

## GRMN 3200

### Discovery Project – Time Line & Due Dates

- Choose a topic that you find interesting and would like to learn more about.
- Contemplate the list of topics on the reverse side of this sheet for ideas.
- Make sure you receive approval of your topic before continuing.

Google the topic, go to the library, look through sources and discover what information is available on your topic.

The exact target of your topic should remain flexible until you are certain that you can gather enough information to put together a list of **at least 6 sources**. Please note that this assignment is NOT a term paper assignment. It is a discovery project and needs to be completed in stages. You'll first need to do some research and compose a list of sources with commentary. The list of sources will take several hours of your time. After your list of sources (with commentary) is complete, you will then create an outline, summarize your findings in writing, and finally deliver information orally to the class via a brief video presentation. See below for more details and due dates.

#### *This Week*

Explore the list of topics over the next two weeks. By March 18<sup>th</sup> you should have a firm idea of your topic. You should be able to give it a name and mention a few of the points you would like to discuss in your paper. **You will confirm with me your topic on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.**

#### *March 4 – 18*

Collect Sources. Write down a summary of the information that you intend to use from each source. Aim for 6 to 8 sources. More would be fine. Less would be questionable. As you collect each source, write a summary (1-3 paragraphs, or more) about each source to include as an entry in your annotated bibliography (see below). This collection phase is where you will put the most amount of time into your project. The more substantial each summary is, the easier it will be to proceed with the subsequent steps. **You have 2 weeks to complete this phase. Please do not wait to the last minute to do this work.**

#### *April 1<sup>st</sup>*

**Due: List of Sources (annotated bibliography).** This is a complete list of the sources that you will include in your final paper. Each entry that you provide should be accompanied by two or more paragraphs explaining what information is contained in each source and how you intend to use that information in your final paper. This exercise will help you complete the bulk of the work in developing your project.

#### *April 15<sup>th</sup>*

**Due: Outline of your discovery project.** List the main components of your research and organize them into a logical order. These will become the main headings under which you will write a short list of brief sentences where each help to remind you of the details you have gathered during your research. The specific guidelines toward creating an outline will be discussed in class. Do not begin your outline until you understand what is required.

#### *April 29<sup>th</sup>*

**Due: Written findings of your discovery project.** This should be about 2-3 pages of running text, longer if you'd like, but the body of the work should be no more than 5 pages. The written portion of your project will simply be a list of the most important findings of your discovery project. Make sure you include a list of all your sources at the end of the paper. It's ok to include images, charts, etc. in addition to your running text.

#### *May 2<sup>nd</sup>*

**Due: Presentation Materials.** Send me your video or creative *unessay* by Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### *May 4<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>*

**Due: Presentations & Peer Grading of Discovery Projects.**

## **Some ideas for Discovery Project topics:**

National parks, outdoor culture, bio-reserves, European Greenbelt, etc.  
Children's issues (childcare, daycare, parental money from government, maternal/paternal work leave)  
Overview of architectural styles (churches, castles, commercial structures, housing, etc.)  
Medical fields & current research in Germany  
Germany's healthcare system and how it is handling COVID-19 in comparison to US and other countries  
Specific branch of industry (automobile, military aircraft, porcelain, optics, robotics, etc.)  
Food and drink (culinary regions, wine/beer making, etc.)  
Recent history of military conscription  
LGBTQIA / Trans\* issues  
Visual arts (artists, galleries, trends in modern art)  
Minority populations in Germany (Turks, Sorbs, Roma/Sinti, Syrians, etc.)  
The #AfroZensus (2020)  
Unusual folk customs from Germany  
Cultural festivals (folk/pop music, theater, classical music, sailing, sharp shooting, etc.)  
Museums in Germany (cultural awareness, etc.)  
Where and how much Germany spends its money on foreign aid  
Architecture (regional rural architectural designs / avant-garde designs)  
Most important (foreign) trade partners  
History and development of German political system  
German cinema (current & historical)  
Immigration issues in Germany (& EU)  
Prison systems (comparison between US & Germany)  
New airport in Berlin (project overruns, shoddy construction, political scandal, etc.)  
Folks customs (dress, traditions, events)  
Major German exports & how Germany fits into the world economy  
Women's rights (history, development, current status, #metoo, regional views, comparison to US, etc.)  
Ecology (recycling, awareness of environment, climate activism, trends, expenses, etc.)  
Fashion (top designers, trends, economic impact, green industries, etc.)  
Influence of German culture on the US  
Comparison of German vs US urban life/culture  
Religions in Germany (current status, attitudes, history, Islam in Germany, Judaism in Germany, etc.)  
Gun control laws (gun clubs, school shootings, the culture of hunting)  
Human rights (a comparison of attitudes between Germany and the US)  
Neo-Nazi movements in Germany  
Schooling (through high school, university, adult education)  
Refugee Integration (education, training, employment, cultural and socioeconomic integration initiatives, etc.)  
Afro-Germans (Black history in Germany, political groups, Black Lives Matter activism, arts/culture/music)  
Germany's headscarf debate (schools bans, neutrality law, Muslim activism, etc.)  
Social systems (unemployment insurance, medical disability, old age pensions, etc.)  
Tourism (spas, resorts, unusual getaways)  
Alcohol consumption (laws, treatment of misuse, age limits, etc.)  
PEGIDA & alt-right movements (& counter movements)  
National soccer team & the multi ethnic/cultural makeup of its membership  
Trade unions & umbrella protection organization for workers (history, politics, money, power, strikes, etc.)  
Film analysis (watch and write reviews of several German films, report on a genre or director, etc.)  
Sport hunting (laws, history, culture, etc.)  
Current German military (conscription laws, alternative service, Germany in NATO, etc.)  
Recent political scandals and affairs (i.e. Thüringen & AfD vote)  
Green/alternative energy (development, research, funding, etc.)  
Animal topics (animal rights, horse culture, dog breeding, hunting)  
German hip-hop as social activism (feminism, transnational, transgressive, & transformational)