American Junior Year
2016-17

AMERICAN JUNIOR YEAR
sample courses

www.heidelberg.edu/ajy
AMERICAN JUNIOR YEAR  (includes Preliminary Course, Grammar and Writing as well as German Studies Courses)

Course:  Aspects of Society and Culture in Contemporary Germany  
AJY J11
Instructor:  AJY Faculty
Location:  American Junior Year Study Center
Class hours per week:  2
Credits:  3
Description:  The course consists of three components:
1. Forty eight (48) hours of intensive practice in listening and reading comprehension, advanced German grammar and vocabulary preparing for the University’s German Language Proficiency Examination.
2. In addition, participate in excursions in and around Heidelberg. You might visit historic sites, museums, or have the opportunity to meet with local people of interest or discuss current issues with representatives of political parties or civic groups
3. You begin making initial plans for your extra-curricular activity by contacting sports clubs, volunteer projects, music groups. Throughout the semester, you are required to document your activity through a blog entry, a portfolio of photos, or essayistic impressions.
At the end of your first four weeks, you will have achieved a lot already: you will have gained confidence in your ability to communicate in German inside and outside the classroom and you will be very well prepared for the German Language Proficiency Exam. Through our excursion, you will feel comfortable moving in and around Heidelberg. Through your extra-curricular activities, you will have met Germans and will have caught a glimpse of real life in Germany. All in all, the preliminary course will have given you a green light to start your studies in Heidelberg.
Basis of grade:  Extensive daily homework assignments; oral presentations; three-page paper related to non-academic activity; university language proficiency exam at the end of course.

Course:  The Turn of the Century: 1871-1914  
AJY J44
Instructor:  Said
Location:  American Junior Year Study Center
Class hours per week:  2
Credits:  3
Description:  This course deals with the late 19th century early 20th century European art, music, literature, politics and industrial history. Focus will be England, France, Austria and Germany, with a concentration on the latter two. Some of the topics are: dominant intellectual figures of the time, including authors and artists, the European intellectual and artistic centers, the move from urban life to city life.
Readings:  A reader will be distributed at the beginning of the course.
Basis of grade:  Midterm exam. Final exam. Classroom participation, small presentations. A third credit can be earned by writing a 3-5 pp. essay on a selected topic.
Course: **Goethe & Schiller From Storm & Stress to Classicism**  
**AJY** J45  
**Instructor:** Said  
**Location:** American Junior Year Study Center  
**Class hours per week:** 2  
**Credits:** 3  
**Description:** Students will read works by Schiller and Goethe as well as Lenz. Texts are read in the historical, cultural and socio-political context of the time. Students will visit the German Literature Archive in Marbach.  
**Readings:** A reader will be distributed at the beginning of the course.  
**Basis of grade:** Basis of Grade: Regular attendance, classroom participation (discussion, short presentations), midterm and final exam. Extra paper for an additional (third) credit.

Course: **Postwar German Literature & Society**  
**AJY** J46  
**Instructor:** Said  
**Location:** American Junior Year Study Center  
**Class hours per week:** 2  
**Credits:** 3  
**Description:** This course deals with the literature of a newly defined Germany in the so called “Stunde Null” (Zero Hour) after the end of the war in 1945. The course will attempt to demonstrate both the uncertainty and fear as well as the hope and potential that this period brought, especially through the literature and art of the post-war period.  
**Readings:** A reader will be distributed at the beginning of the course.  
**Basis of grade:** Regular attendance, classroom participation (discussion, short presentations), midterm and final exam.

Course: **German Pop Literature**  
**AJY** J47  
**Instructor:** Kastner  
**Location:** American Junior Year Study Center  
**Class hours per week:** 2  
**Credits:** 3  
**Description:** What is hiding behind the term ‘pop literature’? Is it just a rebellion against the old conservative and moral values? Or is it a superficial product of consumer society? In this semester we will try to find out what ‘pop literature’ really means. We will go back to the Dada movement, to the so called beatniks and the student revolution from 1968 in order to understand the actual German pop literature. Writers like Ulrich Plenzdorf, Bert Papenfuß, Judith Hermann and Christian Kracht will join us along the way and help us decode the interests, the values and the language of today’s youth in Germany with their meaningful novels and short stories.  
**Readings:** A reader will be distributed at the beginning of the course.  
**Basis of grade:** Regular participation, classroom presentation, term paper.

Course: **Berlin: German Literature and History since 1871**  
**AJY** J48  
**Instructor:** Said  
**Location:** American Junior Year Study Center  
**Class hours per week:** 2  
**Credits:** 3  
**Description:** No other European capital city has been as strongly influenced by recent history as Berlin. In this course, our focus will be three-fold: We will discuss the most prominent authors and artists who lived in Berlin and shaped the cultural life of Berlin. We will trace modern German history from 1871 to the Present esp. WW I and II, the Weimar Republic, and the two German states and their unification. At the end of the semester, we will have gained a broad overview of 20th century German history, literature and culture.
Readings: A reader will be handed out by the instructor.

Basis of grade: active participation in class discussions, homework assignments, one presentation, midterm and final exam.

Course: Academic Writing I: How to prepare for class presentations and short term papers
AJY J50a
Instructor: Tebben
Location: American Junior Year Study Center
Class hours per week: 2
Credits: 3
Description: Students learn how to give German oral presentations (Referate). They practice speaking in front of class (gestures, pronunciation, body language, etc). They will familiarize themselves with basic research methods in order to write their term papers (format, style sheet, introductory paragraphs, etc). Together with the instructor they will go over their drafts for their written assignments from other classes and learn to find, analyze and correct their mistakes in order to improve their grammar and style.

Basis of grade: Attendance and active participation as well as individual meetings with instructor.

Course: Academic Writing II: Advanced Text Analysis and Composition
AJY J50b
Instructor: Tebben
Location: American Junior Year Study Center
Class hours per week: 2
Credits: 3
Description: The class prepares C1 students for scholarly reading and writing. Students practice scientific and scholarly text analysis (content, grammar, idiomatic expressions, introductory phrases, argumentation, critique) and write paragraphs as well as short and longer texts on selected topics. These texts will then be corrected by the instructor followed by a thorough analysis of mistakes. The goal of the course is to bring German academic writing skills to a higher level.

Readings: Weekly handouts.

Basis of grade: Students write 10 essays of 2 pages each. Final exam.

Course: German & European Economic Geography
AJY J50k
Instructor: Aue
Location: American Junior Year Study Center
Class hours per week: 2
Credits: 3
Description: This course explores the following topics:
- Globalization
- Migration and Economics
- Ecology and Environment (sustainability, ecological footprint, environmental policy)
- The European Union (history, goals, structure, and treaties)
- Cartography (scale and topographic maps)
- Methodology

Readings: Landeskunde Deutschland 2016, Renate Luscher, Verlag für Deutsch. Diercke Weltatlas 2015, Westermann Schulbuch Verlag. Further readings will be distributed in class.

Basis of grade: Regular attendance, active participation, short oral presentations, final written exam.

Course: Contemporary German Prose
AJY J50l
Instructor: Kastner
Location: American Junior Year Study Center
Class hours per week: 2
Credits: 3
Description: German literature of the last forty years has been significantly influenced by political and societal circumstances. Major topics are: German student movement in 1968, the threat of nuclear weapons in the 1980s, the fall of the Berlin wall 1989, and the German unification. In this seminar, selected German novels and short stories from 1970 to today are read, discussed and examined.

Readings: Primary literature:
Wolf, Christa: Was bleibt. Luchterhand, Frankfurt am Main 1990.

Secondary Literature:
Fischer-Kania, Sabine [Hrsg.]: Sprache und Literatur im Spannungsfeld von Politik und Ästhetik.

Basis of grade: Regular attendance, active participation, term paper.

Course: German Conversation in Small Groups
AJY J50m
Instructor: Lengiewicz
Location: American Junior Year Study Center
Class hours per week: 2
Credits: 3

Description: This course seeks to improve the language competence of advanced students on the basis of weekly conversation sessions. In a setting of 3-5 students only, we will discuss topics in German culture and society. Students are encouraged to speak in a loud voice, to watch their body language by speaking. Some role playing. Weekly topics are handed out in advance. After each class, students create a list of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (glossary). Possible topics:
What is generosity?
Prohibition
What does it mean to have a sense of humor?
How honest can we afford to be in our daily life?
Can people from different generations actually communicate with each other?
Is advertising effective?
Is it possible to free ourselves from bad habits?
Is it possible to get someone to change his or her mind?
Why are people capable of being cruel?
Current issues, for example ‘Brexit’, or ‘Refugees’.

**Readings:** Weekly handouts.

**Basis of grade:** Weekly written assignments of 2 pages each. Final oral exam.

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**Course:** AJY Internships
**AJY J370**

**Instructor:** Resident Director, On-Site Supervisor

**Location:** American Junior Year Study Center

**Class hours per week:** 8

**Credits:** 3

**Description:** For individual internship descriptions please see the AJY website.

**Readings:** Internship-related.

**Basis of grade:** Evaluation of supervisor, presentation at the AJY internship and research colloquium, portfolio.

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**Course:** Independent Study, Capstone Research Project
**AJY J490**

**Instructor:** Resident Director, On-Site Supervisor

**Location:** American Junior Year Study Center

**Class hours per week:** 1

**Credits:** 1

**Description:** Student is involved in independent study or capstone research project under the supervision of the Resident Director, and in consultation with the student’s advisor.

**Readings:** To be compiled by the student.

**Basis of grade:** Outline of project, bibliography, abstract, presentation at the AJY internship and research colloquium.