

**JONATHAN ZATLIN**  
MWF 11-12, CAS 316  
Email: jzatlin@bu.edu

Office Tel: 3-8310  
Office: 226 Bay State Rd., #405  
Office hours: M3-4, W11-12, F11-12

**CAS HI 338**  
**GERMANY 1914 TO THE PRESENT**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION** This course explores the history of Germany during the “short” twentieth century. It will examine recurrent themes in German history, including authoritarianism and dictatorship, racism and antisemitism, and the remarkable durability of German economic strength. The course opens with an analysis of Imperial Germany to gain a better understanding of the meaning of Germany’s defeat in World War I. The course then considers the short-lived German experiment with democracy in the 1920s, focusing on the polarization of cultural politics, the rejection of liberal solutions to the challenges of modernity on the Right and the Left, and the rise of the Nazis. Particular attention will be paid to the Nazi dictatorship, World War II, and the Holocaust. For the period after 1945, the course will explore the initial victory of communism in the German East and the astonishing stability of liberal democracy in the West. The course ends with a consideration of the revolution of 1989 and German unification. Students will have the opportunity to engage with a variety of sources, including films, images, fiction, memoirs, diaries, party and state documents, and secondary accounts.

**GRADES** Grades are based by your performance on the following required assignments:

One one-page paper (September 28)	5 percent
Mid-Term Exam (October 26):	30 percent
One five-page paper (November 19):	25 percent
Final Exam (as posted by BU):	40 percent

The **one-page paper** consists of a short response to a question I will pose about German history; it is aimed at helping you think historically and preparing you for the longer paper. I will assign paper topics for the **five-page paper** two weeks in advance of the due date. I ask that you do not use online sources in your papers; the inclusion of online sources in your papers will result in a failing grade for the assignment. Instead, the five-page paper requires you to read at least one book not assigned in the course. Please turn papers in on time. “On time” means at the **beginning of class** on the day they are due. Late papers will be marked down one letter grade per day. **No early or make-up exams will be offered.** Please note that I reserve the right to depart from the syllabus during the semester if necessary.

**CHEATING** Cheating is a serious infraction of scholarly conduct, and will earn an automatic F for the course. **Cheating includes plagiarism**, which is defined as the use of intellectual material produced by another person without appropriate acknowledgment. Plagiarism includes three words or more in order taken from a source without attribution. Please read the Boston University Academic Conduct Code carefully, and the section on plagiarism in particular.

**CLASS DISCUSSION** This course is small enough to allow for some discussion every week. Please come to class having completed the assigned readings and prepared to discuss them. During lecture, you should feel free to stop me at any time to ask a question. Your questions help clarify points in my lectures that others do not understand – including the professor. In addition, I strongly encourage you to come to office hours and meet with me. Personal contact between students and teachers is an important part of the learning process. If your schedule conflicts with my normal office hours, please email me to arrange a meeting.

**REQUIRED READING** The following books are available for purchase at Barnes and Noble:

W.S. Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power* (Franklin Watts, 1984)  
Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men* (Harper Trade, 1998)  
John Le Carre, *Spy Who Came in from the Cold* (Pocket Books, 2001)  
Robert Proctor, *Racial Hygiene* (Harvard, 1989)  
Dietrich Orlow, *A History of Modern Germany* (Prentice Hall, 2002)  
Bernhard Schlink, *The Reader* (Random House, 1999)

**NB:** All readings marked with an asterisk (\*) can be found online at the **CourseInfo website**.

**Part I: From Imperial Germany to the Weimar Republic**

**September 5-7:** Wilhelmine Germany

Orlow, 1-52, 61-77  
Lora Wildenthal, "Race, Gender, and Citizenship in the German Empire," in Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler, eds., *Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World* (Berkeley, 1997), 263-283 – ebook found via BU library search.

**September 10-14:** Germany and the Great War

\*Heinrich Mann, *Man of Straw*, chapter 1, 5-44  
\*Mommsen, "The Latent Crisis," 141-162  
\*Ecksteins, *Rites of Spring*, chapter 6, 192-207

**September 17-21:** The War and the Incomplete Revolution

Orlow, 78-104  
\*Max Hoelz, *From White Cross to Red Flag*, 35-83  
\**Weimar Sourcebook*: Heuss, "Democracy and Parliamentarism;" Gumbel, "Four Years;" German Center Party, "Program;" Social Democratic Party, "Program;" German People's Party, "Program;" German Workers' Party, "The Twenty-Five Points;" Schmitt, "On the Contradiction"

**September 24-October 3:** Weimar Germany

Orlow, 105-139  
\*Alan Bullock, *Hitler*, 23-36, 46-56, 63-85, 106-120  
\*Sebastian Haffner, *Defying Hitler*, 52-66

Film: Fritz Lang, *Metropolis* (1927)

**\*One-page papers due in my box before 5 p.m. on Sept. 28**

**October 5-12:** The Collapse of the Weimar Republic

Orlow, 140-157  
W.S. Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power*, 3-147  
\*Theodore Abel, *Why Hitler Came to Power*, 204-18, 244-74, 289-301

## Part II: Nazi Germany

### October 15-19: The Nazi Dictatorship

Orlow, 157-195

Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power*, 170-248

\*Ian Kershaw, *Hitler*, 62-118

\*Albert Speer, *Inside the Third Reich*, 83-101

### October 22-24: Nazi Racial Policies

Robert Proctor, *Racial Hygiene*, 64-250

\*Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, 284-329

\*Joseph Goebbels, "Why Are We Enemies of the Jews?"

### \*October 26: Midterm Exam

### October 29: Image as Experience – Nazi Film

Leni Riefenstahl, *Triumph of the Will* (1934)

### October 31-November 2: Coercion and Conformity in Nazi Germany

\*Viktor Klemperer, "The Klemperer Diaries" in *The New Yorker* (4.27-5.4, 1998), 120-35

\*Kershaw, *Popular Opinion and Political Dissent*, excerpts 1-3

Film: excerpts from Fritz Hippler, *The Eternal Jew*

### November 7-9: World War II

Orlow, 195-225

Begin Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men*

\*"The Hossbach Memorandum" and other documents in *Hitler's Third Reich*, 263-75, 327-331

\* Richard Overy, *Why the Allies Won*, 208-244

\* T. Schulte, *The German Army and Nazi Policies in Occupied Russia*, 86-116, 150-79

\*Albert Speer, *Inside the Third Reich*, 377-393

### November 12: no class (Veteran's Day)

### November 14-19: The Holocaust

Finish Browning, *Ordinary Men*

\*Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

\*Kershaw, *Popular Opinion*, excerpt 5

**\*Five-Page papers due November 19**

### November 21-23: Thanksgiving break, no class

## Part III: Postwar Germanys

### November 26-30: Defeat and Division

Orlow, 226-260

Begin John Le Carré, *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold*

\*Josef Foscepoth, "German Reaction to Defeat and Occupation," in: Robert G. Moeller (ed.), *West German under Construction*, 73-89

- \*Konrad Adenauer, *Memoirs*, excerpts
- \*Walter Ulbricht, *Whither Germany*, excerpts
- \*Wolfgang Leonhard, *Child of the Revolution*, excerpts

**December 3-7: One Nation, Two States**

- Orlow, 261-333
- Finish Le Carré, *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold*
- Start Schlink, *The Reader*
- \*Willy Brandt, *People and Politics*, 366-97

Film: excerpts from Wolfgang Kessel, *Kinder, Kader, Kommandeure* (1992)

**December 10-12: Germany Undivided?**

- Orlow, 334-384
- Finish Schlink, *The Reader*
- \*Günter Wallraff, *The Lowest of the Low*, 1-3, 64-146
- \*Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern*, 11-21, 61-77

**\*Final Exam as scheduled by BU**