



Middlebury

Middlebury Schools Abroad Evaluation for the 2008-2009 Academic Year/Spring Semester

Evaluating your period of study abroad is one of the most valuable services you can render Middlebury College and future students planning to study abroad, and it is one of the most important ways you can help us maintain the highest possible standards. For this reason, until this form is submitted to International Programs and Off Campus Study a hold will be placed on official Middlebury transcript requests for Middlebury College students who studied at Middlebury Schools Abroad. Please note: If you studied abroad for two semesters on two different programs, you must submit two separate evaluations.

The staff of International Programs and Off Campus Study welcomes the opportunity to hear about your experiences abroad; please feel free to stop by or call and talk with us!

This document contains respondents between 1 and 4 inclusive.

Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

Your year of (expected) graduation:

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

What was the period of your study abroad?

2008-2009 Fall Semester

2008-2009 - Spring Semester

2008-2009 - Academic Year

2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

Frankly, I learned a lot LESS. All learning happened outside the classroom, either researching term papers or preparing oral presentations. My public speaking skills definitely improved, but I don't think I benefited academically.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

This is pretty vague...

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

I think I understand both cultures better after studying abroad.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

Independence

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

My academic and career goals are unchanged, though I am somewhat more open to the idea of working or living in Europe than I was previously. Personally, I would like to make an effort to maintain and improve my German skills.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

					Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

I had to move halfway through the year, which was highly disruptive, although I liked my living arrangements for the second half of the year much better. Due to the move I didn't really connect with people in either place.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

.....

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

I feel that almost all of the improvement in my language skills happened in the second semester. I still wouldn't consider myself fluent, I think I improved somewhat less than I had hoped.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Deskriptive Sprachwissenschaft with Herr Steinbach, Politikwissenschaft

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

Yes

No

Please explain:

I didn't care for the history department.

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

History of Math

At which institution/university did you take this course?

JoGu

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exam

Please describe the course content:

History, of math.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Powerpoint slides with lecture.

Other comments about this course:

Kind of dry.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

German Economic History since 1945

At which institution/university did you take this course?

JoGu

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper

Describe course content

Um, German economic history since Word War 2.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The professor read out of her notes and sometimes tried to get us to discuss reading.

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

The NSDAP

At which institution/university did you take this course?

JoGu

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper

Describe course content

National Socialist party structure

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Mostly class discussions, oral presentations, group "discussion". We spent a ridiculous amount of class time doing reading assignments.

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Mörke, Erzählungen (Mörkes Stories)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

JoGu

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper, oral presentation

Describe course content

3 novellas by Eduard Mörike

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Mostly oral presentations by students

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #5

Comparative Politics

At which institution/university did you take this course?

JoGu

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

short oral presentation, long oral presentation, paper, summaries of reading assignments

Describe course content

Introduction to comparative political theory

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

100% student presentations

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #6

The Political System of the BRD

At which institution/university did you take this course?

JoGu

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

short oral presentation, long oral presentation (actually a 'Sitzungsleitung'), paper

Describe course content

introduction to German political institutions and culture

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

a different group of students led class each week

Other comments about this course:

I took the section of this class led by Gernot Uhl - completely different from Prof. Winkler's version

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #7

Descriptive Linguistics

At which institution/university did you take this course?

JoGu

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

final exam

Describe course content

introduction to German linguistics

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

powerpoint

Other comments about this course:

with Professor Steinbach

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #8

Amerikabilder

At which institution/university did you take this course?

JoGu

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

oral presentation, paper

Describe course content

the historical development of German stereotypes about America

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

100% student presentations

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

This question is too confining, see below.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

As far as Middlebury study abroad in Germany, I would definitely recommend Mainz over Berlin. In general, JoGu isn't a particularly strong university and from a purely academic standpoint I didn't find study abroad to be worth it - go for language and culture and personal development, but don't expect an academic experience remotely comparable to Middlebury.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

Yes

No

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?

Yes

No

N/A - Did not attend meetings

ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

The School in Germany handbook is useful if rather outdated, it needs to be updated. The only useful part of the meetings was talking to returned students, I'd rather see the office just set a time for new students to meet returned students over coffee and skip the structured part of the meeting.

Further comments:

I'd have liked to see this survey with more open-ended questions, the yes and no don't always make a lot of sense.

Home Institution

- Middlebury College
- Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

University of Pittsburgh

Your year of (expected) graduation:

- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013

What was the period of your study abroad?

- 2008-2009 Fall Semester
- 2008-2009 - Spring Semester
- 2008-2009 - Academic Year
- 2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

German universities are setup to only ever have two semesters: winter and summer. The system is setup so that while classes are in session, students have very little work besides studying and perhaps an oral report or two. The "real" work comes after classes are done of the semester. That is when the exams are written and the papers researched, composed and handed in. With the requirements from Middlebury, my experience was still very different, since all of my work had to be completed by the end of classes. I found that my time managements skills were challenged: I was able to improve my timing the second semester.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

Though many aspects of Germany remain similar to the USA, the political and cultural mentality is very different due to the German experience in WWII. Nearly every aspect is governed by the mantra "never again". "Nationalism" is a dirty word unless you are supporting a national sports team. The way immigrants are treated is a direct reaction to post-war issues: they were originally seen as a temporary economic assist. But because many did not leave as expected and more are coming, the country that never saw itself as an immigrant-friendly country had to change the way it saw things. This has been an almost 40 year process and it still has a long way to go. In many ways comparison is not possible, but it is not so different or so hard to understand that I feel that it was difficult to adjust to.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

Having studied abroad several times now for almost 2 1/2 years (in Germany primarily, but also in China), I feel that I have come to understand a good deal of what I experienced in Germany. I do not claim to have learned everything, nor can I duplicate the experience that growing up there would have brought. Having seen and lived for a time in another culture at least once has, however, allowed me to value my own culture more highly, to get to know it from a different angle, to know that I do not know everything about it, either.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

I suppose I can say that I have become less shy, though opening up has been a process and will continue to be a challenging one. I have learned, though not always used to its best advantage, that good communication and contact within a community is vitally important.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

This study abroad program was part of a goal to improve my German enough to get accepted into a Masters program at MIIS in translation (TLM). Having completed this goal (for the Fall of 2010), I feel thankful for the opportunity that this gave me to take classes towards this end, which will also be a beginning.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

		Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

Because most native Germans live at home and commute up to 2 hours in to the Uni for classes, the dorms are mainly filled with other international students. These are of course friendly and helpful. It is however necessary to become involved in other activities and other aspects of city life than purely university to be properly integrated.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

Because most students commute, the campus life is not as big as it is in the states. Also, most students schedual classes so that they can go to class and leave immediatly afterwards, making it more difficult to connect.

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

			Somewhat helpful		
	Not helpful		helpful		Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

-Church, Bible study

-Language exchange (Chinese-English-German)

-Choir (Collegium Musicum): I had originally planned to play in the accompanying orchestra, but as there were too many flutes for only one spot, I was not able to do that. I do think that I had a better experience in the choir than the orchestra would have offered. One of the other "extra" flutists and I did connect to play duets more or less once a week. I also played some with a woman from my Bible study. I recommend the choir to other students.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

Though I came in with near native German, I was still able to improve/refine many aspects of it. As a main goal was to improve, I think that among other factors such as regularly reading German newspapers and keeping a daily journal in German helped me out a lot. Perhaps paying half of any subscription to a paper or magazine in the host country's native language would encourage students to read (and therefore) learn more outside of the academic frame. Keeping an informal journal (as a suggestion rather than a requirement) is a good idea.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

The program is very helpful in getting you oriented to the university and culture.

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Some professors do not give the kind of constructive feedback American students are used to receiving. The library setup is very confusing at first and takes a while to get used to.

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

Proseminar: Einführung in die Semantik

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

exam

Please describe the course content:

An introduction into semantics (linguistics) from a diachronic and synchronic point of view.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The class was done with a strong emphasis on discussion.

Other comments about this course:

I really enjoyed it, but then I like linguistics and have a some background in it. Some background is good for this class.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Proseminar: Mörike, Erzählungen

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper

Describe course content

The course discussed, read and analyzed three narratives by Eduard Mörike.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Students were expected to read the narratives outside of class. Three aspects of each narrative were presented over three class periods by the students in small groups. Each class was begun by a cumulative summary of previous discussions and oral reports. Any time remaining following the student-led oral reports was used for discussion.

Other comments about this course:

The cumulative summaries detracted from discussions, which would have been far more interesting.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Proseminar: Lyrik in der 19. Jahrhundert

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper

Describe course content

The course covered German poetry in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Each class period was used to discuss one or two poems and analyze them as a group (which was possible with such a small class size).

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Hauptseminar: Koordination

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper

Describe course content

This course viewed the linguistic problems (often still without solutions) related to analyzing sentence coordination.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The various topics were either presented and discussed interactively by the professor or students.

Other comments about this course:

Because the content of the class is still controversial and being researched, thinking about it and understanding it at all was challenging, but at the same time exhilarating for me.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #5

Proseminar: Deskriptive Grammatik

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper

Describe course content

The course covered introductory themes and methods (trees) in descriptive linguistics.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Each topic was presented by a group of 3 to 5 students. The presentation was never quite a lecture: questions were taken throughout and interactive exercises were done to make sure the material had sunk in. The professor helped out where necessary.

Other comments about this course:

This was a very well planned class and was quite a lot of fun.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #6

Hauptseminar: Buchpolitik in europäischer Perspektive

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper

Describe course content

This course covered contemporary issues in the book industry, from VAT to copyright to reading promotion.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The first half (roughly) of each class was taken up by 5 short presentations given by individual students all pertaining to a general topic of the day (i.e. VAT). The second half consisted of a question and answer period and a debate or discussion.

Other comments about this course:

Coming into an upper level class without being able to claim any real background knowledge of the subject was difficult and I don't suggest it, though I did find the class very interesting. I just felt like I was in over my head on understanding some of the very complex issues.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #7

Vorlesung: Macht

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper

Describe course content

This course covered some of the many ways the word/concept "power" is used in political science literature and situations.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The teaching style was frontal lecture with occasional time for questions to be asked.

Other comments about this course:

The larger class size was not so good, because many students used the time to talk to their friends sitting next to them as well as sometimes even on a cell phone. Though this was distracting, I was still able to learn.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #8

Vorlesung: Die germanischen Kleinsprachen

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper

Describe course content

This course covered the linguistic basics pertaining to Afrikaans, Icelandic, Luxembourgish, Faroese, and West Friesian.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The professor gave visually and auditorally interactive lectures on the languages.

Other comments about this course:

I really enjoyed hearing the different Germanic languages, even though I am not able to speak any of them. Some were similar enough to German that I could either understand the written or verbal forms. Others seemed only marginally understandable. Fascinating either way.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #9

Vorlesung: Theorie und Praxis in der Nachrichtengebung

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

paper

Describe course content

This course covered Journalism theories coupled with practical examples regarding the delivery and gathering of information for news journalism.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

The class was a frontal lecture.

Other comments about this course:

Though I came in knowing very little about the subject (or perhaps because of this), I found the class very interesting and learned a lot. I got the idea that other students found it a bit dull and dry.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Though it has a rather high cost relative to how much European universities actually charge you, the program offers that extra step of outside help that international students need to feel very welcomed and also gives many many opportunities to be a part of a foreign culture.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Contact is possibly the most important concept. It takes contact (and communication) with other people to form community, learn a language, learn about others, and really to live. Keeping contact with others will allow you to open your mind more than you can currently imagine - even if you've already studied abroad before (the Middlebury program was my fourth time...).

ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

The study abroad office staff was great, though the application form did not have an address on it (that UPS recognized). It was missing the street address if I recall correctly. Other than that I really think it was great.

How did you learn of the Middlebury program? (Check all that apply.)

- searching the web
- a friend who attended a Middlebury program
- a friend (who did not attend a Middlebury program)
- a sibling or other family member
- a faculty member at my college/university
- by attending the Middlebury Language Schools
- a study abroad fair
- a study abroad office/adviser
- a news article

Other

It was recommended to me by Dr. Harmer at MIIS, to which I had applied to graduate school.

Why did you choose this particular program and site?

I chose this program because the near total immersion appealed greatly to me. I chose Mainz over Berlin because I prefer medium-sized cities over large cities.

Did your expectations of the program as advertised before you went abroad match the reality of your experience during your study abroad?

- Completely matched
- Was what I expected for the most part
- Was somewhat different from what I expected
- Was vastly different than what I'd expected

Comments

.....

Did you receive acceptance and pre-departure information in a timely fashion?

- Yes
- No

Did you find the mailings and online resources useful?

Yes

No

Were there particular challenges unique to you as a student from another institution? Please explain.

Not really, aside from joining a group of students who already know each other relatively well.

Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

Your year of (expected) graduation:

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

What was the period of your study abroad?

2008-2009 Fall Semester

2008-2009 - Spring Semester

2008-2009 - Academic Year

2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

Generally speaking, I found I learned very little in the classroom. Class hours were often structured around student presentations of unpredictable quality, and were never as extensive or delving as I thought they could be. I adapted to this by approaching the classroom as a place to practice my language skills and gain an understanding of cultural perspectives, and approached my time out of the classroom as a time to explore topics of interest to me, visit professors during office hours, and prepare assignments. Usually at Middlebury, I learn based on my dedication to an packed and challenging syllabus, but at the University in Mainz I learned based on my personal desire to research and read on my own and a deep engagement and absorbtion of a more limited amount of information. Having a less stressful learning environment allowed me to focus on the improvement of my language skills and vocabulary, set and strive for realistic non-academic goals, such as engagement with the community, and continually reflect on my experience in a different culture. The exposure to a different academic environment definitely showed me that there is no one way to structure education. I gained an appreciation for many aspects of my education at Middlebury, but I feel I will come back to campus with a more critical eye on Middlebury's system.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

				Somewhat Different	
	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar		Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

My first reaction to this question was to say "mostly similar" because so many people talk about America and Germany both being industrial, developed nations, and in truth there are many common elements of everyday German and American life, however I feel like my time abroad highlighted all the nuances and important details of each culture that make them very different. For example, I could say that both Germany and America have a sport fetish..Germany for "football" and America for "American football". Germans and Americans both pile into stadiums to watch the games, etc. But there are so many underlying differences that stand out to me! Somehow I feel the need to defend myself by saying they are different...shouldn't I be able to see the commonalities? But I am not afraid to say they are different...I think it's beautiful that such similar rituals can actually feel so different!

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

I definitely feel like I have a more insider's perspective of German culture. Being abroad exposed me over time to the everyday lives of my fellow students, of the residents of Mainz, and of families. I also was able to compare my experience to the experiences of other internationals in German culture. I could constantly reflect and make comparisons. I discovered how the whole of many small or large cultural differences makes up the worldview of and daily approach of many Germans and how the culture affects social interactions and values. I realized how this is also true for myself as a product of American culture and so true for all of my friends, family and acquaintances in the US.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

I found myself interacting with many people slightly older than myself. Older literally, because of the German education system, but also older in the sense of maturity. My fellow students were more adult, were focused on building adult lives, and approached education as a part of an independent lifestyle. I learned a lot about the values of adulthood in the sense of taking care of myself, being a host, and being a colleague. Hospitality and sophistication were important characteristics to develop. Leadership, engagement, and sincerity were personal characteristics that were very useful.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

The further improvement of my German skills is now an academic goal unlike before. Being abroad helped me realize substantial career opportunities in my field of interest that would utilize language skills. Personally I have gained a new desire to travel. I feel I know for sure that I want to have more experiences like I had abroad; I want to see many more cultures and experience them from within, learn from them, and gain a deeper understanding of cultural differences and similarities.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

There were many international students in my dorm, many more than German students. German students instead left campus after classes or, if they did live in the dorm, went home to family on the weekend. Although the independence of living on my own was welcome, it would have been nice to have a host family that I could visit on weekends too..

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, were your extra-curricular activities helpful in assisting your integration into the host culture?

	Not helpful		Somewhat helpful		Very helpful
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe the extra-curricular activities or internship in which you participated, and make any additional comments about these activities that you think would be helpful to Middlebury staff or future students.

I took a salsa dance course at the University. It was a laid-back but organized atmosphere where I could meet people more easily, learn some new vocabulary, and mingle without pressure. I was then introduced through people I met in the class to a whole salsa culture in Germany! I was able to get to know a different age-class and a different kind of culture than exists at the University.

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

My progress was about what I expected. Interacting with many internationals and also having my brother (english speaker) in Germany contributed to a smaller improvement in listening comprehension. If I were to do the semester again, I would focus on trying to spend more time with the Germans I met in my classes. Also going to lectures offered on the campus would be a great way to improve listening comprehension. I wish I had attended more classes as if I were auditing them, just to get more practice listening to different voices and accents.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

Yes

No

Please explain:

Some classes are completely devoted to student presentations, which can be boring or uninformative.

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

Control and Surveillance

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universitaet Mainz

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

term paper, final exam, oral presentation

Please describe the course content:

overview of different methods of the control of people, with a focus on German techniques.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

We read one article per class meeting, and then during class mostly just summarized and reviewed the reading. The teacher would then give some background on the writer of the article or historical context.

Other comments about this course:

Lack of stimulation, although the material was interesting. A large factor was the lack of students in the course...only 10 or so. upper level Seminar

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

Habitation

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universitaet Mainz

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

term paper

Describe course content

overview of architectural and cultural living styles and movements in Germany through the 20th century

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

through student presentations

Other comments about this course:

value of the class completely determinant on the quality of the student presentation any particular day. however professor very knowledgable. seminar

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Introduction to Family Sociology lecture

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universitaet Mainz

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

final exam

Describe course content

overview of methods, theories, statistics, and themes in studying family structures, developments, and meanings in Germany

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

through lecture with powerpoint

Other comments about this course:

very well structured, lots of information, a little dry. Open to undergraduate and graduate students

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Introduction to Family Sociology discussion

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg Universitaet Mainz

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

written summaries, oral presentation

Describe course content

supplementary exploration of theories and themes in family sociology

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

student presentation, readings, discussion

Other comments about this course:

very dry, many students bored, but necessary complementary information to the lecture on family sociology.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

Being prepared to stick out--because of clothes, manners, and language--is the best advice I could give. There is really no way to avoid being automatically detected by someone. By detected I mean detected as an American, and labeled or defined as one. Whether the label has meaning or not didn't really matter to me--I felt cheated out of being able to show who i really am, and it was hard at first! But just being prepared for that means you can focus on moving on from it, moving past it, and showing who you are!

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Great program that is challenging but not stressful or overwhelming. Great opportunities to study alongside students of the culture.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Study abroad is different for everyone, but it has something to offer everyone.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

Yes

No

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?

Yes

No

N/A - Did not attend meetings

ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

Handouts were helpful, but the meeting was not. I think my meeting was an anomaly, though. There weren't any students there to talk to us about their experience, and the meeting was short. I also had trouble getting in touch with students who had been abroad. More opportunities to be with post-abroad students would be great.

Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

.....

Your year of (expected) graduation:

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

What was the period of your study abroad?

2008-2009 Fall Semester

2008-2009 - Spring Semester

2008-2009 - Academic Year

2007-2008-2009 - Spring then Fall Semester

Given that overseas educational systems differ significantly from our own, please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. What effects did this different academic environment have on how you learned, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment.

While in a German classroom, one cannot "space out," or fail to pay attention, and then expect to pop right back into the conversation at hand with ease. Taking courses at a German university forced me to listen and concentrate even harder than I would have to in the United States. Giving oral presentations also forced me to express myself as clearly as possible in German, especially when asked on-the-spot questions not planned out by a script held in front of me. The German university system also forced me to be a lot more independent as far as research and making the appropriate resources available for my own use.

AFTER studying abroad, how do you now view the differences/similarities between the culture of your host country and that of your own?

	Identical	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Somewhat Different	Very Different
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Comment:

I had a hard time adjusting to the lack of American friendliness overseas--not that Germans weren't friendly, but the degree of friendliness, towards strangers, especially, differed just enough for me to notice a change. Little things added up to make it evident that the German culture is not identical to American culture: shops always closed on Sundays, bagging your own groceries, paying to use restrooms, and lots of festivals celebrating all kinds of new and different holidays are only a few examples I can mention.

How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? In what ways has it influenced your perceptions of American culture?

I can honestly say that when I return to Germany, I will understand the culture and the people infinitely better from spending this year abroad. Despite the fact that America is my homeland, I now have a new perspective of my country, and namely that it is not necessarily the best or greatest; there are pros and cons to living in every country, depending on your own point of view.

In what ways has study abroad contributed to your personal growth? What personal characteristics did you find most useful during your time abroad?

I am no longer shy to express myself, especially when it comes to speaking in English, since there are no excuses at being at a loss for the right word! My outgoing nature was definitely helpful in conversing with native speakers as a foreigner, and my eagerness in learning the language helped me to challenge myself and really improve my GERman.

How has study abroad influenced your academic and career goals? How has it influenced your personal goals?

I am now able to comfortably write and speak in German, which is a huge step from where I was before I left for Mainz. Although I still make mistakes and need to listen very attentively at times to catch every word, I can honestly say that I feel very fluent in this language, which was a huge personal goal for me when I entered college.

What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

- Homestay
- Dormitory/Student Residence/Foyer
- Apartment
- Other (please describe)

Do you feel that your housing situation provided you with an opportunity to integrate into the host culture, and/or provided you a context for gaining insight into the host culture?

	Not at all - it was isolating	Somewhat helpful, but less than I expected	As helpful as I expected	Somewhat more helpful than I'd expected	Very helpful in terms of fostering insights and/or my integration
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please comment on your response to the question above.

In the student dormitories, there are a lot of international students. Although this is a very cool environment in which to live, it did not integrate me into the German culture. I did not meet many native speakers my first semester, although I did practice my German with other non-native speakers. The second semester is when I really challenged myself to speak with native speakers and really improved my German.

Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, how well do you feel that your mainstream classes helped you to develop relationships with nationals of the host country or integrate into the host culture?

- Poor
- Neutral
- Helpful
- Very Helpful
- Not Applicable

Comments

Not a lot of interaction with classmates.

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities or internships?

- Yes
- No

What kind of progress did you make in your listening comprehension of the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to read in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to write in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

What kind of progress did you make in your ability to speak in the language?

	No improvement	Little improvement	Improved somewhat	Improved	Very much improved
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please comment on the progress you made in your target language. Was it greater or less than you had expected? What do you think were some of the factors that contributed to your progress (or lack thereof), either on your own part or on the part of the program? Do you have any specific suggestions for the program and/or for future students that pertain to language learning?

Although it was a lot of hard work, I came out probably more fluent than I had imagined when I arrived in Germany at the end of September for the first time. Writing four twelve page papers each semester definitely contributed to this improvement, as it included not only writing itself, but also research in the target language and discussions with professors and tutors about the topics and the papers themselves. Also my location, Mainz, contributed greatly to this improvement. I feel that if I were in a bigger city (i.e Berlin) I would not have gotten the attention I needed both from the program director and from the professors. I also do not think that I would have succeeded in speaking German as often as I did in Mainz.

Are there any particular academic strengths of your host university/program that you would recommend to other students?

- Yes
 No

Please explain:

As far as improving German, the university was obviously more than satisfactory, but as far as content goes, I can't say that I was impressed by any specific department.

Are there any particular academic weaknesses of which other students should also be aware?

- Yes
 No

Please explain:

There are larger classes, and the library system is very different from Middlebury.

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #1

The 1980's (upper)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

12 page paper

Please describe the course content:

It was a cultural studies class that looked at different themes and phenomena of the 1980's in Germany.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Students would present each class, and the professor did very little teaching.

Other comments about this course:

Not a heavy amount of reading, and a very nice professor that was very helpful in helping me to plan out my paper.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #2

National Socialism (intro)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

12 page paper

Describe course content

The history of National Socialism in Germany

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

For the first few weeks of history classes in Mainz, one studies historical methods, which detracts from the time spent on the actual material of the course.

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #3

Critique of Religion (upper)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

12 page paper

Describe course content

We studied the philosophy of criticizing Religion, and read authors like D'Holbach, Feuerbach, and Hobbes to gain different perspectives.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Lecture from Professor, readings every week, questions from students but no real discussion.

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #4

Post World War II Germany (upper)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

12 page paper and oral presentation

Describe course content

We studied different cultural aspects of post War Germany--the role of women, the return of soldiers and prisoners of war, the occupational zones, and rebuilding Germany itself.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Every week a student or a group of students would present, the professor did little teaching. In this way, each student had his or her own theme on which he or she was an expert.

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #5

History of the Stasi (seminar)

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

12 page paper, oral presentation

Describe course content

Studying the hisotry of the secret police during the German Democratic Republic.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Very similar to a Middlebury classroom-- a lot of discussion and also a mixture of lecture and outside course readings.

Other comments about this course:

Field trip to Erfurt Stasi Prison was a plus.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #6

Images of America

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

12 page paper and an oral presentation

Describe course content

This course studied the German views of America from before the 19th century until post-Vietnam war.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Each student would present every class--the professor only lectured on a few occasions.

Other comments about this course:

The topic was interesting, especially as an American!

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #7

Jewish Identity in Literature of the 19th and 20th centuries

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

12 page paper

Describe course content

We read various essays, short stories, and novels addressing the idea of Identity in a globalized world, and then different aspects of the Jewish identity itself as expressed through literature.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

Discussion based class, a lot of outside reading.

Other comments about this course:

Unfortunately a lot of students were never really "up for" discussions.

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us about the courses you took, including what level (intro/upper/seminar.) If you did an independent study project or internship, please describe it.

Course Title #8

The political system of Germany

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Johannes Gutenberg

Means of assessment (e.g., papers, exams, homework, etc.)

12 page paper

Describe course content

Studying the different facets of the German political system.

Please describe the means by which the material/concepts for this course were conveyed, particularly if the teaching style was different from what you are used to.

"Lecture"

Other comments about this course:

.....

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"I learned a great deal in this course."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please indicate the extent of your agreement with the following statement:

"The instructor's teaching in this course was effective."

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For the following questions, please rate your experience with Middlebury staff and staff abroad using the five-point scales provided.

Did Middlebury provide you with adequate information prior to departure?

	Poor		Good		Excellent
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Did Middlebury provide you with sufficient support while you were abroad?

Poor

Good

Excellent

Were the on-site staff (Resident Director, Academic Director, Resident Coordinator, support staff, etc.) helpful to you during your study abroad?

Not helpful

Somewhat helpful

Very helpful

Were your on-site staff concerned about your general well being and success, and approachable?

- Not concerned or approachable
- Approachable, but not concerned
- Concerned, but not approachable
- Somewhat concerned and approachable
- Very concerned and approachable

Did you see or experience any form of discrimination or harassment in your host country?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above, what advice would you give to future students? Likewise, if you have advice for Middlebury staff, please share that as well.

It was my experience that foreign women don't seem to be discriminated against in a negative way, but that foreign males did tend to have a harder time. Americans were definitely treated differently from other foreigners, however. Most found them fascinating, and wanted to practice their English.

Would you recommend that other students attend this program or university? Why or why not?

- Yes
- No

Please explain:

Very good location, and a good variety of courses to take.

What advice would you give to other students considering study abroad in general, and this program or university in particular?

Getting involved and pursuing your own interests is definitely something I wished I had more actively endeavored to do!

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you attend Middlebury's on-campus pre-departure orientation meeting(s)?

Yes

No

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY: Did you find the pre-departure meetings and handouts useful?

Yes

No

N/A - Did not attend meetings

ALL STUDENTS: What aspects of the pre-departure process did you find particularly useful (or not), and how would you recommend that we improve the pre-departure meeting or supplemental materials?

Having students that had actually studied with the program was a very helpful aspect. Providing their e-mail addresses was also a plus. I myself spoke individually with a girl that had studied abroad in Mainz, and this made all of the difference in preparing me mentally. The handy study abroad book was also very helpful for both predeparture and in the country itself.