

ECON 312 Political Economy of Sustainable Development: Case of Germany  
Spring 2023

**Sample Itinerary**

**Note that this is a working itinerary and the details are subject to change.**

We begin the trip in Stuttgart, the center for the contested Stuttgart 21 train project that garnered activist attention on its environmental impacts, and the capital of Baden-Württemberg, a southern state with significant Green party politics representation. Continuing south to Tübingen, the “fiercely vegan, fairy-tale city” according to the BBC, which boasts a long-time Green mayor Boris Palmer and a vibrant alternative mobile housing community of the French Quarter. Our trip then continues towards the Black Forest, first stopping in the historical atomic facility and research cellar in Haigerloch to appreciate the nuclear energy developments. A tour of the Black Forest solidifies our understanding of German concepts of environment and sustainability, culminating in the city of Freiburg, famous for their sustainable passive houses. There we will speak with an expert on sustainability economics before departing north towards Hamburg, a center for trade, freight, culture and media, and aircraft production. If time permits, a conversation with the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees in the area will enhance our appreciation of social sustainability issues including migrant integration. We end our trip in Berlin, the capital, the center of the iron curtain, which is rich in history and politics, to gain a deeper understanding of the roles of institutions on sustainability and innovation.

Day	Location	Activity	Sample activity and learning outcome connection
0	Depart for Stuttgart		
1 5/29	Stuttgart	Arrival in STR Check in  Welcome dinner	
2 5/30	Stuttgart	Orientation with Freiburg Staff  German Crash Course  Mercedes Benz: Automobile and Sustainability: an impasse?	LO1, 2, 4: During a visit to Mercedes Benz, students will engage with the guide on the significance of the car industry and innovation in the German post-war economy, and how it continues to evolve with environmental sustainability. What has car companies done after the VW-Scandal, and how are they meeting the climate challenge? Is the future electric or hydrogen-based? How can car companies support public transport or do they compete?

<p>3 5/31</p>	<p>Stuttgart</p>	<p>City Scavenger Hunt</p> <p>Tour of train station</p> <p>Activist talk or panel on Stuttgart 21 (speaker TBD)</p>	<p>LO2: Engaging with environmental stakeholders in Stuttgart to tour and discuss the impacts of Stuttgart 21 train station revamp project, students will gain a first-hand perspective into the factors, incentives, and players at hand at this train station that is nearing its completion. What did the activists achieve if the project went ahead at the end, were there better mitigation or environmental outcomes? What role does protest and activism play in German environmental policymaking, and how do these influence the economics and the environmental outcomes of infrastructure projects?</p>
<p>4 6/1</p>	<p>Stuttgart/Tübingen</p>	<p>Tour of Rathaus and meet Lord Mayor Boris Palmer, Green Party</p> <p>Tour of French Quarter with Dr. Klaus Müller-Richter, University of Tübingen</p>	<p>LO1, 2: The state of Baden-Württemberg has led the way in green politics. Students will visit and meet Green politician of a key regional city and learn first-hand what the experiences are using city policy to influence national climate strategies, such as through Tübingen macht blau and other green initiatives the city has pioneered. We will reflect on the role of alternative and sustainable lifestyles in this debate in the French Quarter of the city with Tübingen philosophy and geography faculty.</p>
<p>5 6/2</p>	<p>Stuttgart</p>	<p>Lecture: Role of cities in sustainability</p> <p>Group presentation topic assignment and brainstorm</p> <p>Half-day off</p>	<p>LO4: A half-day classroom session for us to discuss what we have learned so far, what surprises us, and begin our final project assignment brainstorm.</p>
<p>6 6/3</p>	<p>Haigerloch/Freudenstadt en route to Freiburg (Coach transport)</p>	<p>Depart for Freiburg</p> <p>Tour of the historical atomic cellar</p> <p>Open-air museum Vogtsbauernhof</p>	<p>LO1,2: First-hand experiences of Module 2: energy transition and historical perspectives en route to Freiburg. As we depart towards the southwestern corner, we will pass by two key sites. The first has to do with the energy history of Germany – the first atomic cellar that was home to German nuclear research. Students will engage with the site and reflect on nuclear energy’s role in German history, economy, and the context under which nuclear is opposed as a “clean” energy source. At the Vogtsbauernhof in the Black Forest, we will step back in time and connect with the environmentalism that started it all: the forest, the farm, and how</p>

			traditional living has much to teach us about sustainable lifestyles.
7 6/4	Freiburg	Tour of Freiburg and Passive Houses  Cultural activity/meet with local students	LO2: Freiburg is famous for its pioneering role in <u>sustainable cities</u> , especially for its <u>passive houses</u> and solar energy coverage. In this <u>tour</u> students will be able to reflect on the <u>institutional conditions</u> that gave rise to such a unique role of Freiburg.
8 6/5	Freiburg	Lecture with Prof. Dr. Stefan Baumgärtner, Chair of Environmental Economics and Resource Management, University of Freiburg  Clean energy site visit	Module 2: Climate Change  IES arranged
9 6/6	Freiburg	Tour of the Black Forest/hike/outdoor team activity  Group project check in	IES Center Freiburg
10 6/7	Hamburg	Train to Hamburg - Day off	
11 6/8	Hamburg	Visit to Nordex Energy GmbH Hamburg and tour of wind farm (Guest speaker: Jane Neugebauer)  Visit to Der Spiegel – German media and sustainability	LO2, 3: A tour of a wind turbine in the windy harbor city of Hamburg will give students a first-hand look at a key element of the energy transition in Germany. What is the economics of wind energy? Is it worth it? A visit to a German media giant will also shed light on how an important institution interact with economic and sustainability policy.
12 6/9	Lüneburg/Hamburg	Day trip – Salt Museum, the Hanseatic League/activity TBD  Tour of Leuphana University and lecture with Sustainability faculty	

13 6/10	Hamburg	Airbus Tour  Visit with refugee settlement/BAMF branch office with Ms. Vicky Bloom/Jane (TBD)  Musical and Philharmonic – cultural activity	LO3: A visit with the BAMF office and/or language center for refugee integration will help students better understand the socioeconomic obstacles and challenges of one of Merkel's boldest acts to accept close to 1 million Syrian refugees at the height of the Syrian war. How did the German social fabric react and negotiate with this? How has the labor market been affected and how are Syrians doing in their new home?
14 6/11	Berlin	Train from Hamburg to Berlin – day off	
15 6/12	Berlin	Hackathon on sustainability: Product creation day	InterKultur or other facilitator; IES Center Berlin  LO4: Synthesis and skill building for their products
16 6/13	Berlin	Bundestag visit with Mr. Adrian Sonder, Bundestag Policy Advisor, and Green/Left party, TBD  Topography of Terror	LO1, 3: No better way to understand German governance and how they decide to confront social inequalities than to speak to members or staffers of the German Parliament.
17 6/14	Berlin	Jewish Museum or Stolpersteine and Aktives Museum  Urban Agriculture and Co-op tour	Module 1: Historical Contexts; Module 2: Cities and Sustainability
18 6/15	Berlin	DDR Museum  Lecture: East-West Inequalities	LO3: The DDR museum will introduce students to the economic and social life of the former East, a deeper appreciation of <i>Ostalgie</i> , and for students to reflect on the current status of economic disparities between the former east and the west.
19 6/16	Berlin	Wrap up and Final Quiz (morning)  Presentations (afternoon)  Farewell dinner	IES Center Berlin  LO4: The course culminates in the project presentations in which students pitch a solution to a real-world sustainability challenge informed by the political economy contexts they have learned throughout the trip
20 6/17	Depart Germany	Depart BER	