**GERM 362: Germany and the Environment**

**Professor: Amy D. Gates-Young, Ph.D.**

**Office: 119 Weller**

**Office Hours: MWF 10-10:45, MW 1-1:45**

**Office Phone: x5296**

**Cell Phone: 641-230-0458**

**(Please do not call my cell phone before 8 AM or after 9 PM.)**

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**Required Materials:** The Conquest of Nature: Water, Landscape and the Making of Modern Germany, by David Blackbourn; other materials available on Blackboard.

**Catalog Description of Course:** This course will examine Germany's relationship to the environment in light of its particular political, cultural and business context. Taught in English, with appropriate assignments for students wishing to count this course toward a German Studies major.

**Attendance:** Attendance is strongly recommended. Although there is not a section for attendance in the factors that determine your grade, absence precludes participation in discussion. Since discussion makes up part of your grade, excessive absence (more than two class periods) will adversely affect the discussion portion of the grade.

**Turning in assignments:** Generally speaking, out-of-class assignments will be handed in via Blackboard. Avoid giving me paper whenever possible.

**Make-up work:** Make-up work is only allowed in the case of documented illness or College Sanctioned events. If you wish to make work up, it is in your best interest to contact the instructor as soon as you know that you will be missing class, so that arrangements can be made to make up work. If you contact the instructor after missing class, make-up work is at the discretion of the professor.

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit may be earned by learning something not covered in the course and presenting that information (maximum of 4-5 minutes) to the class. This could be information from the New York Times or other media about companies, policies, or other topics related to Germany and the Environment. A maximum of one person per class period may earn extra credit, and no student may earn more than three in a semester, for a maximum of a 3% increase in the final grade. A signup sheet will be posted on the instructor’s office door.

**Grading**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Maximum Points | Record grade here |
| Discussion | 15 |  |
| Lab | 10 |  |
| Written Responses | 35 |  |
| Group Activities | 20 |  |
| Final Project | 20 |  |
| Extra Credit | 3 |  |
| Total | 100 |  |

The grade distribution for total points is as follows:

96-100 = A

90-95 = A-

87-89 = B+

84-86 = B

80-83 = B-

77-79 = C+

74-76 = C

70-73 = C-

67-69 = D+

64-66 = D

60-63 = D-

59 or below = F

**Tentative Schedule for the course:**

Subject to change if Angela Merkel suddenly desires my expertise on German Environmental Policy (heh!) or other unexpected events arise. More detailed plans will be posted on Blackboard as soon as they are available.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| August 25-September 3 | Recycling and Waste |
| Sept. 8-22 | How did the Germans get that way?  The Conquest of Nature, Historical Context |
| September 24-October 6 | Environmental Politics in Germany and the EU |
| October 8-22 | Architectural Innovation |
| October 25-November 5 | Energy Production, Consumption and Innovation |
| November 8-24 | Industry and the Business of the Environment |
| November 29-December 10 | Breaking News |

Known Deadlines:

Sept. 3 – Group presentations for Compost Project

Dec. 10 – Final version of Final Project due

Dec. 15 – Oral presentation of Final Project

**Lab:**

You will be required to participate in lab activities with a lab assistant each week. The grade for this portion will be based upon attendance and participation in the activities prepared by the assistants. Failure to attend lab sessions and/or participate vigorously will adversely affect your grade. German Studies students will attend a lab session conducted in German. All other students will attend a lab session conducted in English, but containing cultural information about Germany.

**Disabilities:**

Central College abides by interpretations of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that stipulates no student shall be denied the benefits of an education "solely by reason of a handicap." Disabilities covered by law include, but are not limited to, learning disabilities, hearing, sight, or mobility impairments, and other health related impairments. If you have a documented disability that may have some impact on your work in this class for which you may require accommodations, please see me and Nancy Kroese, Director of Student Support Services and Disabilities Services Coordinator, (x 5247) during the first two weeks of the semester so that such accommodations may be arranged.

**Plagiarism and Other Academic Dishonesty:**

Plagiarism and cheating of any form are serious offenses and may result in an F for the assignment, the course, or expulsion from the college. The details of Central's Academic Integrity policy are found in the Student Handbook, on the web. A copy will be sent to you via e-mail during the first week of the semester. It is your responsibility to read and understand the contents of that policy before you submit work to be graded. Questions regarding the policies and enforcement of the policies may be addressed to me during class or during office hours.

**The following are strictly forbidden in this class, especially for students counting this course toward their German major:**

-use of translation software, online translators, or anything similar\*\*

-having native speakers correct your work for you

-presenting material written by someone else as your own

Using any of these things counts as academic dishonesty, and will be handled as such. Consequences may range from an F for the assignment to expulsion.

\*\*This applies for written work composed in German. This does not apply to the use of online translations from German to English for students not counting this course toward a German major.

**Notification of Participation in College Sanctioned Events:**

Mock Trial participants, choir tour participants, athletes, and others who must miss a class for participating in a college sanctioned event are expected to notify me in advance and complete work including tests in advance of the absence. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with me in advance regarding their absences and determine a schedule for makeup work