German Culture: Economic, Political and Social Issues

- Introduction: What do students know about Germany? Brainstorming Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar
- Regionalism in Germany: Info’s on region (e.g. dialects, climate, habits). Federalism in politics and policies, culture, economy, income level, language, mentality etc.
- Introduction into German History (before 1850)
- Adaption process: living in foreign cultures
- Industrialization in Germany: 1850 to World War I
- Time between World War I and II, “Drittes Reich”
- 1945 till unification in 1989/1990 (unification of Germany)
  - Cold War = political and economic war
  - Capitalism vs. communistic pacification
  - Marshal plan for West Germany (West Germany in Western block)
  - Berlin blockade, exodus from East Germany and Berlin Wall
  - West Germany: co-founder of EU, export country (“made in Germany”)
- Industrial development since 1989: in former BRD (FRG) and GDR/DDR. After unification: strongpoint on development of “Neue Bundesländer”
- Globalisation: constant innovation of products and economic structures e.g. from Taylorism to Kaizen, from production to “know-how”, from old industries (Ruhr area) to modern industries (Bavaria)
- Political system in Germany, Political Parties and their programs
- Business regions, trade and company structures in Germany
- Current economic, social and political issues/challenges
  - Demographical changes and their impact on social and economic structures
  - Environment and environmental consciousness in Germany
  - Germany’s new energy concept
- Educational structures in Germany
- Dos and Don’ts in Germany: Cultural specifics and idiosyncrasies “Niebelungen”

Assessment: 75 % attendance minimum, written exam

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