



**PO 395 POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIP AND SEMINAR**  
IES Abroad Freiburg

**DESCRIPTION:**

The objective of this course is to prepare American students for an internship in Germany. This is achieved by describing the broader context in which a student will operate before examining in more detail the sphere of personal, direct interaction in the working world. Starting briefly with general facts about Germany (geography, demography, etc), the German system of government and the social system is explained next. Moving into the economic area, the German Social Market Economy is analyzed in view of how it forms and affects the structure of business and industry in Germany. Finally, by taking a closer look at German society and culture, this course investigates the cultural issues that inevitably surround working within a foreign environment. Theories of cultural understanding and, in particular, central German cultural standards will be analyzed. Internship placements in the past have included the local offices of the three major parties: the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), the Social Democratic Party (SPD), and die Grünen/Bündnis 90; Kepler Gymnasium, Galli Theater, and the Eltern Initiative for Social Science and Pedagogy

**CREDITS:** 3 credits

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** German

**PREREQUISITES:** Varies according to demands of the internship

**METHOD OF PRESENTATION:**

- Tutorial
  - Lecture
  - Discussion
  - Presentation by students
- Internship

**REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:**

Students are required to work 1.5 full days or three half days per week for the internship institution for a period of ten weeks; four-hour tutorial at the beginning of the internship plus bi-weekly two-hour tutorial during the internship; written weekly journal entries plus a ten-page written final report analyzing the internship institution and the student's work experience; completion of required readings.

The final grade is based 50% on internship performance and 50% on seminar participation and written work.

Required work for tutorial: oral presentations, class participation.

Term paper - 30%

- Oral presentation - 20%
- Mid-term exam - 25%
- Final exam - 25%

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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

- Gain intercultural competence
- Relate their 'real world' internship experience to this theoretical background.

**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:**

1. The German System of Government
2. The German Economic System and Economic Policy
3. Society and Culture in Germany: Understanding Cultural Diversity
4. Society and Culture in Germany: Business Organization and Management
5. Society and Culture in Germany: Individual Interaction

#### **REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Auswärtiges Amt. Tatsachen über Deutschland. URL: <http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/5.0.html>
- Gibson, Robert. Intercultural Business Communication. Berlin: Cornelson & Oxford University Press, 2000
- Lewis, Richard D.. When Cultures Collide. Managing Successfully across Cultures. London: Nicholas Brealey Publishing Ltd, 2003
- Mole, John. Mind your Manners. Managing Business Cultures in Europe. London: Nicholas Brealey Publishing Ltd, 1995
- Schierenbeck, Henner. Grundzüge der Betriebswirtschaftslehre, München: Odlenbourg Verlag GmbH, 1989
- Schroll-Machi, Sylvia. Doing Business with the Germans. Their Perception. our Perception. Gottingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2003
- Sontheimer, Kurt & Bleek, Wilhelm. Grundzüge des politischen Systems der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Munich: Piper Verlag GmbH, 1998
- Stern, Susan. These Strange German Ways. Atlantik-Brücke e. V., 2000

In addition, current newspaper and magazine articles will be given out during class.