German-American Summer Program
in
Communication Studies @ University of Erfurt/Germany
The Summer Program in Communications Erfurt (SPICE) is a unique German-American undergraduate summer program in the field of communication studies initiated in 2005 by Prof. Dr. Patrick Rössler and organized by his research assistant Kathleen Arendt at the University of Erfurt, Germany. The official partnership with four US-American universities (University of Southern California, Washington State University, University of Texas at Austin and University of Oklahoma) joint by our new partner, the University of Ottawa in Canada, in 2009 serves as a strong foundation to give American students the opportunity to gain credits during their summer break, enjoy cultural exchange and expand their academic and personal networks.

Two intensive 4-week courses are taught by faculty of our partner universities focusing on state-of-the art issues in the field of communication studies. Complementing the academic program taking place at the University of Erfurt campus, students participate in a one-week trip to Berlin with visits of media and public relations institutions and companies to gain deeper insights into the media landscape of Germany. A cultural and recreational program in and around Erfurt is organized for the students. German communication students participate in the SPICE courses as elective courses and benefit from the outstanding scholarly expertise of our lecturers and the intercultural learning experience in the classroom.

The first year of SPICE in 2006 (still with only two official partners: USC & WSU) took place with two outstanding lecturers (Prof. Dr. Peter Vorderer/USC and Prof. Dr. Rick Busselle/WSU), five American students and ten German students (two from the University of Ilmenau). Despite intensive promotional activities in 2007, the number of students who signed up for the program unfortunately remained below the critical number of participants to run the program. Two additional partner universities (University of Oklahoma and University of Texas at Austin) successfully extended our network to offer SPICE 2008 with seven student participants from the US and 23 German and international students from the universities of Erfurt, Weimar and Ilmenau taking part in two undergraduate level and one graduate level course.
Prof. Dr. Mark L. Knapp, Jesse H. Jones Centennial Professor in Communication and Distinguished Teaching Professor from the University of Texas at Austin shared his expert knowledge on “Lying and Deception in Human Interaction” and provided an unforgettable learning experience for all students. Prof. Dr. Katerina Tsetsura from the University of Oklahoma, internationally known expert in the field of public relations, provided theoretical and practical insights in various aspects of “Global and International Public Relations” well connected to the field trip activities in Berlin. Prof. Dr. Rick Busselle, Professor for Communication at Washington State University taught a graduate level course on “Narratives in Media and the Social Construction of Reality” and was one of the keynote speakers for the two-day graduate student workshop on “Narratives in Health Communication, Persuasion and Cultivation”.

**SPICE 2009**

Planning and scheduling for SPICE 2009 is underway. The program will take place from **June 15 to August 13, 2009**. The one-week Berlin trip is scheduled for July 13 to July 17, 2009.

We will offer two consecutive communication studies courses (disrupted by the Berlin trip). All courses will be taught in English by faculty from our partner universities. American students will join German students in the classroom for a truly intercultural learning experience.

Students will be housed in single or double rooms in the University’s dorms on campus. Rooms are part of apartment units with shared bathroom and kitchen facilities. Students will share the apartment with German or foreign students. Participants will be responsible for all meals.

Program costs for SPICE 2009 sum up to a total of $2,900 per participant. This price includes two courses, accommodation and the Berlin trip (transfer and accommodation). NOT included are the flight, insurance, personal expenses, food and the additional excursions offered. Additional administration fees at the home university might apply.

Interested students need to contact the study abroad offices or SPICE contact persons at the partner universities for further information on application procedure, requirements and deadlines.
WHY SPICE?

The SPICE program is perceived as a unique opportunity by all lecturers and participants. American students decide for the program because of the course topics, the unique time frame, low costs and the appeal of spending a summer in Erfurt and not a bigger city in Europe. They also stress the quality of the academic program due to the commitment of outstanding communication scholars and the intercultural experience in- and outside the classroom. German communication students emphasize the fact, that they can experience internationally honored communication scholars in an intense, English-language based learning environment that provides them with unique opportunities to build academic networks and lay the foundation for a future academic career. Lecturers decide to commit to the program because of intensive nature of the classes, the diverse group of students, collaboration opportunities with Erfurt scholars and the excellent conditions (teaching, housing, salary).

We thank the University of Erfurt and our partner universities for supporting the program and look forward to SPICE 2009.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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