

the **epic** ADVANTAGE

Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Experience

Berlin: Perspectives on Diversity and Multiculturalism

Dates: May 15 -June 5, 2020

Credits: Choice of 0 or 3

Leader: Margaret Hampton and Alcione Frederick

Application Deadline: November 1, 2019



Description of Experience and Research:

Until about a quarter of a century ago, Germany never really saw itself as a “country of migration”. Moreover, even in the late 20th and early 21st centuries some still believed that in order to be “truly German”, one had to have “German blood’. This was true despite the fact that Germany’s borders and the people living within those borders had been moving and changing constantly for centuries.

During the last few decades, the political and economic changes occurring worldwide have forced more and more people to seek refuge, asylum, or better lives for themselves and their families outside of the countries of their birth. Many have come to Germany. Those who made the choice to do so joined generations of people who for centuries have come to Germany for the same or similar reasons. For them, “German blood” is not a criterium for being German. Germany for them is a place were many ethnicities, cultures, religions, and languages are represented. Still many of them experience some form of discrimination or othering.

With the help of local scholars, activists, community leaders, and representatives of non-profit organizations, participants in this program examine the ethnic, religious and cultural diversity of Berlin. Through the lens of three major groups (and some members of the Muslim Community) living in the city: Africans and Afro-Germans, Turkish Germans, and Jewish Germans.

Career and research focus:

This program is suitable for students seeking a career in Peace and Global Studies, Social Justice, AAAS, Art History, and German, as well as for students who are still exploring different pathways toward possible future careers.

Location and Living Arrangements:

This experience will take place in Berlin, Germany. Our home base will be The German Language School Berlin (GLS). GLS will provide housing, German language instruction for participants during the first week of the experience, and other general services, as needed.

Faculty:

Margaret Hampton, Professor of German, teaches courses in language, literature, and culture. She has done Ford/Knight Collaborative Projects with Earlham students on Women in German, Islam in Germany, and German Colonialism in German Southwest Africa. She has led several of Earlham's Germany and Germany/Austria Programs, and has co-led Programs to Berlin about Diversity in Germany sponsored by the American Association for the Teaching of German for US German teachers. In 2006 she designed and initiated Earlham's May Term in Berlin. This will be her seventh time leading a group of students to Berlin.

Alcione Frederick, Director of Student Engagement is the faculty advisor to the Earlham Student Government, co-advisor to the 60+ student organizations, and oversees co-curricular programming on campus. Alcione is a former Peace Corps Senegal Volunteer and a former program coordinator for the Envision Leadership program in Sydney, Australia.

Expectations for Students:

To develop a knowledge of another culture and an awareness of their own cultural constraints

To learn to listen to, carefully observe, and respect others' ways of seeing the world

To develop a knowledge base, skills, and strategies needed for effective cultural and intercultural understanding

To understand the historical and cultural contexts of texts and discourses

To learn how to work collaboratively in a group of diverse participants and partners

To learn how to ask good questions that could lead to even better questions as well as to potential answers

To learn how texts (in different forms) can be used as tools of social change and cross-cultural dialogue

To learn how to read a city and use it as text. To learn to see what may not be seen at first glance

To understand and discuss a variety of texts and experiences

To develop good, persuasive, informative, and stimulating presentational skills

Preparation

Students will be required to take a 1 credit EPIC Advantage Orientation seminar during the Spring 2019 academic semester. This seminar will provide the necessary background and travel logistics for students to maximize the experience. Class meeting dates/times will be determined in the future.

Student Eligibility

Preference given to rising juniors and seniors. Rising sophomores and May graduates are eligible to apply. Ideally, students will have a strong background/interest in ancient Greece or the study of material culture.

Cost to Student:

This experience is funded as an Epic Advantage opportunity. Funding includes travel, room and board and additional expenses as required by the program. This funding does not include the cost of passports and immunizations or other personal expenses.

Program plans subject to change.

Program Policies: <https://earlham.edu/academics/off-campus-study/program-policies/>