

Economics 6485
European Economic Issues
Spring 2018
Instructors: David Boldt

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Course Description and Objectives: The course will provide students the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the economics, business environment and culture of Europe (Czech Republic and Germany, in particular) The course will require that students complete pre-trip readings and other assignments. The visit to Prague and Berlin will provide an opportunity to learn first-hand about these topics. Upon return, students will complete a post-trip paper assignment. Upon completion of the program, students should be able to identify how globalization affects organizations (LO1). In addition, each student will make a professional presentation on an economic topic related to the study abroad program (LO3).

Required Meeting Dates:

- 1) Friday, **January 19** (10:30-12pm) in Miller 2201. This will be a meeting for all students participating in the Prague-Berlin Study Abroad Program. Please contact me if you can't make this meeting.
- 2) Friday, March 2 (11:00-12:30 pm). This will be a meeting for all students participating in the Prague-Berlin Study Abroad Program. Please contact me if you can't make this meeting.
- 3) Friday, March 9 (10-12 noon) or Monday, March 12 (7-9 pm) for a short quiz on the specific readings/videos and an oral presentation. The oral presentation assignment is discussed below. Please email me at dboldt@westga.edu the name of your presentation topic and the day that you would prefer to make the presentation.
- 4) Trip to Prague/Berlin (March 15-24)

Background Readings (Czech Republic) for Module 1. See CourseDen for the Module 1 assignment.

- 1) *Economy of Czech Republic*, Article in Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Czech_Republic)
- 2) *2017 Index of Economic Freedom-Czech Republic*, Heritage Foundation (<http://www.heritage.org/index/country/czechrepublic>)
- 3) *Czech Republic Economic Outlook*, OECD (<http://www.oecd.org/eco/outlook/economic-forecast-summary-czech-republic-oecd-economic-outlook.pdf>)
- 4) *The CIA World Factbook-Czech Republic (Czechia)*, (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>)
- 5) *Doing Business 2018--Czech Republic* (<http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/czech-republic>)

Background Readings (Germany) for Module 2. See CourseDen for the Module 2 assignment.

- 1) *Economy of Germany*, Article in Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Germany)
- 2) *2017 Index of Economic Freedom-Germany*, Heritage Foundation (<http://www.heritage.org/index/country/germany>)
- 3) *Germany Economic Outlook*, OECD (<http://www.oecd.org/eco/outlook/economic-forecast-summary-germany-oecd-economic-outlook.pdf>)
- 4) *The CIA World Factbook-Germany*, (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>)
- 5) *Doing Business 2018--Germany* (<http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/germany>)

Readings/Videos (European Union) for Module 3. See CourseDen for the Module 3 assignment.

- 1) *European Union*, Article in Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union)
- 2) *What is the European Union? How it Works and Its History* (The Balance, Nov. 28, 2017). Available in CourseDen.
- 3) *The European Union Explained* (Video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O37yJBFRrfg>
- 4) *The Future of the European Union* (The Economist, March 25, 2017). Available in CourseDen.

Resources to Review to Prepare for the Quiz. You will need to review these materials prior to the quiz on March 9 (or March 12)

- 1) Watch Rick Steves “Prague” <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/season-8/prague>
- 2) Watch Rick Steves “Berlin” <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/season-8/berlin>

Read the following articles (all posted in CourseDen):

- 3) *The German Economy* (The Economist, July 8, 2017).
- 4) *Czech Economic Highlights of a Probably Overheated 2017* (Radio Prague, 12/28/17)
- 5) *Prague’s Property Prices Outstrip Berlin*, Financial Times, (11/24/17)
- 6) *What is Drawing so Many Young Brits to Berlin... Issues They Face?*, The Local, (12/11/17)
- 7) *How Broke Berlin is Creaking Under the Strain of Surge in Population*, The Local, (12/8/17)
- 8) *Babis in Office in Prague, but Not Yet Secure in Power*, Politico, (12/13/17)

Presentation: Each student in the class will make a powerpoint presentation on an economics-related topic of relevance to this study abroad program. The topic must be approved by the instructor of the class. The presentation should be about 10 minutes. Grading will be based on content, the presentation, and the quality of the power point slides. Include no more than 10 slides in your presentation.

Grading:

- 1) 25 percent based on completion of 3 online modules. The assignment for each module is posted on CourseDen. To complete the modules, you will be required to answer questions based on the assigned readings. Module 1 on the Czech Republic/Prague must be completed by **Monday, January 29**. Module 2 on Berlin/Germany must be completed by **Monday, February 12** and Module 3 on the European Union must be completed by **Monday, February 26**. Upon completion of each module, submit your typed responses to the questions in the assignment submission folder (formally known as “Dropbox”). Be sure to include your name and module number on the document you are submitting.
- 2) 15 percent based on your presentation (see above for details). These presentations will be on Friday, March 6 (9-11 am) or on Monday, March 9 from 7-9 pm.
- 3) 10 percent based on an in-class quiz on the readings/videos listed above. This quiz will be given on either March 9 or March 12 (at the same time as the oral presentations). No notes will be allowed for this quiz.
- 4) 25 percent based on trip participation (see below under Attendance, Participation and Professionalism).
- 5) 20 percent on a post trip assignment. Details about this assignment will be provided at a later date. The post trip paper assignment will be due on **Monday, April 30**.
- 6) 5 percent on a one-on-one Q&A discussion with the instructor after the trip (but before the end of the semester).

Note: Late assignments will result in a grade reduction

Attendance, Participation and Professionalism: Unless a specific exception is made, students are expected to participate in all on-campus and well as all the required components of the program in Prague and Berlin. Students will be treated as professionals and are expected to act accordingly. This includes respecting your fellow students and our hosts in Europe. On the trip, we expect that you will not put yourself in a situation which may cause problems for yourself, your classmates, our host, or for any of the instructors.

Common Language for Course Syllabi: Students, please carefully review the following information which contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. These statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change; you should review the information each semester. http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating on any assignment or exercise will result in a zero on the assignment or exercise, the lowering of the student’s final grade in the course by one letter grade, and will be reported to Student Services for appropriate disciplinary action by the University. Examples of cheating include turning in work that is not your own or having another student complete an assignment for you. Students not familiar with what constitutes

academic dishonesty should refer to the Student Handbook and Undergraduate Catalog:
<http://www.westga.edu/undergrad/1762.htm>.