



Middlebury Schools Abroad Evaluation: 2007-2008

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 (this does not apply to non-Middlebury students). Please note: If you studied abroad for two semesters on two different programs, you must submit two separate evaluations.

The staff of the Middlebury Schools Abroad/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 1 inclusive.

1. Home Institution

Middlebury College

Other Institution

If other than Middlebury, please indicate your home institution:

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2. Your academic program

Major

German

Month & Year of (expected) graduation

May 2009

3. What was the period of your study abroad?

fall semester

spring semester

academic year

spring semester followed by fall semester

4. Given that educational systems abroad 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 your learning, both inside and outside the classroom? In what ways did you benefit from being in a different academic environment?

Inside the classroom I felt that the academic environment was, for the most part, very similar to an american university. I had very little problem adjusting to the requirements and the reading level was comparable to Middlebury. Outside of the classroom I was at times frustrated by the vast differences in the overall library system in place in Germany, as well as the reluctance of some professors to interact with students. I definitely am able to better appreciate Middlebury College at this point, and my language abilities have improved, but I also benefitted by viewing education differently and having a different viewpoint on education. I also have gained much more patience in dealing with faculty due to what was required of me in Berlin.

5. 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"/>

6. Please Comment:

Germans tend to view Americans as superficial and ignorant, and it is at times hard to become close friends with German people, however once you have become their friend you gain a lifelong friendship. Germany is a lot more liberal in a lot of areas including green energy and organic foods, and a that reflects in the individuals. Also Germans are very punctual and orderly and organized, and the relationship between individuals tends to be formal most of the time, whereas in the united states many aspects of this formality do not exist.

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

I feel that studying abroad has made me much more mature and responsible than I was before. Being completely self-reliant is difficult both before college and even at a place like Middlebury, where so much of your life is taken care of for you. Being off campus and having different deadlines than are normal for Middlebury forced me to really plan for myself and make sure that I completed everything necessary, not only for my studies but also for my various bills and rent. Also a strong sense of self was really important for me both at the beginning of my study abroad experience and mid-year when I was on my own, with fewer friends and had to be alone a lot more than I would be at Middlebury surrounded by the same few hundred people with whom I had become very familiar over my first two years.

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

Study abroad has made me even more sure that I have made the correct decision in my academic life and has inspired me to continue not only with German, but learning more languages in order to remain abroad for the majority of my life and throughout my career. It has also opened up more post-graduate opportunities for me because I now know I can move back to Berlin and be surrounded by friends and connections, and that I can very easily secure a job while I apply for graduate schools, and even do graduate studies and research in Berlin.

9. What was your housing situation during your study abroad?

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

10. 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 type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

11. Please comment on your response to the question above.

Living in my own apartment was absolutely the best part of the experience. I would definitely NOT have wanted a homestay. Both the responsibility and initiative required to pay my rent and be a good roommate were growing and learning experiences. Living in an apartment also allowed me to feel very comfortable and at home in a new city, and provided me with a place where I can feel comfortable bringing new friends and thereby fostering closer relationships. Also, I lived with a 31 year old Berlin native who took on the role of practically an older sister and really helped me feel at home and adjusted to my new city, which was totally irreplaceable for me.

12. Did you take courses alongside students from the host country?

- Yes
- No

13. 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

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

- Yes
- No

15. 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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

16. 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 checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

17. 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

18. 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

19. 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?

The improvement was definitely as I had expected it would be, but at first it was difficult for me to recognize. I entered the program already essentially fluent in German and so I did not experience the quick and drastic progress that my peers did, however I had the opportunity through my study, total immersion and many friendships with native speakers to finetune my language abilities to attain an even higher level of fluency in the language, as well as write and read more efficiently and with less dependency on dictionaries.

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

Political Science at the Freie Universitaet is definitely their strongest area and can only be recommended.

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

.....

22. 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

Global Justice and Individual Responsibility - Seminar

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Free University Berlin - Otto Suhr Insititute

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

Oral Report, Discussion, Final Paper

Please describe the course content:

Readings focused on political theorists in mostly German, but some English, regarding the topics of global justice and individual responsibility in the 20th and 21st 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.

The reading was assigned in a large reader, and then we focused on different readings each class period, with students giving oral reports on the reading and then the professor leading a discussion on the topics addressed

Other comments about this course:

.....

23. 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"/>

24. 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"/>

25. 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

Gender Relations in the Classic Modern Period - Seminar

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Free University Berlin

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

Oral Report, Discussion, Final Paper

Describe course content

We read a selection of novels and short readings in German during the literary period known as the Classic Modern Period, and focused on and discussed the idea of gender and relationships between various genders within the texts

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.

Everyone would read the texts and a small group of students would give a report with discussion topics, then the professor would lead a discussion for the remainder of the class touching on what they presented

Other comments about this course:

.....

26. 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"/>

27. 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"/>

28. 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

Memory and Right - Seminar

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Free University Berlin

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

In-Class Discussion, Final Paper

Describe course content

We read various seminal texts on the Holocaust and the Second World War from various preeminent authors and discussed the ideas of memorializing the Holocaust, as well as learning the history of Germany's coming to terms with the Holocaust from directly after the Second World War until the present

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 would read sections from the texts in class and discuss any ideas/questions we had about each text with the group

Other comments about this course:

This was probably my least favorite course. I felt the teaching style lacked efficiency, it was a very small class with very poor attendance and I felt I learned more from the texts themselves and found the class almost superfluous.

29. 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"/>

30. 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"/>

31. 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 International Relations

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Free University Berlin - Otto Suhr Institute

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

Oral Report, Attendance, In-Class Discussion, Final Exam

Describe course content

This class was an introduction to the main four theories of international relations and the newer minor theories that have come from them, along with a lot of examples of different areas of international politics and how the theories can be applied to each of them.

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.

There was a traditional lecture in a huge hall where the professor would lecture in front of a power point, then a second discussion section where students would give oral reports on readings and a very lively discussion would inevitably ensue. This was taught by tutors / grad students.

Other comments about this course:

This was by far my best course all semester.

32. 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"/>

33. 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"/>

34. 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

National Socialism and the Post-War Era in Germany - Seminar

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Free University Berlin

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

In-Class Discussion, Oral Report, Final Paper

Describe course content

This class covered the most important, seminal works of post-war era German literature and went into deep discussion about the themes present in each work, as well as how it dealt with questions of national socialism and the after-effects thereof.

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 discussion heavily led by the professor, as well as oral reports from individual students

Other comments about this course:

This was definitely my best course of the Semester

35. 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"/>

36. 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"/>

37. 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

From Naturalism to Expressionism - Seminar/Lecture

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Free University Berlin

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

Final Exam

Describe course content

This lecture would take place once a week, and the professor would go through texts that bridged the literary movements between and including naturalism and expressionism, delving into what aspects of the texts were related to these movements as well as the time period in which these literary movements were occurring.

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 would stand at the podium with the texts enlarged on a screen behind him and lecture about the authors and their works, giving historical background as well as personal incite.

Other comments about this course:

.....

38. 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"/>

39. 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"/>

40. 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

The Divided Berlin - Seminar

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Free University Berlin - Otto Suhr Institute

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

Oral Report, Final Paper

Describe course content

This class dealt with the political implications and specific laws as well as historical events during the Cold War in Berlin. Ranging from directly post- WW2, spanning the building of the Berlin Wall to its downfall and the defeat of Communism in 1989. It went very in-depth in terms of specific rules and regulations within Berlin at this time.

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.

Individual students would present information, and the rest of the students were responsible for researching and reading about topics on their own with their own researching skills - no readers or assignments were provided. Then the Professor, an expert on the topic, would go in depth about certain topics, answering questions and fostering some debate.

Other comments about this course:

.....

41. 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"/>

42. 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"/>

43. 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

Erich Kaestner - Children's Books and Films - Seminar

At which institution/university did you take this course?

Free University Berlin

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

In-Class Discussion, Oral Report, Final Paper

Describe course content

Erich Kaestner is the best known German children's authors of all time and the filming of his children's novels revolutionized the film industry by creating films specifically for children. This class was about his novels and the film adaptations of them.

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 would watch clips of the films in class after having read the associated novel, and have Professor-led discussions about topics within the novels and how certain aspects were translated to film.

Other comments about this course:

.....

44. 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"/>

45. 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"/>

46. Did Middlebury provide you with an appropriate orientation on arrival?

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

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

Poor

Good

Excellent

48. 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

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

Berlin is an incredible city and the university is challenging, but worthwhile. I think everyone should go to Berlin. It is an inspiring, modern, multi-cultural, thrilling, and inexpensive city. Living there is cheap, there are so many opportunities for cultural experiences - its amazing,

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

Go for a year if at all possible. It is difficult and requires planning, but it is so worth it. Also, try to get an internship and take advantage of being in a foreign country as much as possible. Try to travel and visit other students studying abroad, get around your host country and be open to any and all opportunities that are presented to you.

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

Yes

No

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

- Yes
- No
- N/A - Did not attend meetings

54. 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?

I don't really think I can think of any way to necessarily improve the pre-departure process. I would recommend that you make it clear that students really will NOT be happy living in the dorms at the Free University and should definitely find an apartment, which is very easy to do in Berlin.