

Pforzheim University - ISP
Lecture: The History of Post-War Germany (Fast Track)
Lecturer: Leopold Steinbeis
Email: leosteinbeis@gmx.de
Winter Semester 2019
Thursday 19:00 – 20:30 (7 – 8:30 pm)
Room: W1.2.03

Program:

October 10, 2019: Introduction

October 17, 2019: Germany 1945: Unconditional Surrender, Occupation, Division

October 24, 2019: West Germany during the Adenauer Era (1949-1963) and until 1969

October 31, 2019: East Germany during the Ulbricht Era (1950-1971)

November 07, 2019: West Germany and the Social-Liberal Coalitions (1969-1982)

November 14, 2019: West Germany during the Kohl Era (1982-1989)

November 21, 2019: East Germany during the Honecker Era (1971-1989)

November 28, 2019: The Break-Down of the GDR and the Reunification of Germany

December 05, 2019: Museum visit (GDR Museum Pforzheim)

December 12, 2019: Germany after the Reunification

December 19, 2019: Germany in the 21st 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 21st 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:

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 which will be permanently present at the university library. Ask the staff at the front desk for the books for this seminar. Research the internet and other sources for additional information on your 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%).