

IREb2014

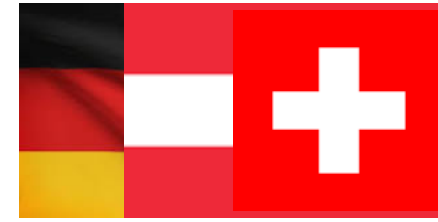
CULTURE, SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

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Fall 2020-2021

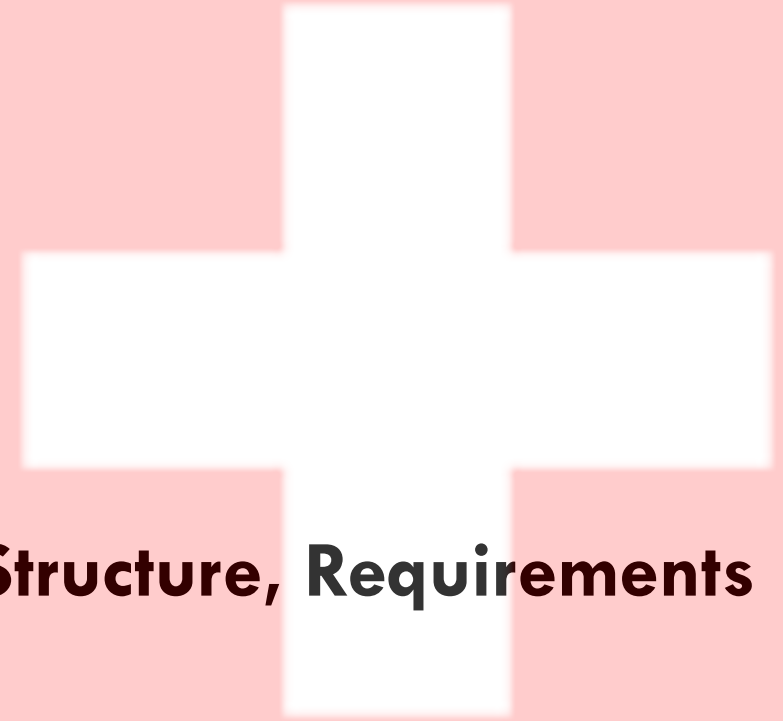
Session 1: Introduction

Introduction to IREb2014



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- **Welcome!**
- **The German Speaking Countries**
- **Opening Discussion**
- **Why Should we Study Them?**
- **Course Description, Expected Outcomes, Structure, Requirements**
- **Germany Trivia Game**

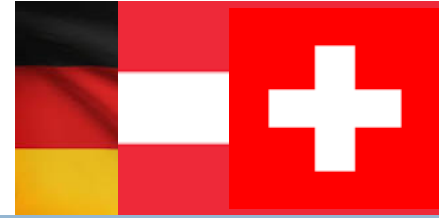


Welcome!

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMOL-ohh3v0>



The German Speaking Countries

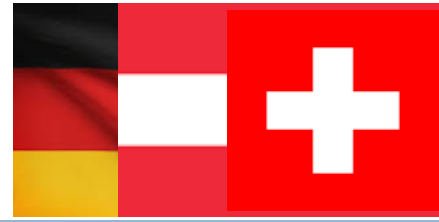


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- Over **95 million people** around the world speak **German** as their **primary** language
- 80 Million speak **German** as a **second** language
- 16% of the **European Union's** population speak **German**
- German is an official language in **six European countries** => **Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg & Liechtenstein**

The DACH Countries



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- **DACH countries**
- More than 91% of the population in **Germany** speak **German** as their **native language**
 - >5 million people speak **German** as their **second language**
- Over **78%** of the world's total German speakers live in **Germany**
 - 8% live in **Austria**
 - 7% live in **other countries**

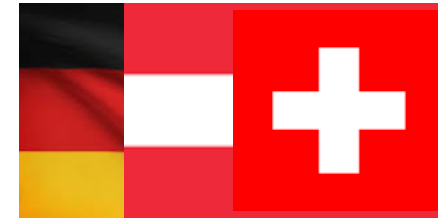
Class Assignment

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Please take 3-5 minutes and answer the following questions-

1. Have you visited/studied in any of the DACH countries? If so- which one/s? why? what did you like/dislike the most in this country?
2. In your opinion, how are the DACH countries different from the Czech Republic/your home country?
3. Name 3 similarities and 3 differences among the DACH countries

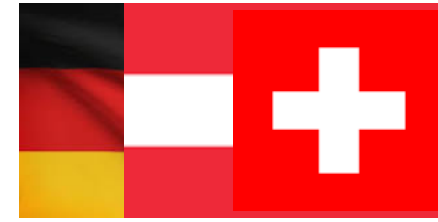
DACH: Basic Comparison



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Similarities	Differences
The German Language	The German Language

DACH: Basic Comparison



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Similarities	Differences
The German Language	The German Language
Regional differences within the countries	Size
Religious fractions (mostly Protestant and catholic)	
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

Why Should we Learn About the Dach?

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- **Personal Interest**
- **Historical legacy** (imperialism, WWI, WW II, German reunification...)
- **Social Perspectives** (nationalism, minority culture ...)
- **Political Perspectives**
 - Domestic (strong economies), Immensely developed political system (Switzerland)
 - EU
- **Cultural Perspectives** (BEER!)

Why Should I Take this Course?

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- Provides **extensive introduction** to the three largest German-speaking societies (DACH) => Germany, Austria and Switzerland
- **Interdisciplinary** course, encompassing the study of **politics, society and culture**
- **Multilevel overview** (national + regional)

Course Description

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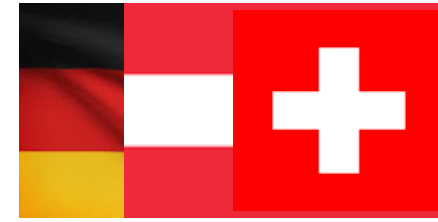
- **Topics to be Discussed =>**
 - Culture (food, language), Religion, Economy, Political structure
 - European Politics & World Wars
 - German unification, post WWII divide and Reunification
 - Social Diversity and National Identities
 - Contemporary Minority Culture and Future Challenges

Course Outcomes

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- ◆ Become familiar with **histories, politics & cultural diversity** within the DACH countries
- ◆ Gain insights into **ideas, trends and discourses** that shaped the **contemporary** German, Austrian & Swiss societies
- ◆ **Compare & contrast** the DACH countries from various angles
- ◆ Competently **analyze current political events**

Course Structure



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06.10.2020	1. General Introduction to the Course	
13.10.2020	2. Introduction to Germany , German Federalism	
20.10.2020	3. Germany => Marks, Hegel and Luther's Reformation	
27.10.2020	4. Germany => Political History and Political Thought Between World Wars	
03.11.2020	5. Germany => German Unification and the Question of 'National Identity'	
10.11.2020	6. Germany => German Minorities in Contemporary Times	
17.11.2020	Holiday!	
24.11.2020	8. Introduction to Austria	Quiz I
01.12.2020	9. Austria => Austrian National Identity, Politics and Contemporary Minorities	
08.12.2020	10. Introduction to Switzerland	Quiz II
15.12.2020	11. Switzerland => Direct Democracy, Federalism, Political Stability	
05.01.2021	12. Comparative Analysis	
12.02.2021	13. Final Session: Summary, the final exam, general Q and A, feedback	

Requirements

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- ◆ 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**
- ◆ Students are expected to read the **mandatory literature** for each session
 - ◆ **Further reading** is available
- ◆ Students are expected to **attend the lectures** (via ZOOM)
 - ◆ Attendance is **not enforced** but is highly **encouraged**
- ◆ **Final grades** will be given according to the following criteria:
 - ◆ 100-95 points = A ; 94-88 points = B ; 87-77 points = C ; 76-68 points = D ; 67-60 points = E ; <60 points = F = failed

Quizzes (40%)

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- Upon **completion** of the **Germany** and **Austria** sections of the course, a quiz will be held
- Quizzed will be held **online** in the first 15-20 minutes of the session
- Each quiz will include **10 multiple-choice questions and 2 open questions**
 - 1st quiz (20%) => **24.11.2020**
 - 2nd quiz (20%) => **08.12.2020**
- **No re-sit**, no do-overs, absence/failure => 'Incomplete' grade

The Final Exam (60%)

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- **Online Exam**
- **3 dates, choose one and register via IS**
 - January/February
- The exact **exam dates** will be posted in the **IS** during the semester
- **Further information concerning the exam** will be given in the **final session**

General Notes

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- Lectures and mandatory reading do not fully overlap.
- The presentation used will be **uploaded to IS** after each session
- **Recordings** of sessions available to students living in non CEST time zones upon **request**
- **Don't worry if English is not your native language!**
- Your **active participation** is particularly valued!
- **Remote teaching** is weird...

Contacting the Lecturer

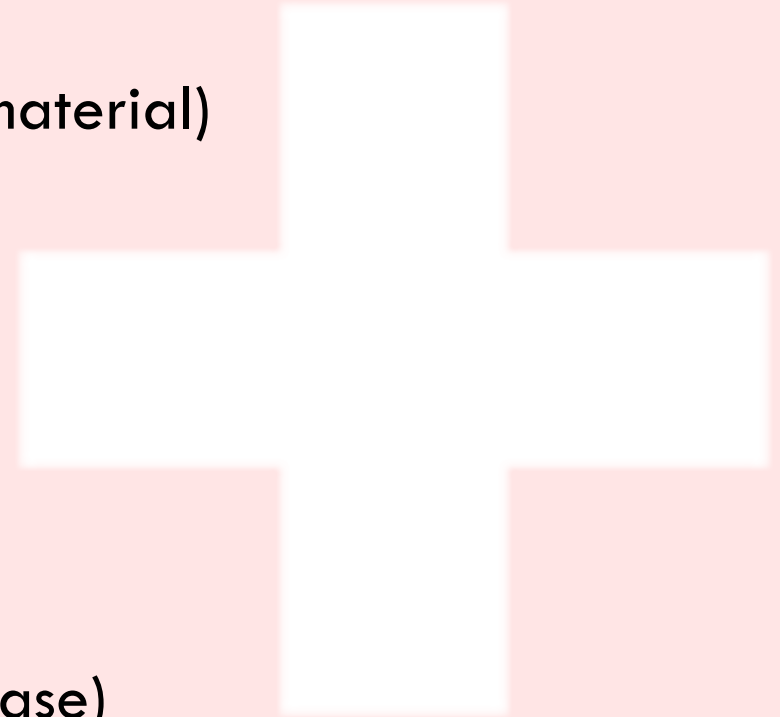
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■ When?

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

■ How?

- No office hours ☹️
- Via email (issue and course name in the topic please)



Germany: Fun Facts

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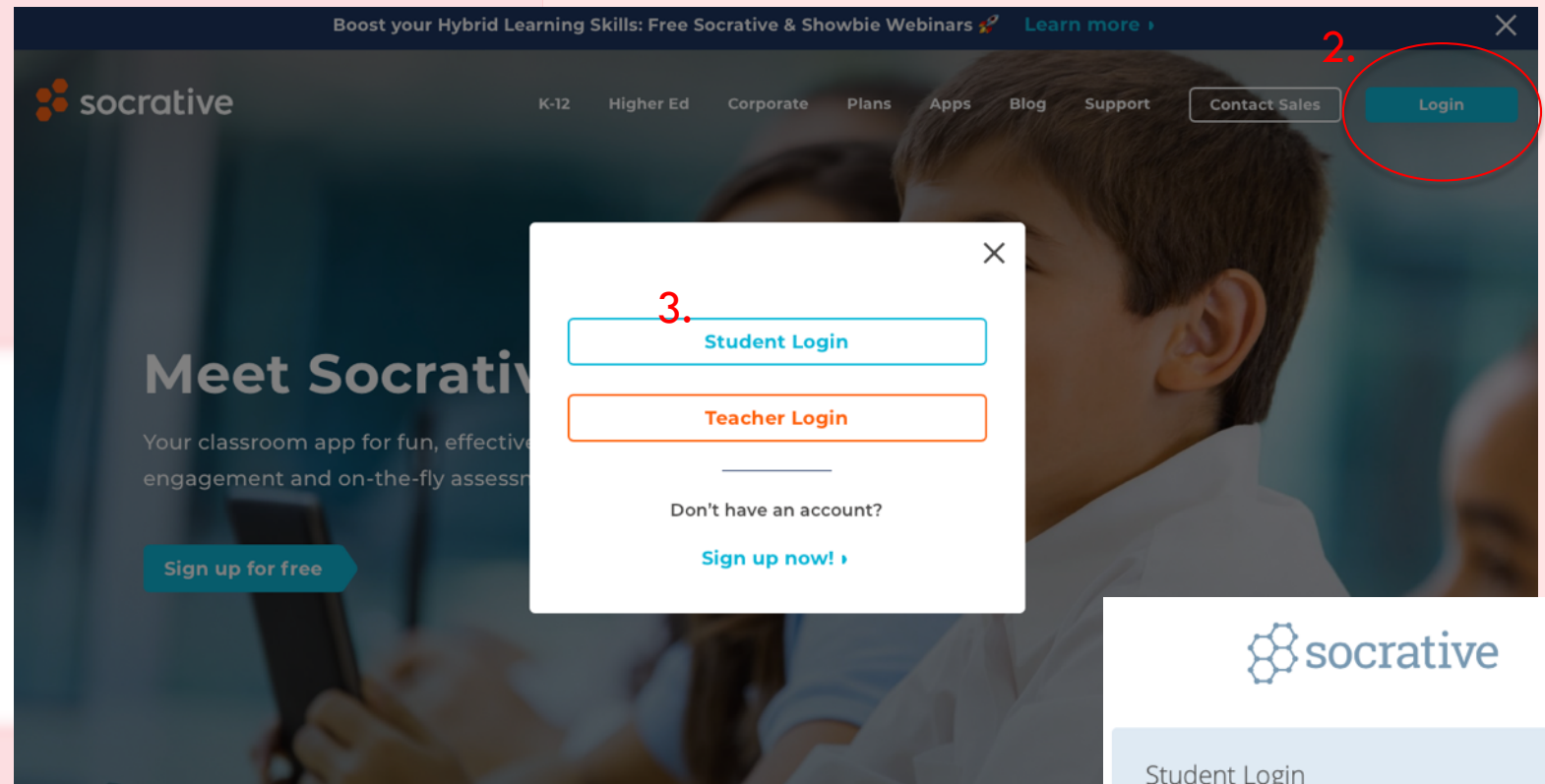


- There are 35 dialects of the German language
- In 1976, **Germany lost a penalty shootout** in the **European Championships** against Czechoslovakia (5-3). On the 4 other occasions that Germans reached the final- they won
- When **JFK** visited **Berlin**, he famously said “**Ich bin ein Berliner,**” 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)

German Trivia Game

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1. <https://www.socrative.com/#login>
- Room
HIGGINS7368



The image shows a screenshot of the Socrative Student Login form. The form has the Socrative logo at the top. Below the logo, the text 'Student Login' is displayed. There is a label 'Room Name' followed by a text input field containing the text 'HIGGINS7368' (marked with a red circle and '4.'). Below the input field is a yellow 'JOIN' button. At the bottom right of the form, there is a language selector showing 'English' with a dropdown arrow.

Next Session...

Germany!

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- **German Federalism**
 - Political parties
 - Electoral System
 - Coalition Building
 - The Current Parliament ...





Thank You For Your Attention!

Questions?