Turning the Air Blue – A Green Language Course at the Fachsprachenzentrum (WS 2013/2014)

Does climate change make you see red or feel blue? Or are these issues just black and white? What things can we do to lead our planet’s ecological balance back to greener pastures?

This course approaches sustainability from four directions: Consumption and Lifestyle, Politics, Technology and Economics. Students hold and take part in discussions and presentations, and there are skype presentations by external speakers. During the semester, students compile a portfolio of written work.

Later the students were asked how this course has helped them understand sustainability as well as improve their language skills. Below is course feedback, along with some personal insights from students, about the topic.

I really enjoyed the skype presentations. They were very interesting to listen to. Besides, I felt very special, because the presenters took so much time to talk to such a small audience. I also like the idea of a portfolio because it helps students to improve their writing skills. Furthermore I think it is a good chance to get a better grade in the end.

After all it was an interesting course and it seems to me that I’ve learned a lot about sustainability by reading and listening to others’ opinions in a critical way.

All the presentations by people who work in the area of sustainability gave me a vivid impression of the field of work. We did talk about local and regional examples of sustainability in Tübingen and Baden-Württemberg, it might be interesting to go somewhere and see live what is going on.

I liked the course and the range of topics we dealt with. The group discussions were very helpful for improving our speaking skills. Besides the group discussions, also the articles and texts were helpful for learning specific vocabulary and knowing more about the topic.

The lessons were always well structured. There were tasks at the beginning of every lesson to introduce a new topic followed by discussions about it. There also was the right balance between discussions, presentations, short films and written work.

The course is offered in cooperation with Career Service and the Studierendeninitiative “Greening the University”; the “Leistungsnachweis” will therefore be accepted within the framework of Studium Oecologicum.