



German-American Chamber of Commerce Transatlantic Program

**Syllabus: German Language/Culture Studies Seminar in Berlin
(May 24 – June 2, 2008)**

Hours of Instruction: 45

A. Written work before departure for Berlin (timeframe: March-May):

Preparation for the program begins in March. Students will review material in German and English on German current events and submit written assignments to Professor Kraft.

- a) Students will watch *Tageschau*, a German news broadcast, online once a week for at least eight weeks, and send a written assignment to Professor Kraft. Assignments must be at least four sentences long and in German. There will be at least eight assignments total.
- b) Students will view, “This Week in Germany”, a German news summary, online and email a assignment to Professor Kraft. Reactions can be in German or English and must contain at least 4 sentences. There will be at least eight assignments total.

B. Language/Culture Instruction in Berlin (timeframe: May 24-June 2):

1. Course Materials:

- a) Cultural Studies Linked to Language Study

Students will watch short videos or TV segments about Germany in German. These may include news reports from German TV. Additional written materials on topics covered in video segments will be read by the students. Three instructors will then guide small-group discussions on the topics.

- b) Practice of Specialized German Terminology and Topics:

Students will receive lists of vocabulary and short German texts as preparation for various lectures from German professionals. Groups of up to eight students will then study these materials under the guidance of three instructors. Refer to the chart with program details for lecture topics and dates.



c) Review:

Groups of up to eight students will discuss topics from the visits scheduled throughout the program. These groups will be formed on the basis of language skill, because discussions will be held in German; and guided by three instructors.

d) Practice in Conversation through Role Play:

Students will practice speaking German in various simulated practical situations, e.g. on the phone, in email and in various social situations. This will prepare them to communicate with colleagues and superiors during their internship, and navigate difficult situations that may arise.

e) Intercultural Training:

The students will attend two eight-hour workshops, led by an expert, on the cultural differences between Germans and Americans. The first seminar will be held in Berlin prior to the students' internships, and the second seminar will be held in Cologne as part of a three-day follow-up seminar.

2. Excursions: Visits to Governmental, Cultural and Business Institutions:

- a) At least one, but often two, lectures are scheduled during the student's excursions. These lectures will be held in German by experts on various businesses and governmental entities. The students will visit Berlin, Leipzig, and Hamburg. They will also be supported by three instructors who will serve as German language resources while they develop technical and business knowledge.

3. Evaluation:

- Verbal evaluations of the students' progress may be arranged.
- It is suggested that 3 credits are appropriate for the Berlin Seminar.
- It is suggested that students be offered the opportunity to prepare a written report about their internship to receive additional credit.