COURSE DESCRIPTION AND SYLLABUS

History and Politics in Germany since 1945

Terms: Autumn and Spring
Duration: 21 hours (11 lectures, 10 seminars)
Credits value: 3 ECTS

Course Description

The aim of this module is to provide an overview of the history and politics of contemporary Germany. In terms of content, the module will introduce students to the key landmarks in German contemporary history, the most significant developments in the political life and culture of the two German states and the developments leading to and following their unification. The focus will be on developing an understanding of the main events, processes and ideas, which have shaped and influenced contemporary Germany and provide the backdrop to current problems and issues.

In addition to providing students with the necessary background knowledge to pursue further study of the politics, society and culture of contemporary Germany, the module will also aim to equip students with appropriate skills to write their project during the year abroad. The language medium will be German and students will be trained in the vocabulary and idiom appropriate to the discussion of historical and socio-cultural topics. They will also learn how to equip themselves with relevant up-to-date primary and secondary source materials, as well as how to analyse such material critically.

The course will require one 1-hour lecture/seminar per week, plus 1-hour private study. Assessment will consist of 50% coursework, which will comprise an in-class writing task in the first term and an oral presentation in the second term, and 50% end of course examination.

Students will be provided with a variety of up-to-date written and audio-visual documentation in German. In addition, they will be provided with a list of recommended reading material.

Programme

Term 1

• Germany in 1945 and the immediate post-war period
• Germany and the Cold War
• The division of Germany
• Two German states, two systems
• Economic recovery of the Federal Republic

Term 2

• The Berlin Wall and the developments in both Germanies
• Policies of détente: Willy Brandt and Ostpolitik
• Reunification of the two German states
• Unified Germany: the present situation
• Germany, Europe and the changing World
Assessment
Based on:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class writing task</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Oral presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
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- 1 in-class writing task in the autumn term
- 1 oral presentation at the beginning of the spring term
- A two hour written examination at the end of the course

The course is moderated by an External Examiner. All marked work must be retained for resubmission at the end of the course.

Bibliography

Rupp, Hans Karl, Politische Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Munich/Vienna: Oldenbourg Verlag, 2000.


