

Module description

Stand 03.05.2021

German Society and Culture

Time: every Wednesday 17.30 — 19.00

Course Language: all lectures and course materials are in English

Credits: 2 ECTS

Lecturer: Dr. Michael Geiger

Assessment: individual oral examination

Prerequisites: fluency in English

Teaching format: We will watch film clips, read newspaper articles and you will be asked to participate actively in classroom discussions. In the framework of this course we will also leave the classroom and visit particular objects in public places and museums.

Level: Bachelor's and Master's level

Content

This course conveys an insight into German society and culture, concentrating on aspects of cultural and historical change from peasant society through modernity to contemporary society. You will obtain useful information about a wide range of topics.

- Module 1: Theories of Intercultural Communication
- Module 2: societal topics
 - o German Reunification: historic milestones and the situation today
 - o German Language: from its Indo-European roots to a "powerful language" today
 - o The Political Parties in Germany: we consider the whole range of the parliament
 - o German Economy: between social market economy and globalization
 - o System of Education: from Humboldt's principles to practice-orientation
 - o Religion: Jewish — Christian heritage in the German Culture.
 - o Gender: the long way to emancipation and equal rights
 - o Social Security System: solidarity and subsidiarity
 - o Germany in the process of globalization: effects on society
 - o Integration of migrants: challenges, perspectives, risks
 - o Volunteerism: community service and social commitments
 - o Environment: from ecological awareness to sustainability

Learning outcomes

- Knowledge and understanding
 - o Ability to identify basic concepts, ideas and terminology within the subject area of German Culture
 - o Ability to give an account of how German society is being and has been formed in Germany

- Judgement and approach
 - Ability to assess the societal and cultural phenomenon , both historically and contemporarily
- Competence and skills
 - Ability to give an account of the common features in the historic development of the cultural and social systems in Germany
 - Ability to reflect on how influences from the surrounding world have affected this development