

## Syllabus: “Introduction to German Studies”

International School, Summer Term 2025  
Dr. Marcus Hornung

### (a) Inhalt und Ansatz | Content and Approach

- The target group consists of students who have not been studying in Germany before and are not yet familiar with living and/or studying in Germany. The course aims at introducing to pretended basics of “German” culture. The course uses Geert Hofstede’s six-dimension model of (national) culture and Alexander Thomas’ cultural standard model as frameworks for further investigation. Special emphasis lies on academic reflection and criticism towards Hofstede’s and Thomas’ models.
- Being designed as an academic introduction, the course work includes demanding academic reading, group work, research tasks and the submission of little projects. The course will be taught “blended”, combining on-site sessions and online briefings. The class will be held in block seminar.
- Students require an advanced level of English to follow the lessons.
- For the successful completion of the course, the student will be awarded 3 ECTS. Therefore, students should be prepared to spend considerable time working with the study content.
- Participants are required to [register for the course via StudIP](#), where all teaching resources will be made available. If there are problems with the registration via StudIP please contact Marcus Hornung via [marcus.hornung\[at\]gmx.de](mailto:marcus.hornung[at]gmx.de).

### (b) Qualifikationsziele | Learning Objectives

- The qualification objectives of the course are (i) to gain basic knowledge on German history, political, societal and education systems based on its culture and being able to evaluate and weight arguments concerning recent discourses, (ii) to raise the intercultural awareness in order to experience and pass their student stay in Germany as convenient and successful as possible.

### (c) Kursstruktur | Course Structure

- 02/04/25, 19:00  
online Introduction to Course and Geert Hofstede’s six-dimension Model
- 04/04/25, 19:00  
online Introduction to Alexander Thomas’ Cultural Standard Model
- 05/04/25, 10:00-18:00  
on-site Six Hofstede Dimensions Applied to Germany  
Break Out on Academic Writing and Video Logs
- 06/04/25, 10:00-18:00  
on-site Six Thomas Standards Applied to Germany
- 22/06/25, 15:00  
online Project Forum
- 25/06/25, 19:00  
online Wrap-Up, Videos and Concluding Remarks

#### **(d) Kontakt | Contact**

- [marcus.hornung\[at\]gmx.de](mailto:marcus.hornung[at]gmx.de)

#### **(e) Studien- und Prüfungsleistungen | Course Assessment**

- 30 course hours, 90 hours workload, 3 ECTS
- Assessment: video log on one session (5 min), written essay (5 pages)
- Formal Examination Date: 11/07/25
- It is required to register through QIS during 16/06/25 and 29/06/25 for assessment.