



**Technische Hochschule
Brandenburg**
University of
Applied Sciences
**Fachbereich
Wirtschaft**

Teaching Experience

Language-Centered Formal Modeling in International Student Groups

Prof. Dr. Vera G. Meister
Didaktikforum 2016





Items to be Modeled

1. Business Processes

a) Well-defined business procedures

e. g. order processing in eCommerce



b) Case processing, knowledge work

e. g. development of individual quotations



2. Decisions

e. g. on the proper discount for specific customers



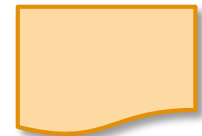
3. Structures and networks

e. g. in organizations or between business objects



4. Vocabularies and rules

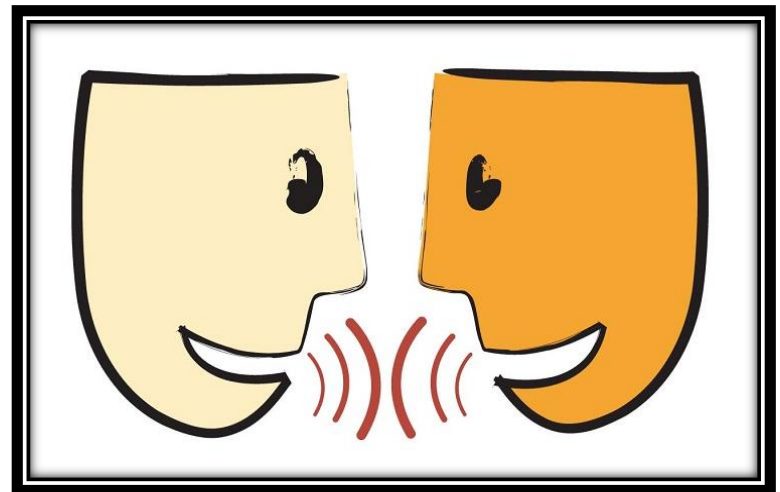
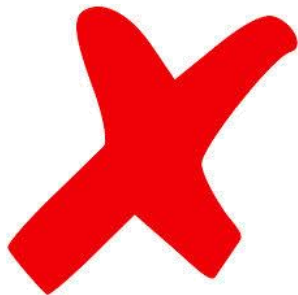
e. g. for a specific subject field or knowledge domain





Why Modeling is Important?

To use a common language between business and IT experts in projects.





Methods

❖ Modeling skills require modeling praxis

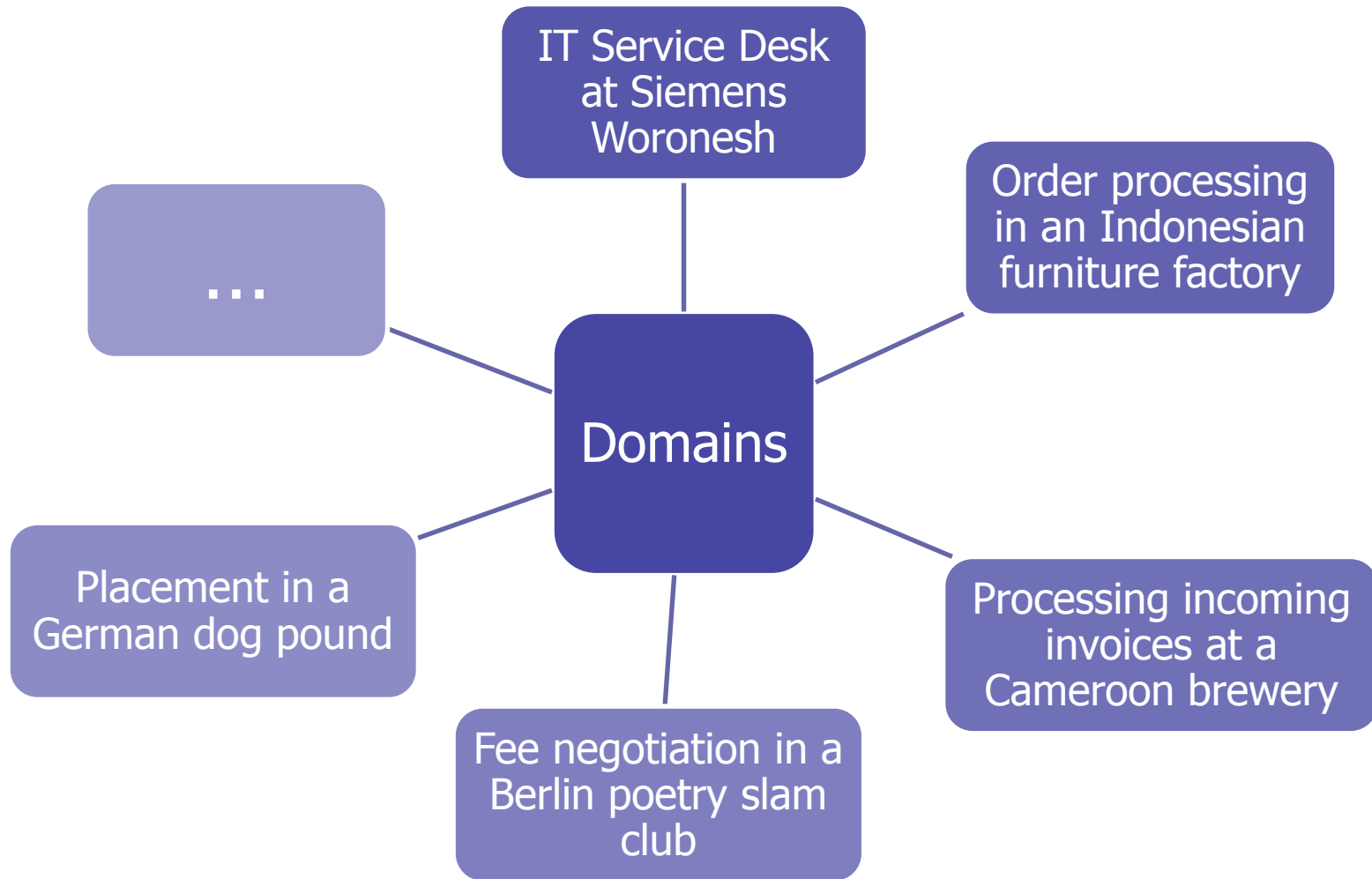
- Project-based learning
- Flipped classroom (partly)
- eLearning support (video lectures)

❖ There should be deep domain knowledge

- Individualization
- Personal coaching
- Short feedback cycles

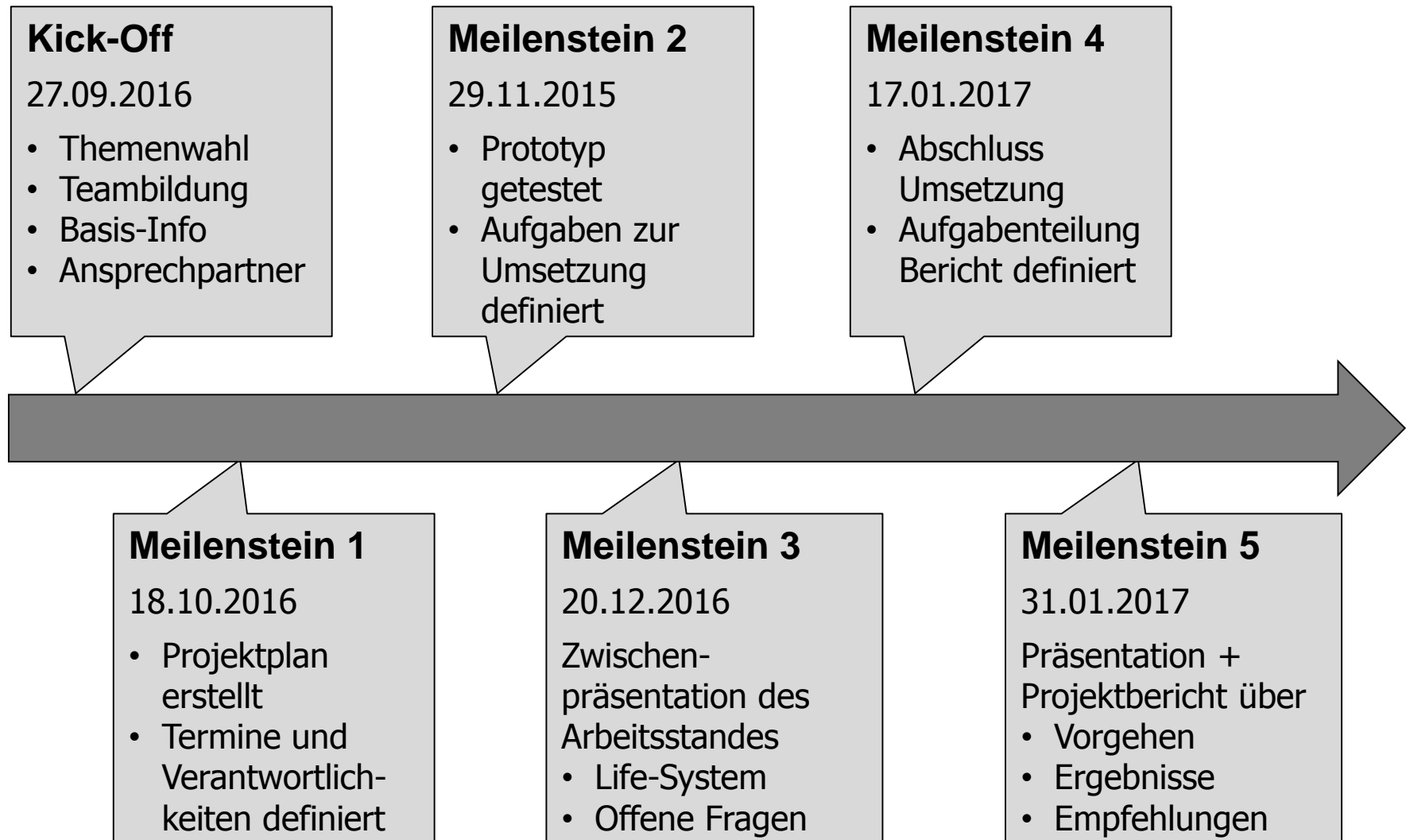


Individual Projects





Support in Project Management





Tool Suggestion for PM: Trello



The screenshot displays the Trello interface for a board named 'AKWI16'. The board is organized into five columns: Backlog, Tasks, Doing, Done, and Archive. Each column contains cards representing tasks, with progress bars and assignee information. The 'Doing' column has a due date of 17. Jul. The interface includes a top navigation bar with 'Boards', a search icon, the Trello logo, and a user profile for 'Vera Meister'. The board title 'AKWI16' is followed by 'FBW', a star icon, a lock icon, and 'Privat'. A 'Menü anzeigen' link is visible in the top right corner of the board area.

<https://trello.com>



Video Lectures and Flipped Classroom

Bruce Silver's Level 1 Method - Advanced

Example Step 3 a) b)

The diagram illustrates a BPMN process for a car purchase, involving three swimlanes: Customer, Sales, and Finance. The process starts with the Customer placing an order, which is received by Sales. Sales then enters the order and checks if the car is available. If not, the process loops back to the 'Order from factory?' decision. If available, the car is prepared for delivery. The Finance swimlane handles financing, which can be unavailable due to bad customer ratings. The process concludes with 'Close and Deliver'.

- The requested car may be unavailable because of production circumstances.
- Financing can not be arranged due to bad customer rating.

Kooperation in IT-Projekten - Modellierung von Geschäftsprozessen mit BPMN

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- Short lectures during the attendance time
- Transfer assignments for acquiring skills and personal experience
- Individual coaching with reflection and discussion of errors
- Short feedback cycles, chances for enhancement



Feedback from Students

- » If you weren't as much interested in our personal results, we would not work as hard as we did.
- » The individual discussion and reflection of our results and mistakes helped a lot to increase our modeling skills.
- » Video lectures were a good support when it comes to real modeling tasks.
- » At the start it seems very hard to achieve such a challenging goal – but we were really motivated, since we could base the project on our personal experience.
- » It would be nice to go further in the project or to combine it with related fields of practice, like programming or process execution.



Open Questions

- In most other modules international students don't show as much motivation, why in this seriously language-centered course?
- Working in individual projects, students show distinctly better performance and motivation as in team projects. Why?
- For ensuring continuous work in the project I define milestones which become part of the grades. Are there other, not forcing methods for getting students work continuously?
- How to face the great competition from concurrent modules. Even in the last semesters students have to perform in a lot of projects. Do you have experiences in interlacing projects from different modules?

Thank You for Your Attention

Prof. Dr. Vera G. Meister
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