



Das Deutsche Haus

Katherine Ibanez and Julianna Kattermann, Program Directors

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

Learning Objective 1

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:

1. 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 (Cost: \$--.--)
2. Das Deutsche Haus students will write short prompts or stories of a topic they choose, or one which they are given in the German language (Cost: \$--.--)
3. 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 excerpts from well known books written in German, for example Harry Potter because most people know the story and it will be easy for students learning the German language to follow and therefore pick up important vocabulary words.
4. 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.

(Cost: \$--.--)

5. Das Deutsche Haus will collectively perform a skit or play by a German or German-speaking playwright and perform it in the Fireplace lounge for a Global Village Event.

Learning Objective 2

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:

1. 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.

2. Program members will read, discuss, and present information pertaining to the culture and current or past 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.

3. 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, traditions, past-times, food, music, and history.

4. 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. We would also like to look into traveling to Germany over one of the breaks. To do this we would look into major fundraising so we would be able to pay for most of it. Some ideas for fundraising include pot-luck dinners and bake-sales.

5. Das Deutsche Haus students will prepare meals and host holiday celebrations reflecting German cultural traditions.

6. 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.

7. 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, traditions, and history 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 to 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, 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/globalvillage>

GRS 095/096: The Global Village Seminar

GRS 095/096: The Global Village Seminar is a largely 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. All new Global Village residents **must** enroll in GRS 095 for one credit during the fall semester or GRS 096 for the spring semester. (Returning Global Village students who have not yet satisfactorily completed the class must enroll in GRS 095 during the fall semester.) This course will be graded on a “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory” basis. The course will be partly comprised of a series of “Common Hour” community gatherings held on Thursday afternoons. The primary purpose of the Common Hour meetings is to build a stronger sense of community among the members of the many Global Village houses and programs. As well, the Common Hour gatherings will help Global Village

citizens build a common knowledge and skill set, including such topics as intercultural communication, globalization, etc. A variety of program offerings will take place during Common Hour meetings, such as special guest lectures, interactive dialogue and social gatherings. During weeks when the Common Hours are not held, you are expected to participate in one educational event or activity with a global cultural theme. We'll provide you with a list of suggested events and activities, or you can identify other events/activities with a global cultural theme; you choose which ones you wish to attend.

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 Common Hours and the educational 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 GRS 095 during the fall semester. Enrollment in GRS 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 Prof. Joseph Acquisto, Faculty Director of the Global Village, at Joseph.Acquisto@uvm.edu

For more details about this course, visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/~gvrlc/passport/GRS095096.pdf>