

German and European Studies Program for Exchange Students Offered by the Language Center of the University of Regensburg

Introduction to Contemporary German Philosophy (5 ECTS) – every semester

It is the aim of this seminar to present the most important schools and tendencies of German philosophy from 1945 on: existential thought, philosophical hermeneutics, the Frankfurt School, philosophical anthropology and critical rationalism. On the one hand, these approaches will be located within the frame of the history of philosophy, on the other hand, it will be shown how they react to the crisis philosophy suffers from due to the challenge of modern science. The authors that will be discussed are Adorno, Cassirer, Gadamer, Gehlen, Habermas, Plessner and Popper. The participants of this seminar need not have any previous knowledge of philosophy.

Students achieve a better understanding of contemporary German philosophy and gain hermeneutic competence, analytic competence and argumentative competence.

Requirements: Course participants do not need any previous knowledge of philosophy.

Assessment: Final paper and regular attendance

Perspectives on German Culture (5 ECTS) – every semester

This course will focus on certain aspects of German culture (i.e. history, politics, media, religion, customs etc.) as well as the students' own perception of German culture and society. Our perspective on German culture is shaped by our cultural and personal background. That means that our perspective is always a very individual approach, be it the teacher's (who was born and raised in Germany) or the students' (from different countries all over the world). The idea of the course is to develop a better understanding of German culture in a multi-perspective way.

Assessment:

- Participation and discussion in class (25%)
- Short presentation (25%)
- Final paper of 2500 words (50%)
- Regular attendance

Perspectives on German Film (5 ECTS) – every semester

This course traces the development of German cinema from its roots in the Weimar Republic until today. The focus is on the analysis and interpretation of the films against the background of the sociocultural developments of the time of their origin and their artistic features. Film clips will be shown in German with subtitles and explanation of story lines in English.

Assessment:

- final test (50%)
- final paper of 2500 words (50%)
- regular attendance

European Art and Architecture (5 ECTS) – winter semester only!

The course provides an introduction to the history of European art and architecture. It focuses on art styles, on famous artists and especially on specific examples of art in Regensburg. Therefore, it will combine in-class units and excursions.

The students will learn how to identify artwork, its historical background and its specific content and message by recognizing and classifying its characteristics in style, in technique, in use of symbols etc.

In addition to the course program, a full-day excursion (09:00-18:00) will be part of the course.

Assessment:

- Collaboration during the course (33%)
- 2 essays (33%)
- Final exam (33%)

Fundamentals of Intercultural Communication - online course (vhb) (5 ECTS) – every semester

Due to the global division of labor and mobility, increasing global tourism as well as the global dimension of digital communication, there is more and more contact between people of different cultures. In different areas, whether in personal experience, in social networks or in international relations, more and more intercultural encounters are taking place. At the same time, in today's professional contexts it is often expected to be able to communicate effectively and appropriately with people from different cultures. Intercultural communication skills are becoming increasingly important in our globalized world, and this key skill is increasingly required and sought after in the job market.

The course offers the opportunity to become familiar with the fundamentals of intercultural communication. The course will introduce students to key concepts of intercultural communication and enable them to apply them both in an academic context and in future fields

of work. Students will develop their awareness of the challenges and opportunities of intercultural communication. A major goal is to enable students to independently develop their communication skills and their competence to act in cross-cultural situations.

Overall, the course is designed to lay the terminological and conceptual basis for dealing with interculturality in a professional manner in both academic and professional contexts and to foster a key competency for working in an international context.

Throughout, the course will also offer suggestions for in-depth study and independent further work, as well as links to practical training opportunities:

This course is an online course.

The course is offered by Universität Regensburg via [Virtual University of Bavaria](#) (vhb) angeboten.

Assessment:

- end-of-module tests (5): 50%
- final assessment (essay or paper): 50%

Comments. It is recommended to participate in the face-to-face workshops (course 37349) offered in conjunction with this online course. This allows for the acquisition of one additional credit point (1 ECTS).

Intercultural Communication – Workshops (1 ECTS) – every summer semester

This course consists of 3 face-to-face workshops that accompany the online course 37348 "Fundamentals of Intercultural Communication".

Requirements: Prerequisite for enrolling in these workshops is participation in the course 37349 "Fundamentals of Intercultural Communication- online course (vhb)".

Comment: It is possible to take the course Fundamentals of Intercultural Communication without the additional workshop but it isn't possible to take the workshop on its own!

Perspectives on Contemporary German Popular Culture - Online-Kurs (5 ECTS)

Germany is often praised for its art, culture, music and film. But what does the current pop culture look like? This course will focus on certain instances of contemporary German popular culture using representative samples of movies, television, music, social media sites, art and bestselling novels to develop a better understanding of German contemporary society in a multi-perspective way. Outside influences that shape popular German culture will also be discussed.

This course is an online course that is conducted asynchronously, i.e. without fixed course times.

Assessment:

- Mid-Term Paper (40%)
- Final paper of 3000 words (60%)