

19. Februar 2015

Kurs: eng
Thema: Business English

The Global Economy

English is not just the international language of politics, media and science, but also of international communication and business. So why not join this course, in which you will be able a) to use and improve your English skills, and b) to explore fascinating aspects of the 21st century global economy?

In this course you will be asked to choose one topic which you - plus another student - will introduce in a short presentation. As we are in the privileged position of having a 'Smart Board' in our course room we will typically have a look at video clips from English-speaking media platforms to provide further information. To improve everybody's reading skills there will be handouts for each topic. And, hopefully, there will also be lively discussions.

Some possible topics will focus on the current situation in Germany: the pros and cons of offshoring production to other countries, reasons for the reduction of unemployment in recent years, the role which our Eurozone currency has played, or the economic development of Berlin. There may be a critical look at inequalities on the labour market - e.g. the gender pay gap or the situation of newbies on the job market.

As we turn our attention towards global aspects we may deal with some of our European neighbours. What has gone so badly wrong in Greece? Can France become a European engine of growth again? Why is Britain seriously thinking about leaving the EU? And, in a global perspective, we can look at recent winners of globalisation, like India and China, and at economic losers, like Africa.

There is also the chance to examine developments on particular markets, which have had dramatic effects worldwide. Just think of the food or the oil market! Some industries have been turned upside down in recent years, like the music industry. Can maybe green industries be a job engine of the future? We will try to find out!

After every semester there is an update on the choice of topics: When the Occupy Movement came up, it was immediately added to our list. Which topics will be included in the next semester? Well, it's still too early to tell!

As you can see, this course is not about blowing the dust off theoretical models. It's about the modern world, as it happens, as it affects our lives. And it all happens in a language which will carry on gaining importance in our globalised world: This course is not just about reading or listening to words in a foreign language. It is about understanding the economy and about actively using English while doing so. It is about developing a variety of relevant skills - no matter if you are being trained as a management assistant in industrial production, in IT, or in digital print media.

Should you have any further questions just knock on the staff room door and either ask for Ms Bölling-Looschen (head of the English department) or Mr Sudmann.

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