

German 360 GEC Rationale Statement:

German 360 will satisfy the stated Learning Goals and Learning Objectives in the following ways:

This course serves as an introduction to the literature, culture, and history of German immigrants to North America, especially to the Midwest and Ohio, from the seventeenth century into the twenty-first. We study selected settlements (like Schoenbrunn, Zoar, Gnadenhuetten, and German Village in Columbus) and selected individuals (from Ohio missionary David Zeisberger Bertolt Brecht and Henry Kissinger) and their (auto)biographies and letters, as well as stories and tales of German pioneer authors (like Sealsfield). A field trip to German Village in Columbus will provide a first-hand encounter with the culture and life of the settlers - and what is left of it. Taught in English; a knowledge of German is not required.

Through the extensive readings and writing about immigrants and the first hand experiences and contextualization of the subject, the course assignments and readings fulfill the GEC objectives. The completion of all readings and assignments will allow students to...

1. Acquire a perspective and an understanding of the factors that shape human activity by learning about the motives and conditions of German immigrants, the culture of the settlements, the difficulties they faced, and their contributions to American life and culture.
2. Gain an understanding of political, cultural, and social differences in or among the world's nations and cultures outside the US.
3. Develop critical thinking by evaluating the role of national origin as it relates to international institutions and citizenship.
4. Learn to recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping one's own attitudes and values as a global citizen.
5. Improve communication skills through discussions, exams, and a research paper.