

APPLICATION  
Bachelors of University Studies/UT New College (BUS/NC)  
Online Courses

Course title: Modern German Culture (in English)

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**ABSTRACT**

This course brings aspects of contemporary German culture into focus against modern American concerns. The present and future of German influence in European and global issues are examined in light of current events, scientific developments, and social trends.

**INTRODUCTION**

Just as Germanic cultural history is a monumental part of the fabric of modern, western civilization, today's German culture plays a pivotal role in future of Europe. Given the close and important relationship of the European Union to the U.S., the study of German culture continues to be of practical significance for America's future, as well. With its central position and size, Germany remains geographically strategic and maintains considerable influence in world economics and geo-politics. Because of its volatile past, Germany is acutely aware of its responsibility as a country among countries, and it has begun many kinds of cutting edge initiatives that are humanitarian or global in aim or in effect. For example, a view of modern German social customs will reveal an unparalleled environmental consciousness along with tremendously successful reclamation and recycling efforts. A view of modern German foreign policy shows considerable concern for global issues and efforts of increased German influence in industrial and economic spheres.

**OBJECTIVES**

There are 4 main objectives of this course. Students of this course will be able to identify key areas in which German culture provides original modals, in terms of business, science, education, and the arts. Secondly, they will be able to discuss significant trends in modern German industry, and politics. Additionally, students will be able to explain the foreign policies of Germany toward the U.S. and they will be able to describe some of the relationships that Germany has with other countries, such as China, Israel, or Turkey. Finally, students will be able to determine aspects of contrast between German and American social customs.

**EVALUATION**

Evidence that student's have met these objectives will be provided through digitally recorded discussion threads, chatroom archives, and emailed worksheets, quizzes, and brief essays. Student's will be asked to contribute to the course content through their submission of relevant websites and Internet news articles. Student commentary on current events and cultural readings will be solicited through structured assignments and through both spontaneous, synchronous and asynchronous electronic discussion.

## METHODS

Specific contemporary and historical readings and audio excerpts will be provided through links to websites available on the Internet (NYTimes, Deutsche Welle, etc.) and through file-servers maintaining archival information. Students will be guided to particular websites, as well as being encouraged to conduct their own Internet research. The course will be presented via the web-based Blackboard platform, utilizing all of its affordances, such as: File service - presenting audio, text, and graphic files, including animations, executable programs and Powerpoint presentations; Communications – with real-time, synchronous, as well as thread-based, asynchronous discussion boards; Assessments – including surveys and quizzes, directly connected to the online gradebook feature, and most importantly; Archival resource directory – where links to articles and up-to-date sources are indexed and presented with sequential logic according to the course syllabus.

In addition to online resources, two (inexpensive) books by Hyde Flippo, *"When in Germany, do as the Germans"* and *"The German Way,"* will contain assigned readings. These texts offer insights into a broad range of cultural and social topics, which will serve as a starting base for online discussions and individual research.

## QUALIFICATIONS

As a specialist in instructional technology for second language acquisition, I have acquired diverse qualifications suited to developing this course. I have created a website for online learning (webgerman.com), offering interactive webexercises, some of which include audio and graphics. I have created a 20-set series of animated grammar presentations that are accessible online and through Blackboard. I have used Netmeeting and Yahoo chatrooms and application sharing to conduct realtime lessons through the Internet. I use Blackboard to deliver sound files, websites, assignments, graphics, video websites, etc. to students for permanent accessibility. I also endeavor to comply with the federal government's Section 508 Standards for Accessibility of Internet Materials. These standards increase the usability of web-based learning for sight or hearing impaired users. I have created executable software applications for both behavioral and cognitive CALL (computer assisted language learning) curriculum, and I have delivered such applications to students via email and through Blackboard.

I also have the formal credentials required to develop this course (Ph.D. Second Language Acquisition and Instructional Technology, University of South Florida, 2002, and Ph.D.-A.B.D. Germanic Language and Literature, Washington University, M.A. 1989).

Faculty Member's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Support Proposal:**

Department Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

College Dean \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_