INFORMATION ON THE COURSE CONTENT

Students will read texts in translation that explore the meaning of German identity and the history of Germany as a nation. The content of the course is designed to examine the question “Was ist Deutschland?” Through readings and written assignments, students will attempt to formulate an answer that has both public and personal relevance. Class time will be devoted primarily to the discussion of reading assignments to which students will respond individually, in small groups, and together as a class. In order to maximize work on reading comprehension, all readings should be done outside of class prior to the session during which they are discussed. Assignments will include readings and discussion questions, web research, and a culminating oral presentation. Most homework assignments and work outside of class will take the form of written responses.

Learning Objectives
After completing this course, students will be able to:

- engage in complex conversations about the question of German identity since the establishment of Germany as a nation;
- understand and interpret complex written language on a variety of topics by analyzing, summarizing, and discussing authentic texts;
- present information, concepts, and ideas by participating in group discussions and debates, conducting interviews, and presenting information in a formal format;
- demonstrate an understanding of the perspectives of Germany by identifying and describing important aspects and challenges of Germany and the German experience;
- reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines and gain insights into German-speaking culture by reading and interpreting authentic texts and examining other cultural products (films, songs, art, media, etc.);
- demonstrate an understanding of German-speaking culture by comparing it with their native cultures through the analysis and summarization of authentic texts, films, and cultural practices.