



IC/EC 340 GERMANY AS A LOCATION FOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

IES Abroad Freiburg

DESCRIPTION:

Today Germany represents the biggest economy right in the middle of Europe. Germany has been an “economic locomotive” - together with the US and Japan- and a long-term “world export champion”. Now it faces dramatic challenges both domestically and internationally in the 21st century (for instance structural changes in its industry and society). Germany is also at the center of critical developments in the European Union. The financial crisis since 2008 brought additional pressure on the European economic powerhouse. How Germany answers its calling admits growing concern about transatlantic relations (TTIP) and new competitors from “Emerging Markets” (China, Russia).

The course aims to describe Germany’s economic situation today and to put it into a European and global perspective. Students will acquire the necessary background to assess future developments and challenges.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: German

PREREQUISITES: Introductory economics

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures
- Discussions
- Debates
- Student presentations

The course will be supplemented with local and current articles. Students will play an active role in selecting the supplemental readings for this course and ensuring that the course is adapted to student interests as best possible.

Additional material will be available on Moodle. This platform is also the place to share assignments and to follow recent developments in the field.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course participation - 10%
- Student presentation – 15%
- Midterm Exam - 20%
- Final Exam – 20%
- Research Paper - 35%

Course Participation

Students are expected to participate in the debate with questions and points related to the readings and with their own ideas related to the course topic in general.

Student Presentation

Students pick one of the content topics and prepare a 10-15 minute presentation beginning of each class.

Midterm Exam

Essay type questions based on the reading/lecture material covered to date.



Final Exam

Essay type questions based on the reading/lecture material covered to date.

Research Paper

10-15 pages on a topic related to the course content. The topics can be chosen freely or from a list proposed by the instructor.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Recall and assess the German economy, its key elements and influence
- Diagnose its actual problems
- Develop a diagnosis for structural changes both domestic and international
- Analyze both the speed and forces behind the upcoming structural changes caused by globalization, digitization and demographic change
- Integrate a full array of terms in Business German
- Perceive different cultural approaches, e.g. economic systems, social structures, migration policies on both sides of the Atlantic
- Apply new approaches and future developments

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance Policy

IES Abroad courses are designed to utilize the unique contribution of the instructor; the lecture/discussion format is regarded as the **primary mode of instruction**. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. Any unexcused absence will incur a penalty on your final course grade. Deductions from grades due to absences are based on sessions (= 90 minutes). Any unexcused absence will incur a penalty on your final course grade (1 absence - 1%, 2nd absence -2%, 3rd absence – 3%).

Any student who has more than three (3) unexcused absences will receive an “F” as the final grade in the course. Any student who misses more than 25% of a course, whether the absences are excused or are unexcused, will receive an “F” as the final grade in the course. Students in the LAS program can excuse themselves once per course - to do so, they must notify the instructor and the Academic Dean in writing by e-mail before the start of the session. Any further excused absences must be excused by IES.

If you miss a class, it is **your responsibility** to make up on everything that was covered in class. Tests/presentations missed during unexcused absences **cannot be made up**.

Arriving late for class: Punctuality is important for the planned course schedule. If you are late for class, the late time will be recorded and added up at the end of the course. You will receive a grade reduction based on the accumulated amount of missing contact hours, according to the rule above (i.e., if you were late by 15 minutes for 6 sessions, your grade would be reduced by 1%).

LATE OR FAILURE SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS: Late submission of assignments or failure of submission of assignment results in the grade F of that particular assignment. This does not apply to late or non-submission due to illness with an excused absence.

Excused absence: Please call the IES Center before the start of your first class if you are ill and would like to be excused from your course, as outlined in the “Cell Phone and Attendance Policy” handed out during orientation. Student Affairs staff will decide whether your absence can be excused directly or whether a doctor's note is necessary. Absences due to religious observances and family emergencies may be excused at the discretion of the Center Director, with written approval. A petition for an excused absence due to a religious holiday needs to be submitted 2 weeks in advance. If permission is granted, the student needs to inform the Academic Dean, the Student Affairs Team and their instructors. Absences due to private travel or travel delays cannot be excused, even with advanced notice

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE:

Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Code of Academic Integrity. The detailed IES Abroad academic integrity code can be accessed on Moodle.

All work submitted by a student for academic credit should constitute the student's own original work. Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course and/or an academic review and possible expulsion from the program. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as “copying of materials from sources, without acknowledging having done so, claiming other's ideas as one's own without proper reference to them, buying materials such as essays/exams, and using AI-generated content without disclosure.”

As AI tools continue to evolve, learning how to use them responsibly is an important emerging skill. Some of our courses allow students

to explore the use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI) tools such as ChatGPT for some assignments and assessments. The instructor of each course will communicate whether GAI may be used in a course and provide specific guidelines and procedures for its appropriate use.

Updated information on your course and readings, including additional readings from journalistic articles, can be found on the Moodle platform at <https://moodle.iesabroad.org/login/index.php>

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Assignments/Readings
1	Introduction – Facts and Figures	<i>Readings:</i> • Baßeler, pp.292-306 • Hahn, pp.52-57 • Milbradt et al, pp.18-27 & 40f. & 46f. & 52-59 & 122f. • Kirk, pp.9-17 • Lorz, pp.5-14
2	Germany as Business Location”: Hard and soft factors	<i>Readings:</i> • Kirk, pp.12-15 • Baßeler, pp.592-594
3	“Social Market Economy”: German Way of Capitalism	<i>Readings:</i> • Abelshauser, pp.87-98 & 186-193 & 480-493 & 523-529 • Baßeler, pp.56-73

4	“ORDO-Liberalismus”: Freiburg School of Economics	<i>Readings:</i> • Baßeler, p. 57f • Eucken, pp. 241-250 & 254-304 & 381-386
5	“Magic Triangle”: Current challenges for economic and fiscal policies	<i>Readings:</i> • Abelshauser, pp. 371-378 & 469-480 • Baßeler, pp. 7-9 & 442-450 & 751-768 & 811-837 & 841-876 & 883-903 • Milbradt, pp. 36f. & 126f.
6	“Tax system” - world’s most complicated	<i>Readings:</i> • Baßeler, pp. 400-416 • Milbradt, pp. 146-147 & 184f. & 206-209 & 214-215 • Sinn, pp. 298-307
7	“Social Net”: Germany’s “Social Security” system	<i>Readings:</i> • Abelshauser, pp. 493-500 • Baßeler, pp. 453-488 • Ebert, pp. 327-334 • Milbradt, pp. 134f. & 144f. & 150-167 • Sinn, pp. 155-188 & 197-210
8	“Ageing Society”: Coping with the demographic challenge	<i>Readings:</i> • Baßeler, pp. 480-489 • Milbradt, pp. 80-89 • Sinn, pp. 337-364 & 369-397 • Straubhaar, pp. 7 ff.
9	“Migration”: A cost-benefit-analysis	<i>Readings:</i> • Lorz, pp. 135-138 • Milbradt, pp. 90-95 • Wagner, pp. 23-27 • Weidenfeld et al, pp. 88-94 • Sinn, pp. 364-369 & 409-447 • Straubhaar, pp. 75-86
10	Midterm	
11	“Social Partnership”: Relationship between Labor and Capital	<i>Readings:</i> • Abelshauser, pp. 384-391 • Baßeler, pp. 793-796 Sinn pp. 115-151 • Ebert, p. 283f. • Milbradt, pp. 128-131 • Sinn, pp. 115-151

12	"Minimum Wage" & "Education Leave": New challenges for the labor market	<i>Readings:</i> • Milbradt, pp.132-133
13	"Corporate Social Responsibility": PR-instrument or sustainability management?	<i>Readings:</i> • Baßeler, p.916f.
14	"Export Nation": International trade and business relations	<i>Readings:</i> • Abelshauser, pp.256-263 • Baßeler, pp.298-301&571-592 • Hahn, pp.133-138&150 • Lorz, pp.125-128 &149f.&201-215 • Milbradt, pp.240-255 • Simon, pp.11-13&48-56 • Wagner, pp.57-65 • Sinn, pp.83-108
15	Germany as an "Economic Power" in the EU & the world	<i>Readings:</i> • Hahn, pp.72-92 • Baßeler, pp.685-694&725-737 • Milbradt, pp.262-263 & 226-227 • Simon, pp.14-22 • Wagner, pp.5-9&11-15&122-134 • Weidenfeld, pp.32-34&98-104&113-117&240-247&468-473 • Sinn, pp.57-63 & 69-74
16	"Hidden Champions": The "Mittelstand" (SME) as industrial backbones	<i>Readings:</i> • Simon, pp.53-80&83-107&115-125&187-208&244-257&265-277&298-317 • Milbradt pp.52-59 • Sinn, pp.63-67
17	Course-related trip to a Black Forest SME (e.g. Hansgrohe)	
18	"Green Economy": German Greentech for the World market	<i>Readings:</i> • Abelshauser, pp.457-469 • Baßeler, pp.905-924 • Kirk, pp.40-45&48-53&156-161 • Milbradt, pp.170-183& 190-193
19	Course-related trip/research: "Green City Freiburg"	
20	"Industry 4.0": The next industrial revolution?	<i>Readings:</i> • Kirk, pp.132-137
21	Outlook: The future of "Made in Germany"?	<i>Readings:</i> • Abelshauser, pp.309-319 • Hahn, pp.165-170

22	Q & A for final	
23	Final	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Course-related trip to a Black Forest SME (e.g. Hansgrohe)
- Course-related trip/research: "Green City Freiburg"

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Abelshauser, W.: Deutsche Wirtschaftsgeschichte seit 1945, München 2011.
- Baßeler, U.-Heinrich, J.-Utecht, B.: Grundlagen und Probleme der Volkswirtschaft (19. Aufl.), Stuttgart 2010(X).
- Ebert, T.: Soziale Gerechtigkeit, Bonn 2010.
- Empter, S.-Vehrkamp, R.B.: Wirtschaftsstandort Deutschland, Wiesbaden 2006
- Eucken, W.: Grundsätze der Wirtschaftspolitik, Tübingen 2008.
- Hahn, B.: Welthandel, Darmstadt 2009.
- Kirk, C.: Wirtschaftsstandort Deutschland – Chancen und Perspektiven eines Landes, 2009.
- Lorz, O - Siebert: Außenwirtschaft, Stuttgart 2014 Milbradt, G.-Nerb, G.-Ochel, W.-Sinn, H.-W.: Der ifo Wirtschaftskompass, München 2011.
- Schwab, K.: Die Vierte Industrielle Revolution (2. Aufl.), München 2016
- Simon, H.: Hidden Champions – Aufbruch nach Globalia, Frankfurt 2012.
- Sinn, H.-W.: Ist Deutschland noch zu retten? München 2003.
- Straubhaar, T.: Der Untergang ist abgesagt, Hamburg 2016
- Wagner, H.: Einführung in die Weltwirtschaftspolitik, München-Wien 2014.
- Weidenfeld, W.-Wessels, W.: Europa von A – Z, Baden-Baden 2014.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Boganni, M.-Prange, S.: Made in Germany, Frankfurt-New York 2016
- Diekhöfer, G.: Internationale Wirtschaftsbeziehungen, München-Wien 2001
- o.V.: Tatsachen über Deutschland, Frankfurt 2015
- Samuelson, P.-Nordhaus, W.D.: Volkswirtschaftslehre, München 2010