

## Walking in the Footsteps of Einstein Class Requirements

### Readings:

All: Walter Isaacson, *Einstein - His Life and Universe*, Simon and Schuster, ISBN 0-7432-6473-8 (or another Einstein biography)

LB 492: George Gamov, *Thirty Years that Shook Physics*, Dover, ISBN 0-486-24895-X

PHY 305/405 Albert Einstein (edited and translated by Roger Penrose and John Stachel), *Einstein's Miraculous Year: Five Papers That Changed the Face of Physics*, Princeton University Press, 0-691-12228-8

If both LB 330/490E: Selected readings, as already distributed

### Grading

Class participation 40%

Assignments (based on individual study plan and consultation with both profs before or in each city) 10% for each city, total, 50%

Individual Presentation in Göttingen ("what I have learned so far" project based on study plan and prepared in consultation with both profs) 10%

### Notes on Class Participation:

- Everyone starts with full credit
- Retaining full credit requires
  - Being prepared
  - Working hard to learn
  - Being a good team member
    - Being helpful
    - Watching out for the other students
    - Being cheerful
    - Being flexible
    - Making sensible, constructive choices
- Deductions (for example) will be made for
  - Missing a required activity, 20%
  - Being late, 5% for first offense, 10% thereafter
  - Poor preparation (for example not getting a passing grade on a quiz), 5% per incident

**Notes on assignments:** these will be both written and oral and will be made on the basis of discussions with both profs. We encourage curiosity, clarity, accuracy, creativity, and thoughtfulness.

**General notes:** Most of the work and grading in this course will be individualized. We reserve the right to approve each study plan, craft assignments for each student, and to give extra credit and make-up assignments according to our discretion and on a case-by-case basis.

It is particularly important that we know where you are and that you do not get lost or left behind. You need to have a cell phone and to know our number. We need to know yours. We encourage you to share your cell phone numbers with others. You need to carry the name and address for each hostel when staying there. You need to know where we are going and the address. You need to tell us if you are leaving the city we are visiting (and of course, any such travel must be done without missing required activities). *It is particularly important not to be late when we are meeting to travel from one place to the next and not to wander away from the group en route. If it comes down to it, we will (regretfully) leave you behind rather than make the group late or chase you down. In that case you will have to make your own way to the next city or activity.*

You are the one most responsible for your own wellbeing and safety. Watching out for each other means telling us if a student who is staying in your room is missing, sick, or in trouble.

Primary emergency meeting spot: gather where you are staying.

Secondary emergency meeting spot: Hauptbahnhof (main train station) in area where tickets are sold.

Of course you are required to obey all laws and rules wherever you are. Note that most hostels do not allow people to bring alcohol onto their premises, and although they might sell beer, they do not allow loud, drunken, or disorderly conduct. As a reminder, read over the section on “Alcohol Use and Misuse,” which is taken from the Study Abroad Student Guide; you should be aware of and follow all MSU Study Abroad rules.

Students are also required to follow all MSU rules, including those on intellectual integrity. Also note that we are required to respond to all inappropriate behavior, that is “behavior that is disruptive and detrimental to the group learning process and academic success of the program.” In line with MSU Study Abroad rules, serious misbehavior can result in a student being expelled from the program.

*Most of all, we want you to make the most of the Study Abroad experience – this experience can change your life for the better, if you let it. And remember: we’re just guides and graders. Making the most of this course is up to you.*