

Boston University, Division of International Programs, Dresden Programs

Syllabus

Name: ***Professor Jost Halfmann***

Date: Spring Semester 2005

Course Designator: CAS SO 315 E DR

Title: ***Historical, cultural and social aspects of technological development in Germany***

Course Overview: The course provides insights in the historical, cultural and social dimensions of technological development in Germany. It combines excursions to relevant facilities of the production, use and exposition of technological innovations with lectures on the relations between technology, innovations and industrialization in Germany.

Methodology: The course will be organized on the basis of excursions and seminars prepared by the students and lectures given by the instructor or guest lecturers. During the first part of the course, students are to prepare a dossier reflecting their experiences and insights gained during the excursion as well as during the lectures. The dossier will be used as a basis for the lectures/seminars in the second part of the course.

Required Reading

a. Course reader

b. Legler, H. et al., Germany's technological performance, Heidelberg: Physica 2000

c. High Technologies from Saxony – Telematics, Biotechnology, Car Manufacturing, Microelectronics, Dresden

Grading Criteria

Attendance and Participation: 20 %

Presentation in class: 20 %

Log-book preparation: 30 %

Essay (5 to 10 pages on a topic chosen from the themes of the dossiers): 30 %

Chronology

Session 1 (04/06/05, 90 minutes) Dr. Schramm, The Industrial Revolution in Germany in the 19th and early 20th century (lecture)

Session 2 (04/13/05, 90 minutes) Technological innovations: automobile technology (lecture/seminar), required reading: Gavroglou, Labour's power and industrial performance: Automobile production regimes in the U.S., Germany, and Japan (Reader)

Session 3 (04/20/05, 90 minutes) Technological innovations: Information technology (lecture/seminar), required reading: Beniger, The control revolution, pp. 61-106

(Reader)

Session 4 (04/27/05, 90 minutes) Technological innovations: communications technology I (lecture/seminar), required reading: Flichy, Dynamics of modern communication, pp. 117-137 (Reader)

Session 5 (05/04/05, 90 minutes): Technological innovations: communications technology II (lecture/seminar), required reading: Flichy, Dynamics of modern communication, pp. 138-171 (Reader)

Session 6 (05/12/05, 180 minutes) : Excursion to Wismuth

Session 7 (05/25/05, 90 minutes) Technological innovations: biotechnology (lecture/seminar), required reading: Krimski, Biotechnics and Society, pp. 21-57 (Reader)

Session 8 (06/01/05, 90 minutes)) Technological innovations: Biotechnology in Germany and the US (lecture/seminar), required reading: Kraus, Technology and legal systems: a comparative study of the development and regulation of biotechnology in Germany and the Unites States (Reader)

Session 9 (06/08/05, 90 minutes) Technological change in Germany (lecture/seminar), required reading: H. Legler et al., Germany's Technological Performance, pp. 39-74 (Reader)

Session 10 (06/15/05, 90 minutes) The transformation of the German Model (lecture/seminar), required reading: Vitols, Globalization and the Transformation of the German Model (Reader)

Session 11 (06/22/05, 90 minutes) The political and economic reconstruction of East Germany (lecture/seminar), required reading: Wiesenthal, Democracy won – Economic change imposed, pp. 14 (Reader)

Session 12 (06/29/05, 90 minutes) Comparing East Germany with Central European states (Lecture/seminar), required reading: Offe, A 'Special Path' of Transformation? (Reader)

Session 13 (07/06/05, 90 minutes): wrap up

8. Terms and Conditions

Students are expected to attend all lectures and excursions; students have to sign up for each session. Up to two excused absences are allowed. The deadline for the essay (the end of the course) is binding.

9. Suggested Readings

d. Elster, Jon et al.: Institutional design in post-communist societies, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1998

e. Annesley, Claire, 2004, Postindustrial Germany: Services, technological transformation and knowledge in unified Germany, Manchester: Manchester University Press

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