**Bilingualer Seminarkurs “Environmental Justice”**

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**General Information:**

To qualify for the Bilingual Certificate students choose either a natural science or social science topic within a wider topic such as "sustainability". They are expected to write a research protocol (work journal) and a research paper, to give a presentation on their topic and to further explain details of their research in a colloquium.

Contents and expectations of the Bilingual Seminar Course follow the 1998 guidelines issued with the introduction of the "Seminarkurs" as optional extra activity at the upper level of secondary schools in Baden-Württemberg.

The Bilingual Seminar Course aims at developing students' competence in independent information retrieval, cooperation, giving public speeches, planning and writing research papers. It further promotes the students' ability to use electronic equipment and media critically and constructively and as practical tools in their work with individual topics.

**Curriculum:**

 • Introduction to the issue of environmental justice

 • Students analyze aspects of recent issues in Portland and Freiburg regarding environmental and climate justice

 • Students acquire in depth knowledge on and deduce cause and effect of a single aspect of environmental justice related to either one or both of the cities

 • Students compile possible solutions
 preferably in cooperation with local
 authorities

 • Students discuss and review the
solutions with respect to economical, ecological, social and political practicability

**Objectives:**

 • Students are sensible about the urgent matter of ecological problems and social injustices and continue to work on and engage in recent environmental and social issues.

 • Fostered by the project-oriented workshop character of the class students engage in intercultural learning and exchange.

 • The students, parents and teachers recognize that school education must and will play a vital role in educating about and addressing global and local climate issues.

 • German Students highly benefit in EFL learning

**Requirements to successfully pass the “Seminarkurs” as a part of the “Abitur”:**

 • scientific “paper” 12-15 pages - research, interview, survey, statistics, blog, etc.

 • 20 min. examination talk about process, output and future possibilities in tackling the chosen issue

**Visiting Portland:**

One other central aspect, in addition to the German curriculum of the “Seminarkurs”, is the possible personal visit of our counterpart – class at Lincoln High School in Portland, Oregon, USA. This three-week exchange is a non-mandatory proposition and not subject to any grading or passing requirement of the “Seminarkurs”.

Interested students have to apply with a short, written introduction of themselves and a letter of motivation which shows their sincere interest. Other criteria to assign the limited openings to applicants are academic performance, behaviors and school involvement. To ensure students from financially underprivileged families can afford the exchange the “Förderverein des Kepler-Gymnasiums” has offered generous financial support.

In addition to the regular environmental justice classes in Portland which are conducted in team-teaching some other events for the 2019 Portland visit have already been lined up and include:

- insider tour of Portland City Hall and discussion of the power of local government

- learn more about Parks for New Portlanders initiative from Som Nath Subedi and tour
 one of the community gardens reserved for low-income families to grow their own food

- have a discussion about climate justice from one of the people who works on Portland's
 Climate Action Plan

Other organizations/people involved in the project are:

Carl-Schurz-Haus, Freiburg / Freiburg, Green-City Referat / Amerikanisches Generalkonsulat in Frankfurt, etc.

 gez.: Jörg Dopfer