



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:

IES Abroad courses are designed to take advantage of the unique contribution of the instructor, and the lecture/discussion format is regarded as the primary mode of instruction. Regular class attendance is mandatory. For every unexcused absence to class session a student's final grade in the course will be reduced by 15% on the German grade scale. Tests/presentations missed during unexcused absences cannot be made up. If a student misses a class it is their responsibility to catch up on everything that was covered in class. If a student cannot attend class due to illness then they should arrange to see a doctor who can issue a doctor's note. Without a doctor's note, an absence will count as an unexcused absence.

If a student misses more than 25% of class time, whether excused or unexcused, the student will receive an F in the course.

Absences due to religious observances and family emergencies may be excusable at the discretion of the Center Director.

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, p. 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