Syllabus: “Introduction to German Studies and Studying in Germany”

International School
Winter Term 2019/20, 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 history, its political, societal and media system, culture and (higher) education structures.
- Being designed as an academic introduction, the course work includes condensed but demanding academic reading, guided group work, intercultural training elements and an on-site visit to the former concentration camp “Buchenwald” near Weimar.

(b) Qualifikationsziele | Learning Objectives

- The qualification objectives of the course are: (i) to gain basic knowledge on German history, political, societal, media and education systems as well as 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 exchange semester to Germany as convenient and successful as possible.

(c) Kursstruktur | Course Structure

- Introduction (2 LH) | Room H 0115
  o 11/10/19, 09:15-10:45: Introduction to the Course and its Intercultural Idea

- Introduction to Aspects of the German History (14 LH) | Room H 0115
  o 11/10/19, 11:00-12:30: Approaching and Assessing German History
  o 19/10/19, 09:15-16:30: Germany and the II. World War – Visit to Buchenwald Memorial
  o 20/10/19, 09:15-10:45: German Reunification
  o 20/10/19, 11:00-12:30: Germany as Reflected in the World

- Introduction to the German Political and Societal System (10 LH) | Room H 0115
  o 20/10/19, 13:00-14:30: German Political System: Polity, Politics, Policy
  o 20/10/19, 15:00-16:30: German Welfare System
  o 08/11/19, 09:15-10:45: Germany and “The Refugee Crisis”
  o 08/11/19, 11:00-12:30: German Culture, the “Leitkultur” and “Multikulti” Discourses

- Introduction to the German (Higher) Education System (2 LH) | Room H 0115
  o 22/11/19, 09:15-10:45: German Education System in a Nutshell, Trends in Higher Education

- Wrap-Up (2 LH) | Room H 0115
  o 22/11/19, 11:00-12:30: Wrap-Up, Questions, Videos and Concluding Remarks
(d) Kontakt | Contact

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(e) Studien- und Prüfungsleistungen | Course Assessment

- 30 course hours, 90 hours workload, 3 ECTS
- Reading: literature will be provided by the lecturer
- Project: video log on one session (5 min)
- Written examination (90 min)