

**History 202-302**  
**The German Century, 1890-1990**  
**W 2:00-5:00 CH 217**

Prof. Ronald J. Granieri  
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Germany's political and geographical position places it in the center of European history in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, for better and for worse. This undergraduate seminar for History majors will consider Germany's place in Europe (literally and figuratively) from the resignation of Bismarck to the fall of the Berlin Wall, with special attention to the ways in which German developments shaped and were shaped by larger European trends.

**Required Books:** Taylor, *The Course of German History* (Routledge)  
Berghahn, *Imperial Germany 1871-1914* (Berghahn)  
Gay, *Weimar Culture* (Norton)  
Peukert, *Inside Nazi Germany* (Yale)  
Bartov, *Germany's War and the Holocaust* (Cornell)  
Granieri, *The Ambivalent Alliance* (Berghahn)  
Schissler, ed. *The Miracle Years* (Princeton)  
Fulbrook, *Anatomy of a Dictatorship* (Oxford)  
McAdams, *Germany Divided* (Princeton)  
Schneider, *The German Comedy* (Noonday)  
*All are in paper and available at the Penn Book Center, 34th and Sansom.*

<b>Assignments:</b>	Discussion Participation	25%
	Reading Presentations	20%
	Paper Presentation	10%
	Historiographical Essay	45%

**Course Guidelines** This seminar will meet once a week to discuss course readings and presentations. Attendance at all meetings is required. Absences will be permitted only by prior arrangement with the instructor, and then only when accompanied by a written explanation from the student's adviser, doctor, or undertaker. At **all** meetings, **all** students will be expected to have completed the assigned reading, and should be prepared to demonstrate their degree of preparation in a manner to be chosen by the instructor. **Active** participation in discussions (active listening and tangible contributions to the content rather than simply the length or volume of the discussions) is expected from all students, an expectation that will be reflected in the calculation of the participation grade. It is the individual's responsibility to manage the expected reading load. Students are strongly advised to keep up with the assignments, which I designed to be consumed in small, digestible chunks. Any attempt to ignore the readings until just before a discussion will result in a severe case of intellectual

indigestion. Contact the instructor about any difficulties keeping up with the reading load.

There are three basic components to this seminar. The first is presentation of the course readings. Each week one or two students (see schedule below) will be responsible for making a formal presentation (for students presenting alone, maximum 15 minutes; for pairs of students, each student will have 10 minutes) based on that week's reading. The course will be affiliated with Penn's Communication Within the Curriculum (CWiC) Program, which means student presentations will be prepared in consultation with a CWiC tutor. Students will meet in advance with the CWiC tutor to prepare their presentations, and will be graded on their performance according to criteria set by the instructor and CWiC program (including clarity and originality of presentation, degree of cooperation between members if applicable, and the quality of the questions presented for discussion). The purpose of these presentations is not to summarize the book, but rather to identify and introduce important themes and suggest questions to guide the discussion to follow. In those weeks when a pair of students makes a presentation, they should avoid overlap but should try to relate their presentations to each other by developing contrasting arguments about the book.

The second component of the seminar is the student's weekly contribution to discussions when he/she is not making a formal presentation. Students will be graded on their performance and participation (which means contributions to the quality rather than merely the length or volume of the discussions).

The third major component of the class is the seminar paper. All participants will write a 15-20 page historiographical essay, which should assess the state of the scholarship on a particular aspect of German history. This paper will be completed in stages, with students required to turn in sections (such as a statement of intention and bibliography) before turning in the final version at the end of the term. All students will also make a formal, ten-minute oral presentation on the subject of their paper during the last weeks of the term, which will also be prepared in consultation with the CWiC adviser. Further details on all the assignments will be provided in due course.

Students must complete **all** assignments in order to receive credit for the course. Failure to complete any assignment, regardless of how small a percentage of the total grade it represents, without the expressed consent of the instructor, will result in an automatic failure for the course.

**All assignments are due at the time indicated by the instructor. Extensions or other exceptions will only be granted in the direst of emergencies. The decision whether or not a particular explanation is sufficient to warrant accepting a late paper, and the penalty that will be imposed, lies solely with the instructor. Computer catastrophes, switched assignments, and broken-hearted roommates are not in themselves acceptable excuses.**

Students are urged to read and understand the rules regarding academic honesty. All work submitted in the class must be the product of the individual

student's effort, and must be done for this course alone. Unless expressly permitted by the instructor, collaboration with other students, or the simultaneous submission of the same work for more than one class, is prohibited.

### Reading and Discussion Schedule

*Each week will have at least one presenter. Weeks marked with an asterisk will have two.*

7 Sep: Course Introduction  
Reading: None

14 Sep: The German Problem  
Reading: Taylor, *The Course of German History*\*

21 Sep: Imperial Germany in Peace and War  
Reading: Berghahn, *Imperial Germany*\*

28 Sep: Revolution and the Republic  
Reading: Gay, *Weimar Culture*

5 Oct: The Third Reich at Home  
Reading: Peukert, *Inside Nazi Germany*

12 Oct: Total War and Genocide  
Reading: Bartov, *Germany's War and the Holocaust*\*

19 Oct: Germany, the Cold War, and the West  
Reading: Granieri, *The Ambivalent Alliance*

26 Oct: The Culture of Prosperity  
Reading: Schissler, *The Miracle Years*\*

2 Nov: The "Other Germany"  
Reading: Fulbrook, *Anatomy of a Dictatorship*\*

9 Nov: From *Ostpolitik* to (Re-)unification  
Reading: McAdams, *Germany Divided*

16 Nov: The German Problem Reconsidered  
Reading: Schneider, *The German Comedy*

23 Nov: **No Meeting—Thanksgiving Break**

30 Nov: Student Presentations

7 Dec: Student Presentations

12 Dec: ***TERM PAPER DUE***