

History 331:
History of Germany in Global Context, 1871-1990

Davidson College
Spring 2008
Professor T. Pegelow Kaplan

Time and Location of Meetings: Tues./Thurs., 1:00 - 2:15 p.m.
Chambers (CHAM) 3106

Course Webpage: <https://blackboard3.davidson.edu/>
(Login and click on "History of Germany . . Spring 2008")

Contact Information:

Office: Chambers 2149

Office hours: Tues. 2:30-4:30 pm; Wed. 10:30-11:30 am; Thurs. 2:30-4:30 pm or by appointment

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Course Overview:

Between 1871 and 1990, Germany evolved from a unified authoritarian monarchy into a feeble republic and then into a murderous dictatorship. After the division of 1945/49, the smaller half experimented with Soviet-style socialism, while Germans in the larger half succeeded in establishing a stable and economically prosperous democracy. Despite two wars against the United States and Britain and three armed conflicts with France, an again unified Germany emerged as one of these countries' strongest allies and a major proponent of a European political and economic union at the end of the Cold War in 1990.

This upper-division course explores these developments in the history of Germany in their European and global context from the early nineteenth until the late twentieth century. The course shows that Germans did not only seek to become active players on a global stage by forging military alliances and building an overseas Empire since the mid-1880s, they were also shaped by the webs of communication and their interactions with European and global cultures and societies. These interactions only increased after 1945, when the victorious Allies occupied the country and played a decisive role in setting the stage for its postwar development. By studying the struggles of Germans with authoritarian and liberal political projects, this course, finally, reevaluates claims by past scholars who argued that Germany developed along a "special path" (*Sonderweg*) different from other nations and discusses alternative perspectives. We especially examine perspectives that measure political and socio-cultural developments with the help of concepts of classical modernity and civil society.

Course Goals:

This course seeks to

- Familiarize you with key approaches and debates in the study of modern German history
- Increase your understanding of modern German political, cultural, economic and social relations and their role in a European and global context
- Sharpen your analytical skills with primary and secondary historical sources

Requirements and Grading Policies:

- Class Meetings and Discussions: This course is organized around lectures and discussions. You are required to read the assigned secondary and primary sources before coming to class. Please go to the course webpage for each meeting's discussion starter questions that also serve as guidance for your readings. In class, it is vital that you participate actively in our discussions. Your participation grade is primarily based on the quality and quantity of your comments. In my evaluation of your performance, I pay specific attention to the relevancy of your contributions to our exchanges and to what extent they elevate the discussions. I also look for your ability to engage the positions of others and develop their arguments further.

Our class meetings are mandatory. You may miss two meetings for any reason. Any further failure to attend will have a negative impact on your participation grade unless this absence occurs due to a medical condition, family emergency, job interview, or an authorized college-related activity. In accordance with college policy, you may fail the class if you miss more than twenty-five per cent of our meetings.

- Secondary Source Evaluation: You will write a three-page (900-word, 12-point type) analysis of an aspect of the historiographic debates over the German Empire (see readings by D. Blackbourn, H.-U. Wehler, and H. v. Treitschke for the Jan. 31 meeting). Please go to the course webpage for guidelines and grading criteria.
- Take-Home Midterm Review: There will be one take-home essay exam. I will distribute the exam questions in class (and make them available on-line). I will ask you to write two essays on the primary and secondary accounts we discussed during the previous weeks.

This examination tests your ability to understand the material, analyze historical problems, and form coherent and convincing arguments. Please do not share your outlines, drafts or final products with your classmates or give them specific advice. If you need help or clarification, please approach me.

- Research Paper: You are required to write a twelve-page (3600-word, 12-point type) research paper on a topic of your own choosing. This topic must be directly related to the course and deal with a specific scholarly debate over an interpretation of a key process, event or figure in German history. Your paper has to draw on at least two of the assigned books, a minimum of three additional scholarly monographs, and several primary sources. I will ask you to compose a one-page (300-word, 12-point type) **paper proposal** that sketches the paper's topic, makes a convincing case for its relevance, and spells out clear research questions. Please also include a *preliminary bibliography* in your proposal (in addition to the 300-word essay). This bibliography should list your project's key secondary and primary sources. If you are in need of ideas or inspiration, please refer to the list of potential topics and sources on the course webpage or simply talk to me. Also go to the course webpage for further guidelines and grading criteria. Finally, consider consulting the Writing Center in Chambers B39 (North Basement).
- Primary Source Analysis: As part of your work on the research paper, you will also compose a three-page (900-word, 12-point type) evaluation and criticism of one or more primary sources. These sources have to originate from your ongoing research and must not be among the materials assigned for this class. Your paper has to relate its analysis of these sources to the evolving argument of your research project. Attach a copy of the analyzed sources to your paper. For more guidelines and hints, please go to the course webpage.

- **Oral Presentation:** During the second half of the term, participants will present their projects and preliminary findings to the entire class. These presentations will follow the format of poster sessions. For further guidelines and hints on the composition of your poster, see the course webpage. As part of your preparations, you may also want to consult with a tutor at the Speaking Center in Chambers B39 (North Basement).
- **Late Assignments:** I will accept late assignments. You are required to submit both a hard and electronic copy of your late work. Out of fairness to the other students who meet the deadlines, your assignment will be graded down by a third of a letter grade (for example from a 'B' to a 'B-') for every 24 hours it is late.
- **Accommodations:** I am committed to providing accommodations for all disabled students (as is their right), including those with learning disabilities that have been documented by Davidson College. If you are a learning-disabled student, please identify yourself to me as soon as possible, so that we can strategize ways to accommodate your needs in the classroom community. Students with other disabilities are also encouraged to self-identify and discuss with me how I can make accommodations that will enhance your learning experience.

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Class Participation:	20 per cent
Take-Home Exam:	15 per cent
Secondary Source Evaluation:	12.5 per cent
Primary Source Analysis:	12.5 per cent
Oral Presentation:	10 per cent
Research Paper Proposal:	5 per cent
Research Paper:	25 per cent

Grading Scale:	
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	below 60

Required Readings:

You should purchase the following books (available at the Davidson College Bookstore):

- David Blackbourn, *History of Germany, 1780-1918*, 2nd edition (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2002)
- Michael Burleigh, *The Third Reich. A New History* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2000)
- Mary Fulbrook, *Anatomy of a Dictatorship. Inside the GDR 1949-1989* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998)
- Konrad H. Jarausch, *After Hitler. Recivilizing Germans* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006)
- Marion Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999)
- Detlev Peukert, *The Weimar Republic* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1993)

The remaining required course readings are available on e-reserve or via the course webpage.

Calendar for Course Meetings and Readings:

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTIONS

1. Tues. Jan. 15: Introduction, Studying and Conceptualizing German Histories

(Jarausch, *After Hitler*, pp. 3- 17; Kocka, “German History Before Hitler,” pp. 3-16; and Frevert, “Europeanizing German History,” pp. 9-24)

PART I: THE “GERMAN QUESTION” PRIOR TO THE UNIFICATION OF 1870/71

2. Thurs. Jan. 17: Political and Social Transformation in the German Lands during the Wars against France and the *Vormärz*
(Blackbourn, *History of Germany*, chapters 1 and 2)

WEEK 2: THE GERMAN STATES IN THE “DUAL REVOLUTION”

3. Tues. Jan. 22: The Revolutions of 1848/49 and the Course of Central European History
(Blackbourn, *History of Germany*, chapter 3; “Heppenheim Program of the Southwest German Liberals,” pp. 1-2)

4. Thurs. Jan. 24: Industrialization and Socio-Economic Change in the German Lands
(Blackbourn, *History of Germany*, chapter 4)

WEEK 3: GERMAN UNIFICATION AND PRUSSIAN HEGEMONY

5. Tues. Jan. 29: War, Diplomacy, and the Competing Designs for the External Unification of Germany, 1864-1871
(Bismarck, *Bismarck's Letters to His Wife*, pp. 20-23; Blackbourn, *History of Germany*, pp. 171-190; Hamerow, *Age of Bismarck*, pp. 70-72, 158-163)

6. Thurs. Jan. 31: The Foundation of the German Empire: Political and Institutional Structures and Compromises
(Blackbourn, *History of Germany*, pp. 190-203; Wehler, *German Empire*, 52-62; 273; Treitschke, *Politics*, pp. 232-237, 320)

Thurs. Jan. 31: Secondary Source Evaluation due at the end of class

PART II: THE GERMAN EMPIRE IN AN AGE OF IMPERIALISM, 1871-1918

WEEK 4: MAKING GERMANS, DEFINING ENEMIES AT HOME

7. Tues. Feb. 5: Social Structures and Competing Cultures in the German Empire
(Blackbourn, *History of Germany*, chapters 6 and 8)

8. Thurs. Feb. 7: Everyday Life of the Working Classes: Male and Female Experiences
(Kelly, *German Worker*, pp. 230-251, 351-369)

WEEK 5: IMPERIAL GERMANY ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

9. Tues. Feb. 12: German Foreign and Economic Relations: Between Balance of Power, Early Imperialist Expansion, and “World Policy”
(Blackbourn, *History of Germany*, chapters 7 and 9; Bismarck, “Principles of Foreign Policy,” pp. 290-293)

10. Thurs. Feb. 14: The First World War
(Blackbourn, *History of Germany*, Epilogue; review end of chapter 9; Weinberg, *Transformation of a Continent*, 46-48; Wilson, “Fourteen Points,” pp. 1-2)

PART III: WEIMAR GERMANY IN A POSTWAR WORLD, 1918/19-1933

WEEK 6: THE EMERGENCE OF THE FIRST GERMAN REPUBLIC

11. Tues. Feb. 19: The German Revolution of 1918/19 and the Creation of the Weimar Republic (Kaes, *Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, pp. 15-18; Peukert, *The Weimar Republic*, chapters 1 and 2)

Tues. Feb. 19: Take-home essay exam will be distributed in class

12. Thurs. Feb. 21: Quest for a Democratic Society during the Republic's Early Crisis Years (Peukert, *The Weimar Republic*, chapters 3, 5, and 6)

WEEK 7: A STABLE REPUBLIC IN THE "GOLDEN TWENTIES"?

13. Tues. Feb. 26: Political and Social Life of the 1920s ("The Rise of New Woman," pp. 206-210; Peukert, *The Weimar Republic*, chapters 4, 7, 10 and 11;

Recommended: Peukert, *The Weimar Republic*, chapters 8 and 9)

14. Thurs. Feb. 28: The Rise of the Radical Political Right and Left (Peukert, *The Weimar Republic*, chapter 12; Sax and Kuntz, *Inside Hitler's Germany*, pp. 72-75, 87-89, 105-110)

Thurs. Feb. 28: Take-home essay exam due at the beginning of class

Sat. Mar. 1 – Sun. Mar. 9: NO CLASSES – Spring Break

WEEK 8: A REPUBLIC WITHOUT DEMOCRATS

15. Tues. Mar. 11: Reversion to Authoritarianism and the End of the German Republic (Peukert, *The Weimar Republic*, chapters 13 and 14)

PART IV: NAZI GERMANY AND THE QUEST FOR A "NEW ORDER" IN EUROPE, 1933-1945

16. Thurs. Mar. 13: The Nazis in Power: Coordinating German Political, Social and Cultural Life, 1933-34

(Burleigh, *Third Reich*, introduction and chapter 2)

WEEK 9: DICTATORSHIP BUILDING AND THE PERSECUTION OF MINORITIES AND POLITICAL OPPONENTS IN HITLER'S GERMANY

17. Tues. Mar. 18: A Period of Consolidation and Preparation for War: Nazi Germany's Foreign and Domestic Policies, 1935-1939

(Adamthwaite, *Making of the Second World War*, pp. 179-180, 184-185; Burleigh, *Third Reich*, chapter 3; Noakes and Pridham, *Nazism*, pp. 680-687)

Tues. Mar. 18: Research Paper Proposal due at the end of class

18. Thurs. Mar. 20: German and German-Jewish Everyday Lives and the Radicalization of Nazi Racial Policies

(Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, pp. 3-73, 119-144; Maschmann, *Account Rendered*, pp. 6-36;

Recommended: Burleigh, *Third Reich*, chapter 4)

WEEK 10: RACIAL WAR AND GENOCIDE

Tues. Mar. 25: NO CLASSES – Easter Break

19. Thurs. Mar. 27: Waging a War of Extermination, Perpetrating Genocide: Nazi Germany and the Second World War
(Burleigh, *Third Reich*, pp. 407-431, 485-529, 571-650; Hilberg, *Documents of Destruction*, pp. 85-89)

WEEK 11: RACIAL WAR AND GENOCIDE (Part II)

20. Tues. Apr. 1: The Nazi Regime's "Final Solution" and the European Jews' Struggles for Survival
(Burleigh, *Third Reich*, pp. 650-662; 769-779; Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, pp. 145-216, 229-237; Klemperer, *I Will Bear Witness, 1942-1945*, pp. 60-66, 273-282;
Recommended: Burleigh, *Third Reich*, pp. 731-768, 780-93)

Tues. Apr. 1, 8:00 pm or Wed. Apr. 2, 8:00 pm, Chambers 1006:

Screening of "The Murderers Are Among Us" (*Die Mörder sind unter uns*) (1946)
(For guiding questions, see course webpage.)

21. Thurs. Apr. 3: Confronting the Nazi Past: Race, Gender, and Representations of Nazism in Early Post-War German Cinema and Society
(Gemünden, "How to View a Film," 458-60 and Jarausch, *After Hitler*, pp. 31-38, 46-55)

PART V: THE TWO GERMANIES IN THE COLD WAR, 1945/49-1990

WEEK 12: THE OCCUPATION AND FOUNDATION OF TWO GERMAN STATES

22. Tues. Apr. 8: Legal Successor to the *Reich*: The Federal Republic of Germany
(Holborn, *German Constitutional Documents*, 46-49, 53-61, 70-72; Jarausch, *After Hitler*, pp. 19-30, 43-45, 55-63, 69-93, 96-98; "Potsdam Agreement," 3-6)

Tues. Apr. 8: Primary Source Analysis due at the end of class

23. Thurs. Apr. 10: The German Democratic Republic and Its Political Structures
(Fulbrook, *Anatomy of a Dictatorship*, chapters 2 and 3, pp. 283-86)

WEEK 13: PROTEST AND OPPOSITION IN THE CONSOLIDATED GERMANIES

24. Tues. Apr. 15: The Federal Republic in Turmoil: Protest Cultures and the Social-Liberal Era of Reform
(Baumann, *How It All Began*, pp. 19-48; Jarausch, *After Hitler*, pp. 99-101, 147-184)

25. Thurs. Apr. 17: Political Opposition and State Violence in the GDR
(Fulbrook, *Anatomy of a Dictatorship*, chapters 6, 7 and 8; "1953 Uprising," pp. 8-10)

WEEK 14: DISCUSSIONS OF STUDENT RESEARCH

26. Tues. Apr. 22: Student Research Presentations
(No Reading Assignment)

27. Thurs. Apr. 24: Student Research Presentations (Part II)
(No Reading Assignment)

WEEK 15: THE END OF THE COLD WAR AND THE GERMAN UNIFICATION

28. Tues. Apr. 29: The 1989 Revolutions in Eastern Europe, the Collapse of the GDR and the Rush to Unification
(Fulbrook, *Anatomy of a Dictatorship*, chapter 9 and pp. 279-83; Jarausch, *After Hitler*, pp. 185-187, 214-238, 264-266; Jarausch and Gransow, *Uniting Germany*, pp. 39-41, 107-109, 86-89; 150-153)

29. Thurs. May 1: Parting Discussions and Comments and Course Evaluations
(Jarausch, *After Hitler*, pp. 267-281)

Wed. May 7, 4:30 p.m.: RESEARCH PAPER DUE

(Please bring your paper to Chambers 2149 and leave it in the plastic box attached to the office door.)