

German "Social Market Economy" – A Better Capitalism?

19 July – 13 August 2021

CATEGORY Law & Economics

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course content is equivalent to an on-site course offering 45 contact hours. The study time includes:

- virtual classroom lessons with the lecturer and the fellow students (50%)
- group exercises (25%)
- assignments and self-study (25%)

TRACK C – WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF VIRTUAL CLASSROOM LESSONS

- Course days: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- Time: TBA – each session will last 2.15h and will take place within the time frame of
12.30 pm – 6.30 pm (Berlin time, UTC+2)
6.30 pm – 0.30 am (Beijing time, UTC+8)
8.30 pm – 2.30 am (Sydney time, UTC+10)
5.30 am – 11.30 am (Chicago time, UTC-5)

COURSE LANGUAGE

This course is taught in English, including the readings. For the understanding of the texts and the discussions in class, language-level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.

TARGET GROUP

Advanced undergraduate students of business and economics, politics, history, social sciences and students with an academic background that qualifies them to participate in the course.

CREDITS = 5 ECTS

All courses are accredited according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Fully functional device (laptop, tablet, PC)
- Stable internet connection

- Software: Zoom (video/audio)
- Registration on Moodle (HU's e-learning platform)
- Recommended hardware: external headset for better sound quality

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Learning extends beyond your virtual course! As a participant in HUWISU, you are invited to join cultural, social, and academic programs. Cultural activities are designed to help students meet fellow international students, learn more about Berlin, and practice German language abilities. Apply what you learn in class, share your extracurricular interests, and expand your social network beyond your course through these programs!



VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES

With the support of the online format, HUWISU introduces new cultural and social activities. The cultural activities will be both synchronous and asynchronous.

Our scheduled live meetings might include games, cooking/baking together, or a trivia night. You still have the unique opportunity to build community across time zones and meet your fellow international students through synchronous programming. More information about the specifics is TBA.

Learn and read about Berlin history or German culture in between classes! No matter your field of study or interests, Berlin has artistic, political, and cultural significance. Take a look at the eBook "Perspectives on Berlin". It will include an extensive collection of digital resources about Berlin. Although you may be oceans away from Germany, connecting ourselves to Humboldt-Universität's culturally and historically rich location is still incredibly valuable.

EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

Preparation for lively discussions in the virtual classroom: be on time, have at least the required readings completed, and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

Assignments: complete all assignments according to the specified requirements on the schedule including handing them over to the lecturer.

Commitment in online-class: pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers).

Academic guidelines: Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical) especially the academic honor code and the student code of conduct.

Attendance policy: No unexcused absences are permitted. Students must contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the HUWISU office.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Germany is Europe's largest economy and it's industrial powerhouse – selling cars like Mercedes-Benz, BMW and VW and chemical products like "aspirin" to the world. The quick recovering of the German economy after World War II still appears as an "Economic Miracle". The seminar will air the secrets of this success by exploring the sophisticated German system – the "Social Market Economy": How is efficient capitalist order combined with a huge welfare state? How are conflicts smoothed by incorporating the unions into "Social Partnership"? You will be surprised how modern efficient capitalism and medieval traditions are merged into "Social Market Economy".

The course will explore the German economic system by lectures, readings, facility visits to industrial plants (e.g. BMW), excursions to the Museum of History, the governmental district and to innovative projects (e.g. cooperatives). Furthermore, we will compare the German system with your country to find solutions for a better capitalism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The aim of the course is to introduce participants to the German model – the "Social Market Economy". After a brief introduction to the historical and ideological backgrounds which led to the "Social Market Economy" and the "Economic Miracle" after World War II we will turn to a detailed analysis of the German economic and welfare system.

The course will answer the question how the German "Social Market Economy" works and what are the pros and cons? How is the decision-making process organized; - who is responsible? What kinds of reforms are debated in Germany today?

Finally, we will discuss if the "Social Market Economy" is a better capitalism? What may other countries learn from Germany and vice versa what should Germany learn?

READINGS

Reading materials will be available via Moodle during the course.

ASSIGNMENT INFO

In order to be granted 5 ECTS, participants will be asked to actively attend all sessions (you may not miss more than one synchronous session), and to hand in weekly assignments as well as an academic paper (5 pages) on the topic. Submission deadline: last course day.

The final grade will be composed of weekly assignments and active participation in class (50%) and the final academic paper (50%).

YOUR INSTRUCTORS

Dr. Jochen Hille, born 1972, is a political scientist. His main interests are welfare studies (mainly health and labor market policies), European Integration and the construction of national identity. His regional focus lies on Germany and Norway. He studied and carried out research at Freie Universität Berlin, Philipps University Marburg, Universities of Bergen and Oslo (Norway), ETH Zurich and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Beside the scientific work he is professionally working as a consultant for social policies and as a project manager/social worker in diverse governmental labor market programs. He gained a

wide range of teaching skills in governmental programs, in civic education, public schools and by teaching high ranked governmental professionals.

In academia he regularly teaches political sciences and economics on the welfare state at „Berlin School of Economics“, the „University of Cooperative Education Plauen“ and the „University of Applied Sciences for Media, Communication and Management“ and occasionally at Best-Sabel University, HTW and Business School Berlin.

In the HUWISU program he has been teaching since 2013 the courses on:

- The Berlin Wall and the Cold War Era
 - Nazi-Germany – Rise and Fall
 - German “Social Market Economy” – A Better Capitalism?
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COURSE SCHEDULE

PART I: What is Social Market Economy and how did it evolve? (15 lectures)

1. Introduction and course outline
2. What is “Social Market Economy”?
3. What is produced in Germany?
4. The “Economic Miracle”, the “Beetle” (VW-Käfer) and the “German Mark”
5. Historical backgrounds: “Social Market Economy” as a compromise between “Capitalism, Catholicism and Socialism”
6. The core principles: weak central power and subsidiarity
7. Excursion: Walk through sides of early industrialization in Berlin (e.g. AEG-Werke; Borsigwerke, Charité etc.)
8. Overview: The welfare state (Bismarckian social insurance system)
9. Excursion: Overview of German social and economic history 1914 – 2016, Permanent Exhibition in the German Historical Museum
10. The Golden Age of “Social Market Economy” in the 60th: Excursion to Willy Brandt Museum
11. Excursus on Nazis building roads (“Autobahnen”) and the planned economy in “East German” (GDR)

PART II: Comparative Studies: How does the “Social Market Economy” works in detail and what is the difference compared with your country? (15 lectures)

The German model in detail

1. How does “market economy” work: export-oriented, “blue collar” as core industries: Cars, machines, chemistry
2. Excursion/ facility visit to BMW factory (Berlin Siemensstadt)
3. How does the “Social economy” work: labour, pensions, health, family, housing etc.
4. “Social Partnership” between employers and unions instead of “class struggle”
5. Corporatism: Permanent bargaining between state, unions, employers
6. Walk through governmental district in Berlin (political institutions, lobby groups, major actors like professional groups etc.)
7. Fieldwork: What do Germans think about “Social Market Economy” and what do they know about your country?

Comparing Countries

8. How to compare economic and welfare systems?

9. Theory on state, market and society (Katzenstein); Typology "Three Spheres of Welfare Capitalism" (Esping-Andersen)

Comparing Germany with your country:

10. Discussion on difference and similarity; - e.g. Singapore Health Shield, Japans Miti or "Obama care"?

PART III: Pros and cons of "Social Market Economy" (15 lectures)

The disadvantages and public discourse on reforms

1. Germany as a special case: The burden of reunification
2. Under pressure of globalization and Europeanization
3. "Social Market Economy" – a workfare model without work:
4. Film on unemployment: "Summer in Berlin" / "Du bist nicht alleine"
5. "Social Market Economy" in public German media (Clips from German movies/TV, e.g. "Tatort")

Utopian Berlin solutions

6. Berlin utopian micro projects in leftist counter culture: "Kreuzberger Economy" (Heinrich Zapf), squatted houses, communitarian leftist and environmental initiatives, barter money etc.
7. Walk through Berlin Prenzlauer Berg: New creative and environmental economy

Reforming the "Social Market Economy"?

8. Conservative, leftist, green and liberal views
9. Workshop: What should you learn from Germany, what should Germany learn?
10. Summary: A better Capitalism?
11. Wrap-up and Evaluation

The course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: 06 April 2021