

German 389G – 3 credits

German American Cultural Contrasts: Monday 2 – 4:30, Fall 2009, Freie Universitaet Berlin

Professor Emeritus: Dr. Guenter G. Pfister

Office Hours: Monday: 1 – 2 pm

Class Meetings: Monday: 2 – 4:30 pm

Prerequisites: None

Language of Instruction: English

Course description:

During the course of the semester we will study the individual building blocks and the processes of culture by defining what constitutes ‘culture’, and construct the “Cultural Inventory”, a measuring device of cultural values. We will compare and contrast cultural situations taken from the German and American cultures providing insights into other cultures. Students can choose poems, newspaper articles, photographs, television and innumerable other sources using the “inventory” to discover cultural differences and similarities and provide reports of their analysis.

Rational:

The “Cultural Inventory” enables students to collect information objectively beyond personal feelings or interpretations by revealing the building blocks of culture. Students gain experience in organizing and presenting findings of their cultural analysis in written and oral reports.

Grading:

25% Midterm Exam

25% Final Test

50% Project I, II, III and IV

Course materials:

Handout required: Guenter G. Pfister, Multi-Socio Cultural Accountability Survey: Framework Evaluation Tool.

Dr. Guenter G. Pfister German 389G Fall 2009 Monday 2-4:30 pm Freie Universitaet
Berlin

Week

- 1 Introduction
- 2 What is culture?
- 3 Cultural Awareness through Cultural Pedagogy
- 4 The Theoretical Approaches in the “Cultural Inventory”
- 5 Spiro and the Conception of Culture
- 6 Applied Semiotics
- 7 Action Sequence Parameters and Symbolic Analysis Overview
- 8 Cultural Inventory Analysis Level I
- 9 Der Suesse Brei / Midterm Test
- 10 Cultural Interpretation of your own Choice: Project I
- 11 Cultural Interpretation of your own Choice: Project II
- 12 Cultural Interpretation of your own Choice: Project III
- 13 Cultural Interpretation of your own Choice: Project IV
- 14 Reports and Discussion
- 15 Reports are due Project I, II, III, and IV
- 16 Final Test