

Pforzheim University - ISP  
Lecture: The History of Post-War Germany (Fast Track)  
Lecturer: Leopold Steinbeis  
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Winter Semester 2020/2021  
Thursday 19:00 – 20:30 (7 – 8:30 pm)  
Room: W1.4.01

**Program:**

**Session 1: Introduction**

**Session 2: Germany 1945: Unconditional Surrender, Occupation, Division**

**Session 3: West Germany during the Adenauer Era (1949-1963) and until 1969**

**Session 4: East Germany during the Ulbricht Era (1950-1971)**

**Session 5: West Germany and the Social-Liberal Coalitions (1969-1982)**

**Session 6: West Germany during the Kohl Era (1982-1989)**

**Session 7: East Germany during the Honecker Era (1971-1989)**

**Session 8: The Break-Down of the GDR and the Reunification of Germany**

**Session 9: Germany after the Reunification**

**Session 10: Germany in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Course outline:**

This class will provide spotlights on German political and social history since the end of World War II in 1945. Starting with the unconditional surrender of Germany we will take a closer look at the events leading towards the division of Germany and the foundation of the two separate states. We will then compare the historical developments in East and West Germany up to the reunification in 1989/1990. Last but not least the seminar will deal with Germany's challenges after the reunification and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The first two sessions will be covered by the teacher, after that the students are required to provide presentations. The topics and respective dates for these presentations will be issued during the first session.

**Recommended literature (if accessible despite the current restrictions):**

Mary Fulbrook: A History of Germany 1918-2008 – The Divided Nation, Malden 2009.  
Martin Kitchen: A History of Modern Germany – 1800 to the Present, Malden 2009.

**Requirements:**

A good command of the English language is absolutely necessary to be able to follow the complex topics of this class, to give presentations and last but not least to engage in our discussions.

Every participant will have to give a 30 minute presentation followed by a 10 minute discussion. Thus each session will consist of 2 presentations.

For information on the topics presented students are required to consult the recommended literature, research the internet and consider other sources for additional information on the specific topics.

Attending the classes is mandatory. Students can not miss more than 2 classes unexcused. Missing more than 2 classes unexcused means they failed. If students have already missed 2 classes and realize that they won't be able to attend further classes, they are required to inform the teacher in advance and get his approval.

**Final Mark:**

The final mark will consist of the mark for the presentation (75%) and the mark for active participation in the discussions (25%).