

8.10.2018

English Dept Faculty Meeting

There was a lively discussion about the possibility of offering a non-AP English course for 11th grade diploma students, basically opening up the English Grundkurs for diploma students (currently only for Abi students). A similar option could be extended for 12th grade diploma students. At this point in the 11th grade there is no option other than English AP Lit for diploma students and likewise for 12th graders only either AP English Lit or AP English Language.

Some teachers worried that students would be less likely to take the AP course if they are offered an easier option. Other teachers argued that there are students who want to focus on their other AP tests and would rather get a good grade in a basic course than struggle for a medium grade in the AP class. Others countered that the mix of backgrounds and skill sets in the class are what make it such a great class. The bell rang amidst the debate and it was tabled for their next meeting in Nov.

One complicating factor is that there is a requirement for students to take an extra two hours of Abi/AP prep per week which students who are neither taking the Abi English exam nor the AP English exam don't necessarily need. If students can take the Grundkurs, perhaps they will argue against the need to take these required two hours of exam prep.

upcoming events:

Lee Beckley's 12th grade class will have a speaker on gender identit(ies) from the American Academy on Wednesday.

In a few weeks the 10th grade will make a field trip to Hohenschoenhausen, the DDR political prisoner detainment center. Classes pair up with a German class on this trip. Both English and German classes read a book about East Germany (Stasiland and Sonnenallee) before going there.

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