



Experiential Learning Course
GOVT 3340 / BINT 3340 - INB 250 / INT 250
Fall Semester 2016

Instructor: Thomas Leibrecht **Office Hours:** by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to help students make the most of their study abroad experience in Germany. Numerous excursions have been built into this study abroad program and coursework consists of participating on these excursions, researching and presenting about places to be visited, and reflective writing.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the places visited
- demonstrate an understanding personal growth through the excursions and other cultural experiences

Required Textbooks and Materials

Reading Material:

When in Germany, Do as the Germans Do: The Clued-In Guide to German Life, Language, and Culture by Hyde Flippo (2002) ISBN 978-0844225531

Additional Texts Used from: Dowell, M. M. & Mirsky, K. P. (2003). *Study Abroad: How to Get the Most out of Your Experience*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Suggested Additional Resources: Facts about Germany. (2013). <http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/>

Assessment:

The objectives will be assessed:

- by in-class presentations
- by reflectively writing and producing a portfolio



Grading

Grading Scale (Based on points)

Grade	Descriptive Grade	Numeric Grade	Grade Points
A	Excellent Scholarship	93-100	4.00
A-	Excellent Scholarship	90-92	3.70
B+	Good Scholarship	87-89	3.30
B	Good Scholarship	83-86	3.00
B-	Good Scholarship	80-82	2.70
C+	Satisfactory Scholarship	77-79	2.30
C	Satisfactory Scholarship	70-76	2.00
D+	Poor Scholarship	67-69	1.30
D	Poor Scholarship	63-66	1.00
D-	Poor Scholarship	60-62	0.07
F	Failure	Less than 60	0.00

Assignments

Students are to complete assigned coursework including presentations and reflective writing (500 – 700 words each time, approx. 1 page).

Essays should include the following in the heading at the LEFT side of the page (please see sample essays at the end of syllabus): First AND last name, Experiential Learning, Essay # , Word Count: (insert the number of words for essay ONLY – do not include the heading), Date.

Most assignments for this course are 1-1.5 page (500-700 words) writing assignments which ask you to reflect on your experiences and your goals.

Your goals are to:

demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the places visited

demonstrate an understanding personal growth through the excursions and other cultural experiences

Questions each writing assignment should answer:

Why was this important to me personally/academically/professionally?

What did you learn?

How does this experience relate to other things I've learned?

Format: Please clearly label each writing assignment with your name, date, week number of the writing assignment, topic of the writing assignment and final word count. If the writing assignment is about a topic from Flippo, please include which topic you read and the page numbers for that topic.

Rather than a final exam for this course, students will turn in a **portfolio** of their reflective writing for this course, journals of other significant learning experiences and information about places visited. The portfolio is also to include things like pictures, information sheets, etc.



Blog Post

Students may get asked to submit their weekly reflection essay for posting on the ESC blogger page ([www. http://www.studyabroadheidelberg.blogspot.de/](http://www.studyabroadheidelberg.blogspot.de/)) to help future students prepare for their time here at the European Study center. Students may choose to submit more than one entry for blog publication.

Presentations: Throughout the semester, each student will give at least 1 presentation about the excursions. Presentations should be academically sound (more than one source, not just information from Wikipedia, etc.) and should last 15-20 minutes. Your presentations are among the assignments leading up to the final portfolio. Should you not pass, you may choose to either repeat the presentation and have 1% docked from your final grade or have 5% automatically docked from your final grade. In order to help you improve the quality of your academic presentations, all class members will provide written feedback for each presentation.

TCNJ students are expected to do **two** presentations as the number of credits awarded for this class is higher than that awarded at other institutions.

Missed excursions: If you for some reason missed an excursion and a writing assignment about that excursion is due, please write an academic informational paper the same length as the writing assignment about the excursion destination, or a reflective essay about what you did instead, if the excursion was missed because of other travel plans.

The Portfolio is due December 12, 2016 in the last classroom session.

Other Regulations and Policies

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and active classroom participation are required of each student. Students must attend at least 85% of all excursions and cultural activities built into the program. If they are unable to attend an excursion, they must notify the faculty immediately. Students must attend at least 90% of the weekly class sessions.

Also **extracurricular activities** such as the **SRH International Week** or the **Strasbourg Symposium** are integral parts of the European experience, and as such attending these events is considered part of this class.

Absences and/or a lack of participation in discussions will impact negatively on the final grade. Each student is responsible for all material covered and/or assigned and any announcements made in any class session, whether student is present or not. Group activities require all students to participate and contribute to group discussions and projects.

If a student misses an excursion for any reason, he or she is still responsible for the reflection essay associated with the topics of that excursion.

Students are to participate in 1 cultural event or excursion which they planned on their own (NOT any extra activities planned by the coordinators, though the coordinators may help you plan these).

Scholastic Dishonesty

You are expected to do your own academic work and cite sources as necessary. Failing to do so is scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a university academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.



Class Schedule and Sequence of Instruction *also* **SNAP SHOT OF WHAT'S DUE WHEN**

(Presentation due dates **may change** due to circumstances such as a change of an excursion date)

Date	Presentations DUE	Essays DUE
Aug. 30	Kurpfälzisches Museum Heidelberg	Reading Assignment "Study Abroad – How to Get the Most Out of Your Experience"
Sep. 5	The 16 German federal states - a survey History/Importance of the City of Speyer	2 essays due #1 – Study Abroad Goals and # 2 either Guided Walking Tour of Heidelberg OR Heidelberg Castle OR Kurpfälzisches Museum
Sep.12	History of the town of Ladenburg Religious Germany a survey	#3 - reflective essay on Speyer tour
Sep.19	John Deere Mannheim Industry in Germany – a survey	# 4 – reflect. essay on Ladenburg tour
Sep.20 5 pm	Visiting Lecturer Prof. Birte Wassenberg, Univ. of Strasbourg – preparation talk concerning the Nov 7 & 8 Strasbourg Symposium topics	
Sep.26	BASF Ludwigshafen and chemical industry survey Berlin Presentations: City / Checkpoint Charlie The German Government System and Federal Parliament	#5 – John Deere Mannheim
Oct. 3	No Exp. Learning class – Public Holiday & Fall Break week	
Oct. 10 to 14	<i>SRH International Week</i>	<i>don't wait with writing the essays</i>
Oct. 17	History/Importance of Stuttgart Mercedes-Benz and the German Car Industry	#6 – reflective essay on BASF #7 – reflect. essay on SRH Intl. Week # 8 – # 9 two Berlin excursion aspects (1 page each) and # 10 Midterm Reflection Essay
Oct. 24	History/Importance of the City of Frankfurt German Stock Exchange European Central Bank and the Euro	# 11 - reflective essay on Stuttgart
Oct. 31	History/Importance of Strasbourg – The European Parliament The Council of Europe	# 12 – Frankfurt OR Stock Exchange OR TEXT 1 Flippo
Nov. 7 & 8	Strasbourg Symposium on Immigration - presentation	
Nov. 14	Schwetzingen Palace & Gardens Beer and Local Breweries in German	#13 Strasbourg-focus either on the European Parliament OR City
Nov.21	How to grow / produce wine The German wine industry	#14 Schwetzingen Palace visit OR Brewery Visit
Nov.28	Audi Car Brand and the Volkswagen group Business Etiquette in Germany	# 15 winery visit reflection <i>Purchase materials for final portfolio</i>
Dec. 5	SAP and the German IT industry	#16 – Audi car factory
Dec. 12	Last session	#17 – SAP visit reflection #18- Final Study Abroad Reflection Essay due with final portfolio