in programs of four weeks duration or less do not need to submit a German Essay.

Alma College will gladly clarify or expand upon the above information. Questions should be directed to:

Dr. Holly Liu  
Department of Modern Languages  
SAC 345  
Alma College  
Alma, MI 48801-1599  
989/463-7237

## FACULTY AND STAFF

**EUROPA-KOLLEG, KASSEL e.V.** was founded in 1967. It is a nonprofit institution working in close cooperation with the Adult Education Center of the city of Kassel. Over forty thousand students from 100 different countries have taken part in its intensive courses of German language and culture. **ALMA COLLEGE** is a private, liberal arts college located in central Michigan. Alma College is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

**ALMUT NICKEL**  
Director of Europa-Kolleg, Kassel e.V., M.A. Universität Kassel (2000)

**RAINER EBERHARDT**  
Senior Instructor and director of the multimedia studio. Majored in Romance Languages and Slavic Languages at the Universities of Marburg, Grenoble, and Moscow. Lecturer at the Institute for East European Languages in Bochum. Wrote instructional materials. Literary interests include Thomas Mann and Theodor Storm. Instructor at Europa-Kolleg, Kassel e.V. since 1976.

**TANJA WIESNER**  
Degree in German and Spanish at the University of Minsk, numerous courses in the program for teaching "Deutsch als Fremdsprache," currently working on her advanced degree in German literature and Spanish at the University of Kassel. Instructor at Europa-Kolleg, Kassel, e.V. since 2001.

**AGNES TRAPP**  
M.A., University of Kassel, 2001, working on her Ph. D. in German literature on Eleonore Kalkowska, a woman author of the 1920s. Teaching experience in a variety of institutes in Kassel. Instructor at Europa-Kolleg, Kassel e.V. since

2004. Extracurricular interest in music (violin).

**HOLGER KRAMER**  
After studies in philosophy, English, and *Deutsch als Fremdsprache*, graduated with a *wissenschaftliches Staatsexamen* from Göttingen university. Served as Assistant teacher of German in England and also taught German in Spain. Instructor at Europa-Kolleg, Kassel e.V. since 2004. Literary concentration on comics as literature. Extracurricular interest in cycling, music, and photography.

**LORENZ EBERHARDT**  
Studies in German and Physical Education since 1999, degree expected in 2006. Literary specialization in Thomas Mann. Extracurricular interests include sports, contemporary music.

**VOLKER BORBEIN**  
Studied Romance Languages and Political Science at the Universities of Marburg, Berlin, and Tours (France). Has passed the *wissenschaftliches und pädagogisches Staatsexamen*. Head of Language Division at Gesamt-Volkshochschule der Stadt Kassel. State examiner for German and French proficiency. Has published in language instruction and textbooks on Germany, Italy, Great Britain, the United States and the Netherlands.

Germany Academic Information  
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