

Please apply to:

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Application deadline: May 31st, 2017

Travel directions:

Bad Bevensen is located on B4 between Lüneburg and Uelzen and a train stop on the route Hannover-Hamburg. Closest airports are Hamburg and Berlin.

Our seminar center is located in Medingen (a district of Bad Bevensen) directly neighboring the monastery on the banks of the Ilmenau River. Walking distance from train station: 20 minutes. You can order a taxi on (05821) 3012 or 1010.



Cooperation partners and sponsors

- **Germany: Gustav Stresemann Institute, Bad Bevensen** is an independent center for democracy and tolerance education. Dialogue and diversity are major tasks of its training programs. Located in Northern Germany – Berlin and Hamburg within reach – GSI cooperates with local, national and international networks. www.gsi-bevensen.org
- **West Chester University, West Chester, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.** Francis Marion University is located within the Philadelphia metropolitan area. The Department of Political Science and the Study Abroad programs provide opportunities for students to gain international experiences.
- **Sponsors:** The Federal Ministry for Youth and Family Affairs, BMFSFJ, is engaged in the fields of international youth exchange and qualified approaches in intercultural learning. Cooperation with the U.S. has been formalized through a bilateral agreement. The Lower Saxony Agency for Civic Education was founded only a few months ago. Its program focuses on young people and new means of political participation. Both sponsors already confirmed the funding.



Get credit points for the M.A. North American Studies!



WHAT KEEPS SOCIETY TOGETHER?



The challenge of diversity in the U.S. and Germany

Seminar for students from Germany and the U.S.A.

Bad Bevensen and Berlin

July 14th – 26th, 2017

The Idea

African Americans shot dead by white policemen in the U.S. – these and similar news again raised the issue of civil rights and equality in American society. In the presidential election campaign, many concerns about Muslims and immigrants threatening “Western” democracy have been voiced. In Germany the populist right-wing “Alternative for Germany” (AfD) gained many votes by fueling the controversial debates on immigration and diversity. Do these discussions indicate that a general consensus is lost in both countries? Are our societies falling apart? And what keeps society together in the first place? With this project for German and American students who also come from diverse backgrounds, we will seek answers to major questions in the debate.

1. “Winners” and “losers” in our societies: Not everybody is on the winning side of society. Who feels left behind? How can we deal with this situation?

2. Basic values of our societies: Can we agree on common values in our societies? Is it democracy? Is it human rights? Are there differences on both sides?

3. Dialogue and diversity in times of migration: Which kind of dialogue do we need in order to keep society at a balance? Diversity training, dialogue exercises and field visits to NGOs will provide practical tools to handling these challenging issues.

4. Prospects of an inclusive society: What will keep our societies together in the future? Which concrete steps can we take.

Topics of the seminar program

Part I: Program in Bad Bevensen

- Inside and outside views on our countries (a first approach on intercultural learning with a specific focus on fears and prejudices)
- Where things are falling apart. Reports from the dark chapters of our societies
- Handling diversity in times of migration: field visits to NGOs dealing with current conflicts & integration (dock Europe, “Lampedusa in Hamburg”; visit to the open Mosque)
- Identity and radicalization: Democratic values and the prevention of political and religious radicalism
- Generation mix: Super-diversity in the era of immigration.

Part II: Program in Berlin

- Diversity without majority. The new concept of immigration and anti-alarmist approaches (down-to-earth projects in Berlin-Neukölln)
- The Germany you always wanted to live in. Politicians share their vision on a multicultural society. (Talk with a representative of the German government)
- Keeping things together: participants develop project modules for follow-up activities (creative tasks for small groups)



Project Design & Technical Details

- **Costs:** 300 € including full board in Bad Bevensen and half board in Berlin; program costs, round-trip to Berlin and excursions
- **Target group:** students from Germany (primary address in Germany required) and the U.S.
- **Arrival and departure:** You arrive to Bad Bevensen and depart from Berlin
- **Date of the seminar:** July 14th – 26th, 2017
- **Seminar language:** English
- **Accommodation:** double rooms in Bad Bevensen, triple rooms in Berlin
- **Participation certificates:** will be provided in English with details on program and sponsors
- **Credit Points:** *M.A. students in the North American Studies program at Marburg University* have the additional opportunity to earn 12 CP (Module G4 Academic Skills: seminar participation, portfolio (SL), and colloquium).

Application form

*Send your application to Gustav Stresemann Institute:
E-mail: martin.kaiser@gsi-bevensen.de
Fax: +49 (0)5821 955-299*

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I hereby sign up for the Seminar
WHAT KEEPS SOCIETY TOGETHER?
July 14th – 26th, 2017

Last Name:

Fist Name:

Date of Birth:

Street
Address:

City:

Zip/Postal
Code:

Country:

Phone:

Email:

the level of my English is:

very good good sufficient rather low

date, place and signature