

Lecturer(s):

Heiderose Benz (Ms)

Module:

Non-Technical Competences

Teaching and learning language:

English

Requirements:

Only for non-Germans. Interest and basic knowledge in history, politics, society, in particular with respect to Germany and the Germans.

Objectives of the course:

Improving knowledge about and understanding of Germany and the Upper Rhine region and its inhabitants

Type of course, didactics:

Seminar, topics for presentations handed out to students

Contents:

Possible topics:

- Germany: East and West, federal structure, political parties, "social market economy", free democratic basic law, national anthem ("über Alles?"), public and private media (papers, radio, TV, films), education system, present challenges (EU, regional effects of climate change, terrorism, integration of refugees)
- The image of Germany and "the" Germans in the students' countries of origin
- The tri-national Upper Rhine region: Baden, Alsace, northwestern Switzerland
- Industrialization in Germany, medium-sized enterprises ("mittelständische Unternehmen"), region-based industries and global players ("Herrenknecht", "Tesa", "Daimler", "BASF"), mining in the Black Forest, tourism, winegrowing and beer brewing, media enterprises ("Burda")
- The revolution in Baden and the Offenburger freedom movement, German emigration to the second and third world, the synod of Konstanz, religion now and then, hierarchical structures
- German language and culture: regional dialects ("badisch", "schwäbisch", "alemannisch", "schwiizerdütsch", "plattdütsch"), humour and political satire as reflecting the *zeitgeist* ("Heinz Erhardt", "Dieter Hildebrandt", "Loriot"), contemporary music ("Stockhausen", "Udo Lindenberg", "Neue Deutsche Welle", "Guggemusik"), code of conduct ("Knigge")

Literature:

- Watson, P.: The German Genius; Simon & Schuster UK, London 2010
- Fullbrook, M.: A Concise History of Germany; Cambridge University Press, 2nd edition 1991, 16th Printing 2015

Downloads:

- The Federal President - representing and integrating: www.bundespraesident.de/EN/Role-and-Functions/WorkInGermany/RepresentingAndIntegrating/representing-and-integrating.html
- Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany: www.bundestag.de/blob/284870/ce0d03414872b427e57fccb703634dcd/basic_law-data.pdf
- The German revolution 1848 - Frankfurt Vorparlament - German National Assembly: www.age-of-the-sage.org/history/1848/german_revolution.html
- The Hecker uprising (Baden including Offenburg in 1848/49): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hecker_uprising
- In the heart of Europe - The Upper Rhine Valley (2000): www.regbas.ch/de/assets/File/downloads/Economy_-_Uppper_Rhine_Valley.pdf
- The Baden Revolution of 1848/49: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baden_Revolution
- Guide to German culture, customs and etiquette: http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/46329991/Guide-to-German-culture_and-etiquette.pdf
- German national anthem: www.nationalanthems.info/de.htm, <http://theculturetrip.com/europe/germany/articles/the-true-story-behind-germanys-national-anthem>