

Das Deutsche Haus

Overview

Das Deutsche Haus Program seeks to provide students with the opportunity to expand their understanding of German language, culture, history and current events in a non-classroom setting, through discussions, presentations, traditional meals, excursions, films, guest lectures, and other academic, cultural, and social activities and events. Das Deutsche Haus seeks not only to provide meaningful and worthwhile events and interaction amongst students, but also to create an environment in which the German language is used as a medium of communication on a daily basis, aiding students in their study of the language at UVM, helping to retain their fluency, and preparing them for study abroad in German-speaking countries. A residential environment will allow the students to communicate and rapidly improve in the German language, allowing them to share their ideas and express themselves in ways not possible with a classroom setting.

Learning Objectives

Improving students' abilities to speak and express themselves in both writing and speaking the German language, and to share this knowledge with the wider community.

Action Steps:

- Das Deutsche Haus will meet formally once a week in the B180 Lounge, and more frequently informally, in which all discussions are conducted in German
- Das Deutsche Haus student will write essays and give oral presentations on specific subjects and topics of their choice in the German language
- All Deutsche Haus Program students will read and discuss short extracts and works from important German-speaking authors, for example short essays by Berthold Brecht or poems by Goethe, as well as current events articles and other media on German-related topics in the German language
- Das Deutsche Haus students are at all levels of proficiency in the German Language; some are fluent, others are beginners. German House will not only attempt to make sure all students improve their own proficiency, but to help others, for example Continuing Education students who are studying German and need a place to practice their vocabulary and accent, or native speakers who simply wish to practice in a social setting.

- All students will research and prepare an oral presentation on a topic of their choice, using resources such as the German Department, Global Village and Bailey-Howe Library, which will be delivered to the other students in German. Students may need to purchase other books not provided by the library, and reference books, such as dictionaries, atlases, and other reference guides will be useful additions to future Deutsche Haus students.

To promote and discuss the awareness of German culture and topics as they relate to German-speaking countries and communities, and will share their knowledge and experiences with the entire Global Village community

Action Steps:

- Screenings and discussions of German films, which in the past have included *Nowhere in Africa and Kilimanjaro*, will be presented by das Deutsche Haus, often in conjunction with other programs in Global Village, such as with Russian and Africa House, to discuss the global implications of German culture and history.
- Program members will read, discuss, and present information pertaining to the culture and current events pertaining to German-speaking countries. Such information is now readily available from on-line newspapers, journals, and subscription databases. This will give students a broader perspective, as well as improving their research and media literacy skills. Exchange students will also give presentations of their experiences to the German House.
- Exchange students and visiting individuals, groups, and lecturers from Germany, particularly from the University of Augsburg, to offer an international perspective on a variety of topics, including educational systems.
- Students from das Deutsche Haus will organize trips to explore German influences in Vermont, and throughout New England and Quebec, for example, a trip to the Goethe Institute in Montreal, particularly in conjunction with the Global Village
- Das Deutsche Haus students will prepare meals and host holiday celebrations reflecting German cultural traditions.
- Students will attend culturally diverse performing arts events and lectures, such as “Neither Aryan nor Semite: Mutability and Identity in the Third Reich” by Prof. Steigmann-Gall, particularly those reflecting German arts, culture, history, and current events related topics.
- German students will give lectures and presentations of multicultural relevance to the Global Village and broader Burlington community.

Community Service

As mentioned above, students in the das Deutsche Haus will seek to provide film discussions, lectures, and presentations for the entire UVM community. Das Deutsche Haus also provides community members the opportunity to better their German speaking skills, and to learn a great deal more about German culture and subjects relating to German-speaking countries. Das Deutsche Haus also hopes to work with Burlington schools, such as the H.O. Wheeler School, and the Lawrence Barnes elementary school, in giving presentations to students about the German language and German culture and traditions, as well as other service organizations and events, such as the Annual AIDS Prevention and Cure Walk.

Coordination with other L/L Programs

Das Deutsche Haus remains firmly committed to its mission of engagement and participation with other programs in Global Village and the broader Living/Learning community. We have worked with programs such as the Africa House, Interpreting Film, and others in presenting lectures, discussions, and film presentations, as well as taking an active role in larger events like the No English Dinner. Das Deutsche Haus also seeks discuss European history and art with other programs like la Maison Française and Casa Hispanica, as well as extending its reach to broader programs like the Greenhouse and the Arts Initiative during the next year.



About the Global Village

This program is part of the Global Village Residential Learning Community (RLC). For UVM students interested in exploring other cultures, studying abroad, or pursuing lives and careers in an increasingly interconnected world, the Global Village may be just the place for you! Drawing on the resources of the Living/Learning Center and its dynamic network of student- and faculty-led programs, the community of learners that make up the Global Village will be engaged in coursework, lectures, concerts, exhibits, study sessions, faculty and peer mentoring, social connections with international students, group meals, and trips that:

- Explore the many connections among language, art and culture at regional, national, and international scales.
- Share disciplinary expertise within an environment that values a holistic approach to “living and learning.”
- Encourage formal and informal contacts among students, faculty, and staff within the Global Village, the Living/Learning Center, the other Residential Learning Communities, and the university as a whole.
- Aim to be a complement to existing international and cross-cultural programs at UVM.
- “Think globally and act locally” by outreach to the international community at UVM and within the greater Burlington area.

More information about the Global Village RLC can be found at: <http://www.uvm.edu/rlc>

AIS 095: The Global Village

AIS 095: The Global Village is a self-paced, one-credit course designed to help you get the most out of your experience as a citizen of the Global Village residential learning community. In addition to taking part in any courses that are required or recommended for your individual House, all new Global Village residents must enroll in AIS 095 for one credit during the fall semester (as must any returning Global

Village student who has not yet satisfactorily completed the class). This course will be graded on a “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory” basis. As this a self-paced course, there will be no weekly class meeting time. Instead, you are expected to participate in an average of one House activity or one non-House cultural/educational event per week throughout the semester. Each House will have the opportunity to craft a “community learning plan” that will involve a combination of House and non-House activities that will fulfill the requirements of one-credit course. We’ll provide you with a list of suggested events and activities, or you can identify other events/activities with a cultural theme; you choose which ones you wish to attend. Finally, you should plan to attend the Global Village community meetings, which are periodically throughout the year.

We’ll provide you with a Global Village Passport; use it to keep track of your activities and explorations. In addition to documenting participation in your weekly events/activities, you will need to do reflective writing in the form of five short journal entries on the cultural/educational events that you participated in, along with a lengthier essay looking back on your most meaningful experience of the semester within the Global Village.

Returning Global Village students are also invited (but not required) to enroll in AIS 095 during the fall semester. Enrollment in AIS 096 for one credit during the spring semester is optional and encouraged for all students.

If you anticipate a problem with fulfilling this course expectation (such as if you will already be enrolled in 18 credits), please contact your Program/House director.

For more details about this course, visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/rlc/ais095096.pdf>