

## Syllabus: “Introduction to German Studies”

International School  
Summer Term 2023, Dr. Marcus Hornung

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

- The target group of the course consists of international students who have not been studying in Germany before and are therefore not yet familiar with living and/or studying in Germany. The course aims at introducing those students to the basics of “German” culture. The course uses Geert Hofstede’s six-dimension model of national culture and Alexander Thomas’ cultural standard model as a frameworks for further investigation. Special emphasis lies on academic reflection and criticism towards Hofstede and Thomas.
- Being designed as an academic introduction, the course work includes demanding academic reading, digital group work, research tasks and the submission of little projects. The course will be taught online. [Please register for the course via “Stud.IP”](#) as students will be contacted by the lecturer through the “Stud.IP” messaging system.

### (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 train key skills such as academic reading, presenting and writing, (iii) 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

- 11/05/23, 20:00-22:00 Introduction to the Course and Geert Hofstede’s six-dimension Model
- 27/05/23, 09:00-18:00 Dimension “Power Distance” applied to Germany  
Dimension “Uncertainty Avoidance” applied to Germany  
Dimension “Individualism vs. Collectivism” applied to Germany  
Dimension “Masculinity vs. Femininity” applied to Germany  
Dimension “Long vs. Short Term Orientation” applied to Germany  
Dimension “Indulgence vs. Restraint” applied to Germany  
Introduction to Alexander Thomas’ Cultural Standard Model
- 29/05/23, 09:00-18:00 Cultural Standard “Objectivism”  
Cultural Standard “Appreciation for Rules”  
Cultural Standard “Internalised Control”  
Cultural Standard “Time Planning”  
Cultural Standard “Separation of Personality and Living Spheres”  
Cultural Standard “Individualism”  
Break Out Workshop on Academic Writing and Video Logs  
Wrap-Up, Questions, Videos and Concluding Remarks

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

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

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

- 30 course hours, 120 hours workload, 4 ECTS
- Reading: literature will be provided by the lecturer
- Project: video log on one session (5 min)
- Examination: written essay (5 pages)
- Examination date: 14/07/23