GRM 493.751 International Internship Summer 2011
AL 493B.760 Arts&Letters International Internship Summer 2011
Teaching Internships in Germany

Instructor Contact Information
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Program Description
As part of this teaching internship program, you will spend 3 weeks in an elementary school in the area of Nürtingen, Germany. The program dates are arranged to accommodate your schedules and start as early as May 10 and as late as July 22 (see below). Depending on the host school, you will be in school Monday–Friday from approximately 8 am – 3 pm.

The program has three components:

1. You will observe classrooms at different grade levels (mainly grades 1-4, higher levels can be arranged) to gain deeper insights into the German educational system.
2. You will teach your own modules in various levels of English-as-a-foreign-language classes (and in German, if you are interested) to gain valuable hands-on experience as language teachers.
3. You will discuss your teaching with a German mentor teacher who will help you assess your teaching methods and reflect on your implementation.

In addition, you will also have the opportunity to attend professional development workshops that focus on methodologies and strategies in teaching foreign languages. To round out the total immersion experience, you will be housed with one of the teachers from your host school.

The program aims to create opportunities for you to differentiate educational systems and teaching methodologies, to obtain first-hand teaching experience, and to increase language proficiency. Furthermore, it seeks to enhance your understanding of German culture and to encourage a more complex engagement with the language and its native speakers.

Learning Outcomes
This program will offer you an opportunity to
- examine differences between the US and German educational systems, particularly at the elementary level, through observation, discussion, and critical reflection
- improve language proficiency, language learning strategies, cultural awareness, and cross-cultural communication competencies through a total immersion experience
- engage with language learners abroad and internationalize your education
- gain valuable language teaching practice at the elementary level
- form partnerships with in-service teachers and obtain feedback on your teaching strategies and methodologies
- become more knowledgeable about methods of language teaching through participation in professional development workshops
- utilize technology in an ongoing analysis of your experience
Assignments and Evaluation
The program is designed as an independent study that will take place online. You will enroll in 2-4 credits of GRM 493.751 or AL 493B.760. While your instructor will not be on site, I will virtually supervise you and will provide ongoing feedback on your experiences. Graded assignments for this course include a blog, podcasts, and a portfolio, which includes a reflective essay. The assignments are designed to give you opportunities to express your own thinking, evaluate your own teaching, clarify your own assumptions, learn new vocabularies, and imagine, verbalize, and write about the implications of your positions. In addition, the assignments will allow you to utilize cutting-edge technology tools for effective language education, which you can later employ in your own teaching.

Pre- and Post-Assessment
Before you leave for Germany and after you come, you will need to complete a language proficiency test on Angel. The test includes listening, reading, and speaking components. These assessments will have no impact on your grade.

Blog
You will create and keep a blog (www.blogger.com) in German in which you will describe your life in Germany. This will allow you not only to critically reflect on your learning and teaching experiences but also to use your German writing and reading skills. I will provide regular comments on content (publicly on the blog) and on language as necessary (privately via email and through voice recordings to provide you with additional listening comprehension practice). For 2 credits, you are expected to update your blog at least once a week and divide your entry by day (Montag, Dienstag, etc.).

Podcasts
You will podcast reflective commentaries on your teaching. This will allow you to revisit your teaching and will provide additional opportunities for speaking. For 2 credits, you are expected to record 1 podcast a week (minimum of 3 podcasts total). You can also create videocasts.

Portfolio
As a final project, you will compile a portfolio of your internship experience that will be reflective not only of what you learned and taught but also of your language skills. You will select (for 2 credits)
(a) 2 edited blog entries to display your writing and reading skills in German,
(b) 1 podcast to demonstrate your German speaking skills, and
(c) a reflective essay in English summarizing your internship (4-6 pages).
Depending on the number of credits you enroll in, the number of assignments to be included in your portfolio will change, along with the length of the reflective essay.
The blog and podcasts will be ongoing assignments, the portfolio is due no later than 4 weeks after your internship ended. All due dates are posted on Angel.

Evaluation
Assignments will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
• Clarity of presentation of information
• Consideration of important aspects
• Depth of discussion
• Language use
**Important Notes**

**Technology Session**
Before leaving, you will attend a training session on how to use the technology necessary for the assignments. The session will take place in the Language Learning Center in room 141 Old Horticulture on Thursday, March 24 from 4:30-5:30pm.

**Visiting Teachers from Germany**
MSU will be hosting six elementary teachers from Nürtingen from Sunday, April 10 – Saturday, April 23, 2011. You will be placed with one of these teachers in the summer. We will meet with the teachers and their supervisor on Monday, April 11 from 6:15-7:45 pm in 150 Natural Science for an informational session/pizza dinner. If you are unable to make the meeting, please let me know. You are also encouraged to participate in some of the other activities we are planning for the teachers (see additional materials). The teachers will be placed at area elementary schools for their stay here and will also live with host families. The visiting teachers are

- Andres Lopez Rodriguez ([alopez@gmx.de](mailto:alopez@gmx.de)) – Murphy Elementary School Hohensteinschule Zuffenhausen
- Sandrina Maier ([sandi_m@gmx.de](mailto:sandi_m@gmx.de)) – Red Cedar Elementary School Dorfacker- und Köstlinschule Tübingen
- Katharina Nagel ([nagel.kath@web.de](mailto:nagel.kath@web.de)) – Pinecrest Elementary School Mörikeschule Nürtingen
- Sonja Stephan ([sonja_stephan@gmx.de](mailto:sonja_stephan@gmx.de)) – Beagle Elementary School Ludwig-Uhland-Schule Wendlingen
- Sabrina Walter ([sabrinasophie@web.de](mailto:sabrinasophie@web.de)) – Marble Elementary School Carl Benz Schule Bad Cannstatt
- Patricia Wilhelm ([wilhelm.patricia@googlemail.com](mailto:wilhelm.patricia@googlemail.com)) – Montessori Children’s House of Lansing Grund- und Hauptschule Aichwald

Their supervisor is
- Margarete Dinkelaker ([MuBDinkelaker@t-online.de](mailto:MuBDinkelaker@t-online.de))

**General Comments**
This program is not faculty-led, which means I will not be in Germany with you. There will be an on-site supervisor from the Seminar available in case of emergency (Margarete Dinkelaker and Iris Schlichte). The program allows you to be very independent and work under minimal supervision. Make sure to be proactive when in Germany and take advantage of all the opportunities that present themselves.

**Upon Return**
Once you return to MSU, you will return the technologies that were given to you by the College (if any). You will also meet with me for a short interview about your experience.
Cost
Program fee (including housing, meals, and insurance) $850
2-4 Credits (GRM/AL 493 Internship)
Airfare (approximately $1,000)
Spending money

About Nürtingen
Nürtingen is located in Southern Germany not far from Stuttgart, Munich, and Freiburg. It is a city of 40,500 people; the district has a population of 514,500 people. Nürtingen is only a short distance from France, Austria, and Switzerland. We are collaborating with the Staatliches Seminar für Didaktik und Lehrerbildung Nürtingen and you will be placed at one of the elementary schools the Seminar works with.
Your host families either live in walking distance from the school or will provide daily transportation to and from the school site. Mentor teachers will also provide transportation to and from professional development workshops that take place at the Seminar. Home-stays include breakfast and dinner in the homes and you can fix your own lunch to take to school. Host families usually provide access to laundry facilities.