

IRE214

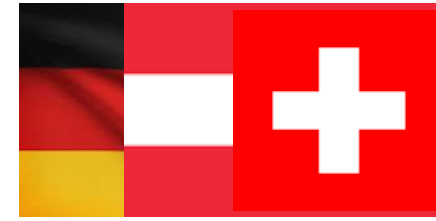
**CULTURE, SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE GERMAN-
SPEAKING COUNTRIES**

Maya Hadar

Fall 2019

Session 1: Course Introduction

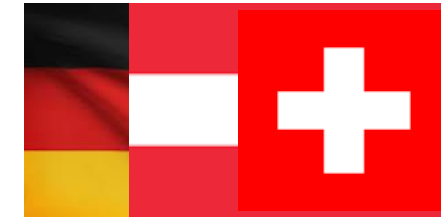
Introduction to IRE214



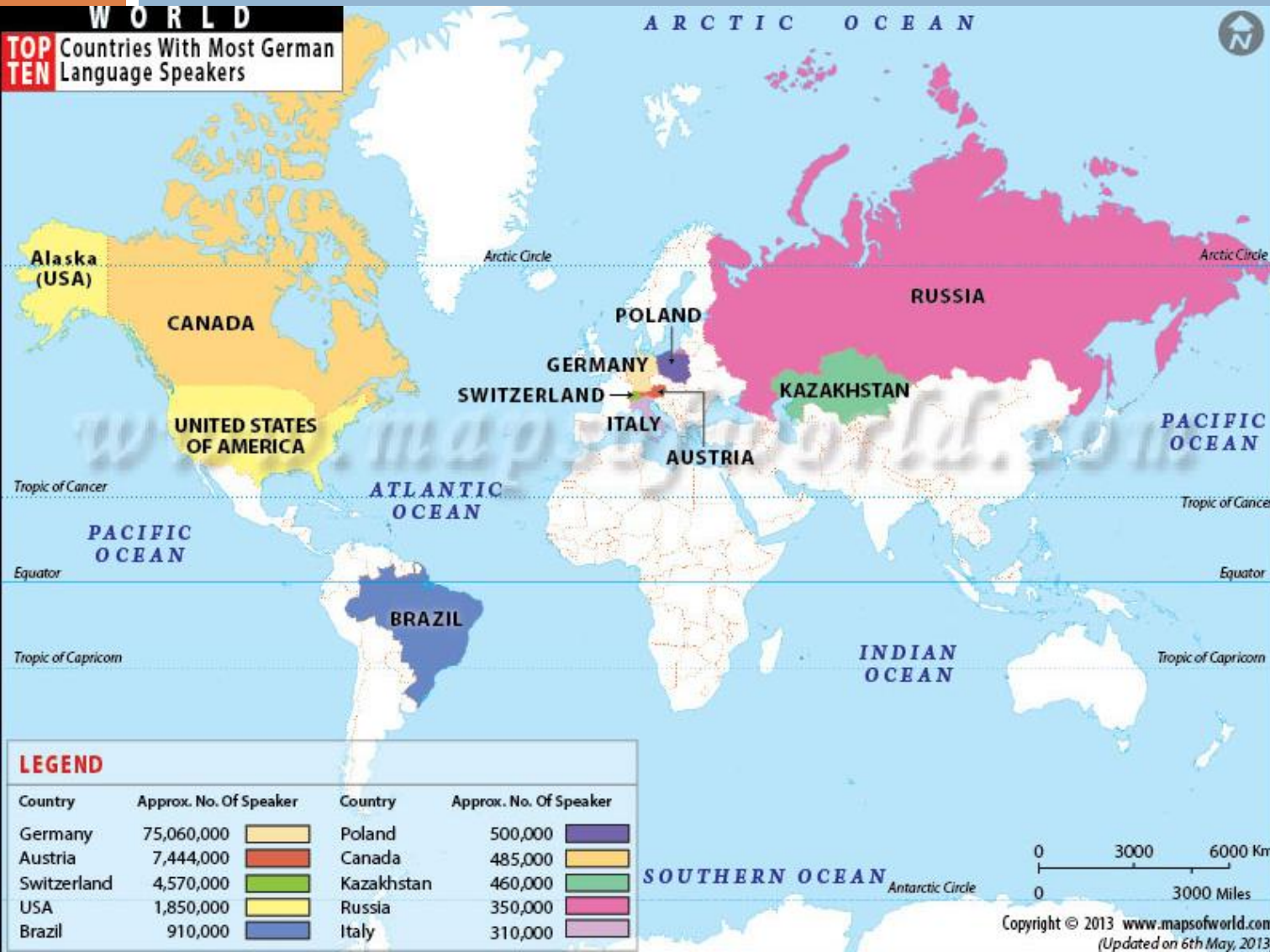
2

- **Overview of the German Speaking countries**
- **Why should we study them?**
- **Course Description, Expected Outcomes, Structure & Requirements**
- **Discussion**
- **Germany Trivia**

The German Speaking Countries

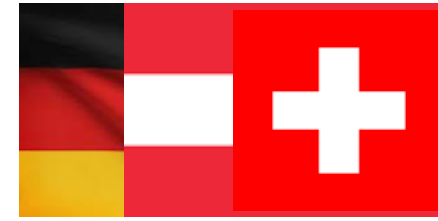


3

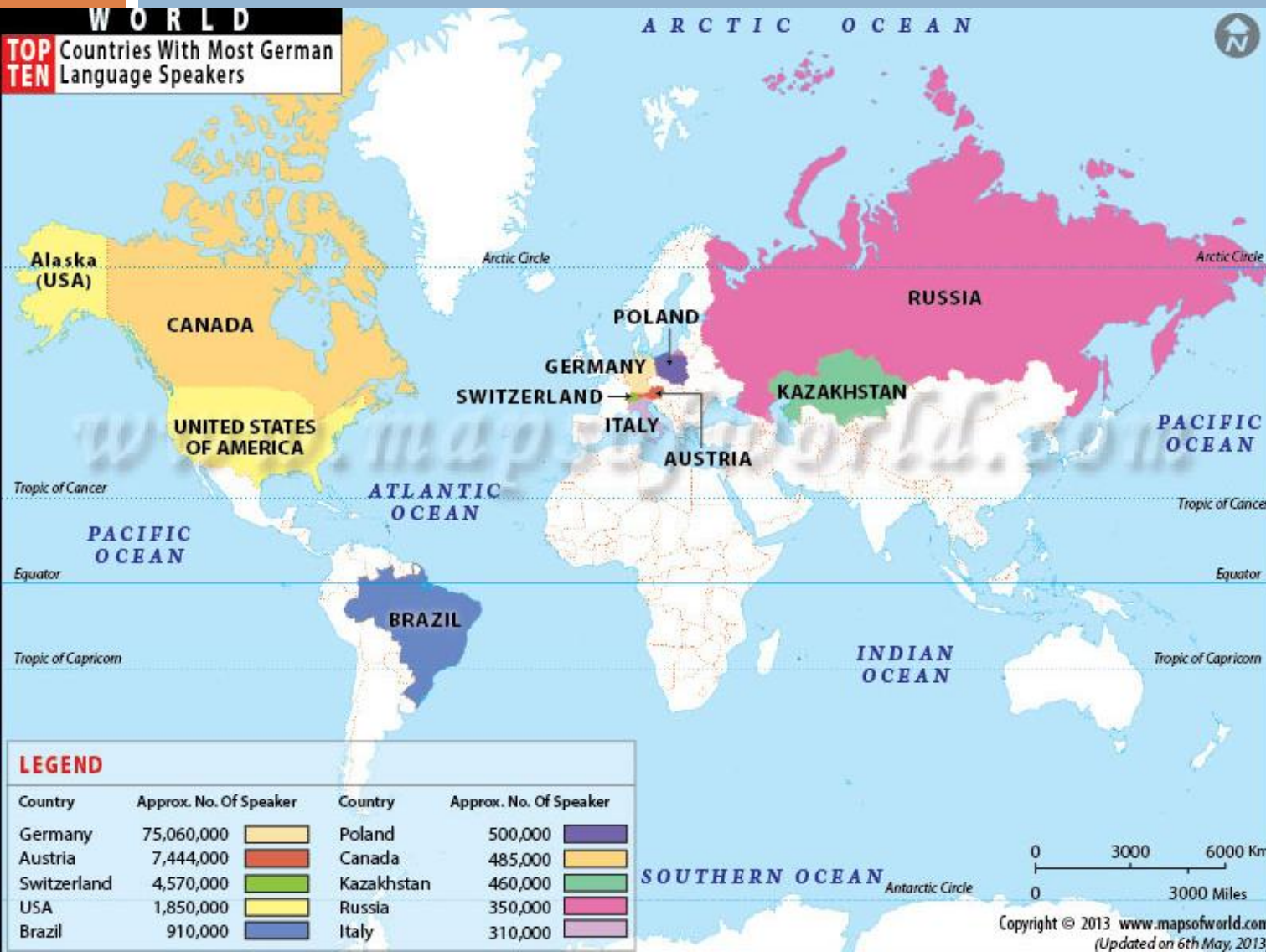


- Over **95 million people** around the world speak **German** as their primary language
- Official language of **six countries**, all in Europe => Austria, Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg & Switzerland
- In **Germany**, 91.8% of the population speak German as their native language (> 74 million)

The German Speaking Countries

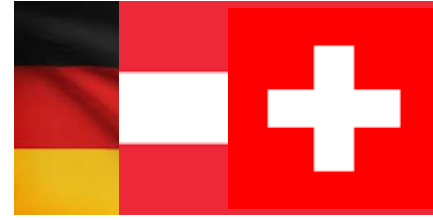


4



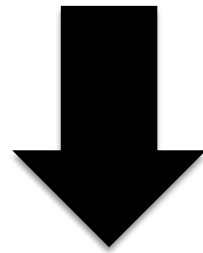
- About 5.6 million people speak German as their second language
- **Over 78% of the world's total German speakers live in Germany**
- Over 8% live in **Austria**
- Over 7% live in other countries

Why Should we Learn About the GSC?



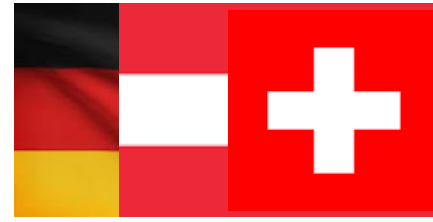
5

- ◆ Historical legacy (imperialism, WW II, etc.)
- ◆ Strong economies
- ◆ EU
- ◆ Reunification (Germany)
- ◆ Immensely developed political system (Switzerland)
- ◆ History and culture (Austria)



Rich and democratic, politically important, culturally important

Course Description

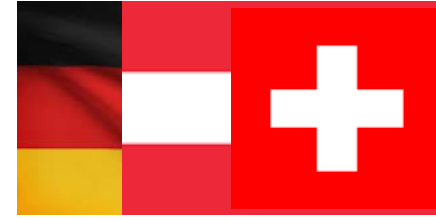


6

◆ Why should I take this course?

- ◆ Provides **extensive introduction** to the three largest German-speaking societies (GSC) => Germany, Austria and Switzerland
- ◆ **Interdisciplinary** (history, politics, international relations), **multilevel** (national, regional, global)

Course Description

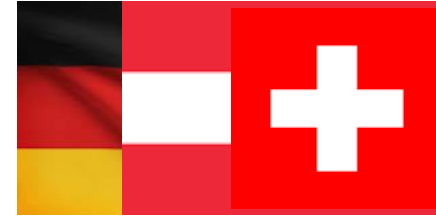


7

◆ Topics to be discussed =>

- ◆ Culture (food, language), Religion, economy, political structure and how they came to be
- ◆ European politics & World Wars
- ◆ The German divide (post ww2) and reunification
- ◆ Social diversity and national identities
- ◆ Contemporary minority culture and future challenges

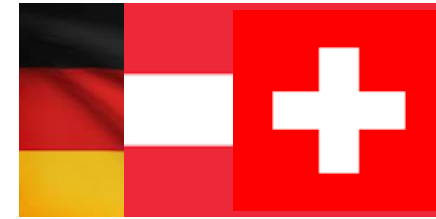
Course Outcomes



8

- ◆ Become familiar with **histories, politics & cultural diversity** within the German-speaking countries
- ◆ Gain insights into **ideas, trends and discourses** that have shaped the **contemporary** German, Austrian & Swiss societies
- ◆ **Compare & contrast** the different German speaking societies from various angles (political, cultural, social)
- ◆ Competently **analyze current political events** in a larger spectrum (the future of the EU, rise of the political right, refugees welcome?)

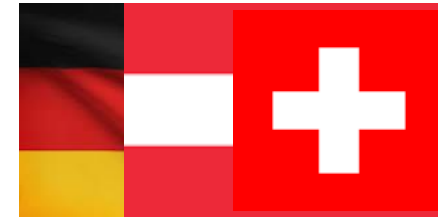
Course Structure



9

Sep 25	1. Introduction	
Oct 2	2. Introduction to Germany, German Federalism	
Oct 9	3. Germany => Marks, Hegel and Luther's Reformation	Reading week
Oct 16	4. Germany => Political History and Political Thought Between World Wars	
Oct 23	5. Germany => German Unification and the Question of 'National Identity' in Modern-day Germany	
Nov 6	6. Germany => German Minorities in Contemporary Times	
Nov 13	7. Introduction to Austria	Quiz
Nov 20	8. Austria => Austrian National Identity, Politics and Contemporary Minorities	
Nov 27	9. Introduction to Switzerland	Quiz
Dec 4	10. Switzerland => Direct Democracy, Federalism and Political Stability	
Dec 11	11. Comparative Analysis	
Dec 18	12. Final Session (summary, concluding remarks, the final exam)	

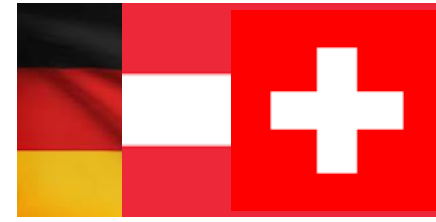
Course Requirements



10

- ◆ Grades will be based on **two quizzes** (40%) and a **final exam** (60%)
- ◆ Successful completion of the course requires the **successful completion of BOTH** grade components
- ◆ **Attendance is not mandatory but encouraged**
- ◆ **The mandatory reading is mandatory!** Students are expected to **read** the required literature for each lecture (it will make the lectures more interesting and easier to study for the final exam)

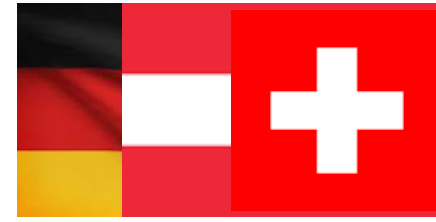
Quizzes (40%)



11

- ◆ Upon **completion** of the **Germany** and **Austria** sections of the course, a quiz will be held in class
- ◆ Each quiz will include **10 multiple-choice questions and 2 open questions**
 - ◆ 1st quiz (20%) => 13.11.2019
 - ◆ 2nd quiz (20%) => 27.11.2019
- ◆ **No re-sit**, unapproved absence/failure => 'incomplete' grade

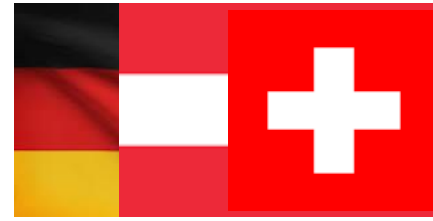
The Final Exam (60%)



12

- ◆ **3 dates, choose one and register via IS**
 - ◆ Late December
 - ◆ Mid January
 - ◆ Early February
- ◆ The **exact exam dates** will be posted on **IS** during the semester (no later than week 10)
- ◆ **Further information concerning the exam** (structure, duration) will be given in **class** towards the end of the semester

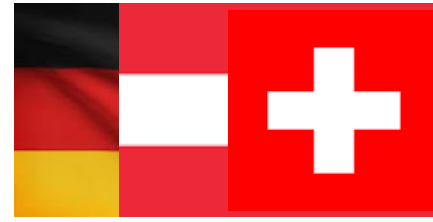
General Notes



13

- ◆ **Mandatory** (assigned) **reading** is available **on IS**
- ◆ **Further reading** if you're interested (focused, examples, etc.)
- ◆ The **lectures** will be **uploaded to IS** after each session
- ◆ **Don't worry if English is not your native language!**
- ◆ Even though this is a lecture and not a seminar, your active participation is particularly valued

Contacting the Lecturer



14

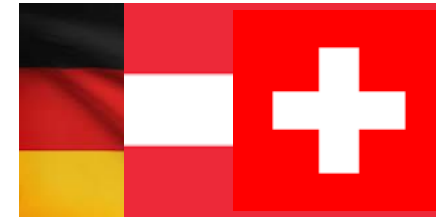
◆ When?

- ◆ There are NO stupid questions
- ◆ Technical issues (IS, accessibility of the reading material)
- ◆ Absence from quizzes, only **ahead of time**
- ◆ Want to Chat (e.g., studying in the GSC)

◆ How?

- ◆ Via email (issue and course ID in the topic please)
- ◆ Office hours: Wednesdays 12-13

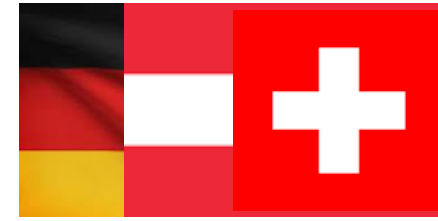
Discussion



15

- ◆ **Have you visited/studies in any of the German speaking countries?**
 - ◆ Which one? Why? What did you like/disliked the most?
 - ◆ In what way are the GSC different from the Czech Republic/your home country?
- ◆ **What do you think are the main similarities/differences between the German speaking countries? Are they more similar or distinct?**

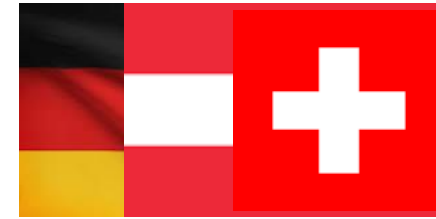
GSC- Basic Comparison



16

Similarities	Differences
The German Language	The German Language

GSC- Basic Comparison



17

Similarities	Differences
The German Language	The German Language
Regional differences within the countries	Size
Religious fractions (mostly Protestant and catholic)	Religious fractions (Catholic Austria)
Laws (EU regulation)	Laws (smoking)
EU membership	Switzerland's economic & trade relations with the EU are governed by bilateral agreements where Switzerland agreed to take over certain aspects of EU legislation in exchange for accessing part of the EU's single market

Germany Trivia



18

◆ **Germany is composed of 10 states**



◆ **The states have their own constitution and are largely autonomous in regard to their internal organization**



◆ **Germany borders with nine countries**



(Denmark, Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands)

Germany Trivia



19

◆ **All highways in Germany (Autobahn) have no speed limit**



◆ **In Germany there is no tuition** (for everyone, even for non-Germans, even when you study in English)



◆ **Germany is the fourth largest economy in the world**
(behind the US, China and Japan)





Germany Trivia

20

- ◆ Germany is the **EU's largest economy**



- ◆ **Germany's capital is Berlin**, before it was always **Bonn**

Aachen, Regensburg, Frankfurt-am-Main, Nuremberg, Berlin, Weimar, Bonn and East Berlin, have all, at some point, been **capitals of Germany**



- ◆ **Berlin is 9 times bigger than Paris and has more bridges than Venice**



Germany Trivia



21

◆ **One-third of Germany is covered with forests/woodlands**



◆ The Christmas tree tradition came from Germany



◆ The first book was printed in Germany



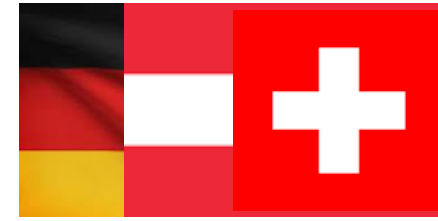


Germany => Fun facts

22

- ◆ There are 35 dialects of the German language
- ◆ In 1976, **Germany lost a penalty shootout** in the **European Championships** against Czechoslovakia (5-3). On the 4 other occasions that Germans reached the final- they won
- ◆ When **JFK** visited **Berlin**, he famously said “**Ich bin ein Berliner,**” which also translates to “I am a jelly donut”
- ◆ **Donaudampfschiffahrtselektrizitätenhauptbetriebswerkbauunterbeamtengesellschaft** is the longest word to be published (company for subordinated state employees for the main control office for electricity construction for Danube Steamboat shipping)

Next Session... Germany



23

- ◆ **Facts and figures, German federalism, political parties**
 - ◆ **Economy, foreign relations, army**
 - ◆ **Historical turning points**
 - ◆ **Germany and the EU**
-
- ◆ What are the key events in the history of Germany?
 - ◆ What are the dominant features of the German culture?
 - ◆ What issues and challenges does Germany face today?





Thank You For Your Attention!