

HISTORY 2117 -- SYLLABUS (FALL 2005)

HISTORY OF MODERN GERMANY

Instructor Michael Hayse

Class Meetings: Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-10:20
Classroom: K141
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:30-11:30, and by appointment

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Course Description and Objectives

Germany's modern history has been exceptionally turbulent. Unified as a federal state only in 1871 and heavily dominated by Prussia, the German Empire underwent rapid industrialization at the end of the nineteenth century. Leaping enthusiastically into World War I, the over-confident empire collapsed under the stress of what turned out to be a protracted war of a new type. The democratic "Weimar Republic" that emerged from the ashes of the failed empire never established firm roots or commanded substantial public support. In little more than a decade, a majority of Germans rejected Weimar parliamentarianism and rallied around political extremes such as Communism and Adolf Hitler's Nazi movement. The Nazis, in turn, exploited the democratic process to achieve dictatorial power amid the turmoil of the Great Depression. After establishing "totalitarian" control, Hitler brushed aside all international efforts at peacemaking and initiated World War II, which proved even more destructive than the Great War of 1914-1918. In the course of the ensuing World War, the Nazi regime deliberately and systematically identified, deported, and murdered six million Jews, as well as hundreds of thousands of Gypsies, political opponents, homosexuals, and POWs. These unprecedented crimes indelibly marked Germany with a heavy legacy of guilt and responsibility. One result of Germany's total defeat in 1945 was its division into two separate and mutually antagonistic states: the communist German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and the capitalist Federal Republic (West Germany). Each embedded itself in a security system dominated by one of the world's two superpowers during the Cold War. Following the unexpected collapse of East Germany in 1989, Germany rushed toward unification, a complicated process that was completed within a year. Unification has opened yet another distinct chapter in the country's turbulent but fascinating history.

This course is designed to familiarize you with the two eventful centuries described above. Along the way, we will try to answer some of the most hotly debated questions concerning modern German history. For example, why did the emergence of a German nation-state take so much longer than in France or Britain? Did Germany's late political unification and industrialization set the stage for the rise of National Socialism (Nazism)? How did the Nazis attain power, and who supported them? How could the country of Goethe and Schiller have given rise to Hitler and the Holocaust? How was West Germany able to recover so quickly from World War II, as well as establishing a vibrant democratic political culture? Why and how did communist East Germany collapse so suddenly after forty years, catching just about everyone off guard? What consequences has German reunification had for both Germany and Europe?

To answer these questions, we will draw on assigned readings from textbooks and from original, or "primary" sources. Classes will combine lecture, discussions, and small group work. Because

in-class interaction will be stressed, it is imperative that you keep up with assigned reading and projects. You should finish reading before coming to class on the day it is assigned.

I encourage you to raise questions in class. You will find that the material becomes especially interesting when you take an active role in the learning process.

Books:

- Orlow, Dietrich. *A History of Germany, 1871 to the Present*. 5th ed. NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2002.
- Funder, Anna. *Stasiland: True Stories from Behind the Wall*. London: Granta, 2003.
- Remarque, Erich Maria. *All Quiet on the Western Front*. New York: Ballantine, 1987.
- Remak, Joachim. *The Nazi Years: A Documentary History*. New York: Waveland Press, 1969.
- Spiegel, Fred. *Once the Acacias Bloomed*. NJ: Conteq, 2004.

Web CT Site: To use the WebCT site, you will need to activate your “Loki” account number and password. Go to The Richard Stockton College home page (www2.stockton.edu). Click on the link to “WebCT” and join the discussion site “Modern Germany.” If you have trouble logging in, contact Professor Hayse.

You will use WebCT for the following purposes:

- Discuss key aspects of modern German history;
- follow up on issues for which there is not sufficient time in class;
- view and “download homework assignments and study guides for exams;
- find or provide “links” to other sites on the internet related to modern German history;
- follow your progress in the course.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Midterm and Final Exam (20 and 25 percent of grade, respectively)

Both the mid-term and the final exam will consist mainly of essay questions. You will choose either one or two questions out of a larger field of possible questions. In addition, you will have to answer about 5 to 7 short-answer identifications out of a field of 7 to 10. Preliminary study guides are posted on WebCT (subject to change).

Reaction papers (10 percent of grade)

You will submit two 2-3 page book reviews on clearly articulated aspects of two of the following: *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *Stasiland*, or *Once the Acacias Bloomed*. . These will be informal thoughts and questions raised by the readings. These will be due on the day the reading assignments are due. No late submissions or make-ups.

Analytical Paper (20 percent of grade)

You will be asked to write a 5-page paper on a topic of your choice related to modern German history. This paper should be analytical and well-focused on a specific topic. The paper must be based in part or in whole on assigned readings, although it is expected that you will do some additional research. A list of possible topics will be provided.

Quizzes and Short Assignments (10 percent of grade)

There will be three map quizzes. Each will test your knowledge of German and European geography at a particular point in time (1871-1914, 1919, and 1949), and will be based on maps found in your textbook. Other quizzes or short assignments may take place as determined by the instructor; these may be announced or unannounced.

Participation (15 percent of grade)

You will receive a grade based on the quantity and quality of your contribution to discussion in class. Most of this grade will derive from in-class contribution to discussions, including

the degree to which statements and questions reflect familiarity with the assigned readings. Originality and analytical thinking is encouraged. Contributions to on-line (WebCT) discussion and extra-curricular interest in the material will also be considered.

Policies:

- **Attendance:** Attendance is required. Absences will be excused only if *official written documentation* is provided (e-mail does not count). Beginning with the third unexcused absence, the course grade will be lowered by one-third a letter grade for each absence. *You* are responsible for contacting the instructor or a classmate to find out about what you missed, including announced quizzes, short assignments, etc.
- **Punctuality:** For frequent tardiness, the instructor reserves the right to count late arrival at class as an absence. Responsibility for being recorded as present rests with you.
- **Late assignment:** Unless justified by an excused absence (see above), late exams, papers, and other assignments will be *marked down one letter grade for each class day they are overdue*. Quizzes may only be made up only at the instructor’s discretion.
- **Plagiarism:** All work submitted for the class must be original work written by the student, in keeping with College policies. All texts from which material is drawn must be acknowledged in citations and bibliographies. Plagiarism is defined and described in the brochure handed out in class, and College policy on plagiarism is detailed in the Undergraduate College Bulletin. *Any willful plagiarism will result in a failing grade in the course and disciplinary proceedings by the Dean of Academic Affairs.* No exceptions.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS:

L = Lecture

D = Discussion

R = readings (to be completed before coming to class)

*** = Assignment due

Week	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
1	9/6: L/D: Introductions and course themes: What is Germany? R: none	9/8: L: Where, what and who? History, geography, and demographics to 1849 R: None
2	9/13: L: Otto von Bismarck and German unification R: Orlow, Ch. 1	9/15: L: Economy, society, and politics in the <i>Gründerzeit</i> (Founders’ Era) MAP QUIZ #1
3	9/20: German Colonialism and the Balance of Power in Europe R: Orlow, Ch. 2	9/22: D: Germany at the dawn of a new century: nation, identity, and “race” R: Remak, <i>The Nazi Years</i> , Chapter 1 (“The Roots”)
4	9/27: L: The Great War R: Orlow, Ch. 3	9/29: D: The “Front Generation” R: Remarque, <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> (entire)
5	10/4: L: The promise and problems of	10/6: D: Life in an Uprooted Society

	Germany's first democracy R: Orlow, Ch. 4	Film: <i>Berlin: Symphony of a Great City</i> , Dir. Walter Ruttmann, 72 mins (Germany, 1927)
6	10/11: L: Adolf Hitler and the NSDAP in the Weimar Republic: quest for power R Orlow, Ch. 5	10/13: D: Weimar culture R: Remak, <i>The Nazi Years</i> , Chapter 2 ("The Soil")

7	10/18: MID-TERM EXAM	10/20: L/D: Was the Nazi rise to power inevitable? R: Remak, <i>Nazi Years</i> , Chapter 3 (“The Program”)
8	10/25: L: <i>Gleichschaltung</i> : Establishing the dictatorship R: Orlow, Ch. 6	10/27: D: Implementing the Racial State R: Remak, <i>Nazi Years</i> , Chapters 4 (“Power”), 9 (“Eugenics”), and 10 (“The Jews”)
9	11/1: NO CLASS: PRECEPTING DAY	11/3: L/D: World War II R: Orlow, Ch. 7
10	11/8: D: The Holocaust R: Remak, <i>The Nazi Years</i> , Ch. 10 (“The Jews” and 11 (“Resistance”))	11/10: D: A Survivor’s account of the Holocaust R: Spiegel, <i>Once the Acacias Bloomed</i> (entire)
11	11/15: L/D: Occupation and division, 1945-49 R: Orlow, Ch. 8	11/17: Film: <i>The Murderers Are Among Us</i> , Dir. Wolfgang Staudte. 81 min. (Germany, 1946)
12	11/22: L: West Germany: Road to a Stable Democracy R: Orlow, Ch. 9	11/24: NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
13	11/29: L: The German Democratic Republic: Life of a Wall R: Orlow, Ch. 10	12/1: D: Life in East Germany R: Funder, <i>Stasiland</i> (entire)
14	12/6: L/D: The fall of the Wall and its discontents R: Orlow, Ch. 11	12/8: L/D: German history in the the German Present R: Orlow, Ch. 12
15	12/13: Review for exam	12/15: FINAL EXAM