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Office Hours: Mondays 12-1 and Wednesdays 1-2

**Course Description**

During a two-week trip to Saxony-Anhalt, Germany, students will live with a German family and reflect on the history and culture of sustainability in Germany, whether Germany’s goals are attainable, which of these practices would be realistic in the US, and how students might incorporate them into their own lives.

**Expanded Course Overview**

Germany is often viewed as a model of sustainability with its goal of producing 80% of its energy with renewables by 2050 and closing down its nuclear energy program by 2022. Germans have also incorporated many sustainable habits into their daily lives, such as recycling, riding bikes, using public transportation, conserving water and electricity, and spending free time in nature. This two-week Maymester course in the state of Saxony-Anhalt will expose students to individual and societal ways in which Germans strive to live sustainably. Saxony-Anhalt is a leader, even in Germany, in renewable energy where every second kilowatt hour is generated from wind, sun, or biomass.

Due to a partnership with the State Department of Education of Saxony-Anhalt, students in this program will partner with students from a CJD Droyßig Gymnasium in Droyßig, Saxony-Anhalt and collaborate with students there on a sustainability project. In addition, students visit renewable energy and sustainability sites around the state and in Berlin, such as a wind turbine manufacturing facility, a wind farm, a solar farm, and urban gardening, bee keeping, and UNESCO world heritage sites.
The course is informed by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of seventeen international development targets for 2030, and students are encouraged to make connections between what they experience and these goals throughout the program.

After engaging in this home stay and field trips, students will be encouraged to reflect on the history and culture of environmentalism and sustainability in Germany, whether Germany’s goals are attainable, how they fit into the UN Sustainable Development Goals, what, if any, of these practices would be realistic in the US, and how students might incorporate them into their own lives.

**Prerequisites:** None. All of the tours will take place in English. No knowledge of German is necessary for this program.


**Learning Outcomes**
By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Analyze the practice of sustainability in Germany on an individual and societal level considering behavioral, social, historical, and cultural phenomena and values that helped to shape them.
- Evaluate the renewable resources and policies being developed in Germany
- Assess the role of Saxony-Anhalt in German sustainability.
- Enumerate typical every-day ways that Germans try to live sustainably and analyze where and how these practices originated.
- Categorize which of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals are observed in Germany and explain how they relate to sustainability.
- Explain Americans' and their own values regarding environmentalism and how they influence their practices.
- Reflect and report on how what they learned while in Germany and how these experiences will influence their decision-making processes in the future regarding themselves and their community and environment.

**Suggested Materials:**

Films: No Impact Man (2009), Plastic Planet (Germany-Austria, 2009), Earth (UK, 2007), Taste the Waste (Germany, 2011), DownWind (Canada, 2015), Catching the Sun (US, 2015). All available from http://filmefuerdieerde.org/en
Course Requirements:

30%: Blog: Synthesis/reactions to homestay, school visits, collaborative project, and readings. At the end of each day, please reflect on the excursions we took that day and be sure to address the following questions in your reflection:

1. What are three things you learned today?
2. What did you find most interesting about our adventures today?
3. Which UN Sustainable Goals are addressed by what we saw/visited/learned today?
4. What does what we learned have to do with other classes you’ve taken or other experiences you’ve had?
5. How could today’s experiences be relevant to your future career?

15%: Final Reflection: Read back over your daily reflections from the trip. What types of experiences or information did you tend to focus on? Describe three key take-aways or insights from the trip and describe how they will help you in the future.

30%: Discussion/Participation: Active participation in group and on visits

15%: Final Course Project: Choose a sustainability theme to explore throughout the trip. The theme can focus on something you have studied in a course, something you want to learn more about, or something you think could help you with your future career. Possible ideas are wind energy in Germany, solar energy, hydro energy, GMOs or lack thereof, sustainability in education, bee keeping, east/west differences in sustainability, etc. Create a Padlet illustrating this theme through pictures and videos you took during the trip and provide a description for each picture. Include at least 12 pictures with captions to describe your theme. Include a 1-2 page write-up of your theme and padlet that goes into more detail about what you learned from your research and experiences.

10%: School Collaborative Project: Participation in and presentation of school project

Grading Scale
Grades are cumulative and based on a 100% maximum per assignment and per category; final grades will be assigned according to the following scale: 100-90%=A; 89-87%=B+; 86-80%=B; 79-77=C+; 76-70=C; 69-68=D+; 67-65=D; 64 and below=F.

Attendance Policy: The trip abroad is a required component for successful completion of this course. To be eligible to travel, students may not miss more than 50% of the pre-departure meetings. It is the responsibility of the student to find out what material was missed in the event of an absence.
**Special Needs:**
The University South Carolina provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. To determine if you qualify, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 777-6742 to make arrangements. If they certify your needs, your instructor will work with you to make appropriate arrangements.

**Policy on Scholastic Integrity:**
Students who do not comply with University rules on scholastic integrity are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, visit the Rule of Academic Responsibility website at [http://www.sc.edu/policies/staf/staf625.html](http://www.sc.edu/policies/staf/staf625.html)

**Course Schedule**
Required Meetings: 4 required pre-departure meetings during Spring 2017 semester. Attendance mandatory. All meetings take place in the Humanities Classroom Bldg. 105.

**Meeting 1** (March 2 at 3pm): **Intro to program and German history**. Meet other participants. Review preliminary itinerary. Introduction to German school system and CJD Droyßig – Club of Rome School. Photo tour of Wittenberg/Berlin.

**Meeting 2** (March 31 at 3pm): **Solar Power in Germany** - In preparation for the meeting, read articles below and take notes on the challenges Germany is facing regarding solar and coal.


**Meeting 3** (April 21 at 3pm): **Wind Power in Germany** - In preparation for the meeting, read the articles below and take notes on the advantages and challenges associated with wind power.


Meeting 4 (April 25 – 10am) - Details for trip. packing, German language, historical (fall of wall), and cultural information. Read articles below. Write down any remaining questions you have about the trip.

http://www.spiegel.de/international/rent-a-plot-germany-s-garden-ghettos-a-410799.html

http://www.aliadventures.com/2013/02/how-to-throw-out-your-garbage-in-germany/

14 days abroad: Partnership with a German high school, live with German family, participate in sustainability project, and visit various sustainability focused sites around state of Saxony-Anhalt and Berlin.