German House

PROFESSOR DENNIS F. MAHONEY, Faculty Director
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OVERVIEW

The German House Program has been designed to provide students the opportunity to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the German language and culture in ways not commonly possible in a traditional classroom setting and timetable. Through a program of films, discussions, guest lecturers, group meals, excursions, festivities and other cultural and social activities, an environment is created in which German is not only encouraged but becomes a medium of expressing the students’ personal interests. In the past, the German House has proved to be both a good preparation for study abroad in German-speaking countries as well as a means for students to retain fluency upon returning to UVM.

With the aid of the faculty and student program directors, students can reinforce language learning and share their experiences and knowledge of German culture. German House residents traditionally have identified personal and social aspects— the group spirit and the quality of life in the suites—as being among the strongest features of the program.

The basic objectives of the German House Program activities are to deepen students’ awareness of German culture and to further their ability to express themselves in spoken and written German. The process through which these objectives will be met is thus cumulative, rather than end-goal oriented.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning Objective #1
Language learning as an ongoing process.

Action Steps
• All formal group meetings are conducted in German.
• German House students will take a German course offering appropriate to their level of speaking ability.
• As part of their fulfillment of the one academic credit awarded each semester for German House activities, students will write four essays on specific subjects and give oral presentations on subjects of their choice.
• It is the student's own willingness to speak and use German which will determine the value of the preceding "action steps" of each participant.

Learning Objective #2

Action Steps

• Screening of German films and discussions of German news events will be part of our group meetings from time to time. In addition, presentations will be conducted by individual group members as well as by German Department faculty members and other guest lecturers on topics related to German culture and civilization.
• Given the student exchange program between UVM and the University of Augsburg, Germany, some of our student guests or professors visiting from Augsburg could be invited to share information and impressions about student life on our respective campuses.
• German celebrations and festivities will be held during the course of the academic year to encourage socializing among German House residents, German Department faculty, and non-resident students interested in German studies. Were students so inclined, we might consider the reintroduction of the “Singkreis” gatherings as a means of learning folk songs and also inviting guests from German classes and the greater Burlington community.

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 025: The Global Village Seminar**

GRS 025: 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 025 for one credit during the fall semester or spring semester. (Returning Global Village students who have not yet satisfactorily completed the class must enroll in GRS 025 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 025 during the fall semester or spring semester.

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/?Page=passport/passport.html&SM=passport/sub-menu.html