COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE TITLE: German I

Course Number: NM 12564100, RISD 08126
Open to Grades: 9 - 12
Credit: ½ credit per semester
Prerequisite: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students in the first course of German will be introduced to the language exactly as they were introduced to their native language, i.e., through listening, speaking, reading and writing. They will also be exposed to various aspects of the German culture and its people. The majority of the class will be conducted in German and the students will be expected to speak the language daily. Students will therefore learn the proper grammatical constructions in order to express themselves accurately.

Performance Standards for Modern, Classical and Native Languages 1 through 7 are met by this curriculum.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

A. Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions
   1. Students will listen to and act upon oral directions
   2. Students ask and answer questions about topics such as family, friends and daily life
   3. Students will discuss daily activities
   4. Students will share their likes and dislikes with the class
   5. Students will exchange appropriate greetings, phrases and nonverbal communication with the teacher and with peers

B. Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics
   1. Students will read aloud short, developmentally appropriate materials such as simple stories and articles
   2. Students will comprehend main ideas in developmentally appropriate written and oral narratives
   3. Students will discuss short narratives in German using free form responses
   4. Students will write short descriptions of themselves, their families and their daily lives
   5. Students will write responses to previously given oral questions in appropriate and accurate forms

C. Students will present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics
   1. Students will introduce themselves and others to the class in an oral presentation
   2. Students will explain their family histories to the class as a whole
   3. Students will present a short performance of a simple folktale to an audience of non German speakers
   4. Students will write a simple letter of introduction to be read by native speakers
D. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied
   1. Students will use appropriate gestures and oral expressions for greetings, farewells and common classroom interactions
   2. Students will participate in cultural activities such as games and songs
   3. Students will simulate daily life situations of the target language and discuss similarities and differences

E. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and the perspectives of the culture studied
   1. Students will identify and observe tangible products of the culture such as foods
   2. Students will participate in observances of special holidays and festivals
   3. Students will learn about the art, music and literature of the culture through class discussion, visual displays and reading selections

F. Students will reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language
   1. Students will demonstrate an understanding about concepts learned in other subject areas in the target language, i.e., mathematics, geography and history
   2. Students will learn about the art, music, literature and history of the German culture in relation to those of their own

G. Students will acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the language studied and their own
   1. Students will participate in discussions concerning history and political systems of the German culture
   2. Students will read and listen to excerpts from developmentally appropriate literature

H. Students will demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own
   1. Students will discuss the necessity of language and its relationship to cultural development
   2. Students will listen to and discuss word origins and their role in the development of language
   3. Students will recognize cognates and are aware of false cognates
   4. Students will be aware of the existence and importance of idiomatic expressions in both German and their own language
   5. Students will recognize the distinction made in German between formal and informal forms of address
   6. Students will recognize the importance of gender and grammatical function in the German language and their spoken and written language reflects their recognition

I. Students will demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparison of the cultures studied and their own
   1. Students will compare simple patterns of daily life and social interaction between the two cultures
   2. Students will demonstrate an awareness that gestures are a form of communication and may differ from culture to culture
   3. Students will be aware of the situations in which the formal form of address should be used
   4. Students will compare and contrast tangible products of the German culture such as food preferences, sports and other interests
   5. Students will recognize diverse attitudes through the reading of literary examples and exposure to contemporary media

J. Students will use the language both within and beyond the school setting
   1. Students will communicate on a personal level with speakers of the German language
   2. Students will use the language to create simulated situations
3. Students will use the language with non German speakers through the production and performance of German folktales
4. Students may have the opportunity to use the language on summer trips taken to Germany

K. Students will show evidence of becoming life-long learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment
   1. Students will read and/or use media from the German language for enjoyment
   2. Students will listen to German music
   3. Students will recognize contributions made in the targeted culture in various fields, such as science and the arts

COURSE OUTLINE:

I. During the two semesters of German 1, students will learn the following

   A. Basic greetings, farewells and common expressions
   B. Forms of introduction
   C. Pronunciation
      1. Alphabet
      2. Diphthongs
      3. Initial sounds
      4. Final sounds
   D. Personal pronouns in the nominative case
   E. The irregular verb "sein"
   F. Expressions of personal conditions and personality
   G. Numbers
      1. Working knowledge 1 -100
      2. Conceptual knowledge of all numbers 1 -1,000,000
   H. Present tense verb endings
      1. Regular
      2. Irregular
   I. Separable verbs
   J. Stem-changing verbs
   K. Definite and indefinite articles
   L. Possessives
   M. Negation using "kein" and "nicht"
   N. Familial relationships
      Time expressions
      1. Time of day
      2. Days of the week
      3. Months of the year
      4. Seasons of the year
   P. Occupations
   Q. Colors
   R. Forms of transportation
   S. Clothing and personal items
   T. The accusative case
      1. Usage of nouns in the accusative
      2. Usage of pronouns
      3. Accusative prepositions
      4. Idiomatic accusative expressions
   U. Future tense
   V. Modal auxiliary verbs
   W. Dative case
      1. Usage of nouns in the dative
      2. Usage of pronouns
      3. Dative verbs
II. German I students will also be exposed to the following cultural information.

A. German social structure
B. Dining customs
C. Holiday observances
   1. Oktoberfest
   2. Reunification Day
   3. Christmas
   4. Fasching
D. German geography
   1. Internal geography
   2. Global geography in German
E. German literature
   1. Simple fairy tales
   2. Overall literary philosophies
F. German art movements
G. Monetary system
H. Metric system
I. Brief overview of German history
J. Language development

LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

I. Listening: Listening skills will be developed through

   A. The daily use of the spoken language.
   B. Oral directions using physical commands.
   C. The oral reading of developmentally appropriate selections.
   D. German language films

II. Speaking: Speaking skills will be developed through

   A. Daily usage: students will answer and ask questions in German on a daily basis using complete and properly constructed sentences
      1. Repetition drills
      2. Substitution drills
      3. Direction question and answer
      4. Indirect question and answer
   B. Conversation days: students will only use the targeted language during the entire class period
   C. Short oral presentations
   D. Presentations of fairy tales
      1. Classroom performance
      2. Public performance
   E. Oral and/or video taping of dialogues and/or special topics
III. Reading: Reading skills will be developed through
   A. Oral reading of questions previously used orally in the classroom
   B. Short developmentally appropriate reading selections

V. Writing: Writing skills will be developed through
   A. Written daily assignments which reinforce material used orally
      1. Substitution sentences
      2. Personalized questions
      3. Isolated sentence elements which are then placed into complete sentences
      4. Minimal use of English to German translations
   B. Short compositions on a variety of topics
   C. Final composition to include descriptions of self, family, interests and future goals

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be evaluated through the use of various methods, i.e., oral tests, written tests, self evaluations and daily assessment of skill mastery. Percentage grades will be determined using a combination of daily grades, quiz grades and major test grades which will be given at the conclusion of a major concept completion. Grading criteria will be based upon standard district guidelines.

RESOURCES:

I. Static visuals will be used for vocabulary development, sentence construction and as conversation prompters

II. Games: Commercially made games, as well as original activates, will be used in order to present and reinforce material learned in the classroom

III. Video tapes: Cartoons and contemporary movies will be shown, not only to help develop listening skills, but also to entertain

IV. Worksheets: Worksheets will be developed (or will be taken from commercially produced workbooks) and will be used to reinforce oral work

V. Textbooks: Textbooks may be used as either the primary tool within the classroom or merely as a supplement to a variety of other materials the following may be used
   A. Komm mit! Holt, Rinehart, Copyright 2006
      ISBN 0-030372542
   B. German: A Practical Approach, Hanson, Wilkins, Nielson
      Library of Congress Number 73-180137, Publication 1972
   C. Es War Einmal, NTC
   D. Beginning German Reader, NTC
   E. Various dictionaries and other resource materials, i.e., newspapers, magazines, and comic books in German