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Fall 2005
MWF 2-2:50 p.m.
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HIS 340 Topics in Modern German History *Germany, 1945 to the Present*

Overview

Today, a united Germany struggles with a legacy bequeathed it by both Hitler's Third Reich and Communist East Germany. How did Germans experience the rapid political, social, and cultural changes that marked their lives throughout this period?

This course will use literary text, historical writings, and films to illuminate episodes in Germany's turbulent history since 1945. Changes in German identity will be examined in the following areas: gender and sexuality; the experience of Jews and other minority groups; the rise of the working class and social democracy; militarism and war; and conservative and nationalist groups.

Assignments

Attendance:

Each week we will have two class period of lecture and a third period of discussion, generally on Fridays. Attendance at the discussion session is mandatory. Each student will be allowed one absence from the discussion session for any reason. After this, absences at the discussion session will hurt the student's final grade.

Films:

For this class we will watch several films. These are rare, hard-to-find films, generally not available at Blockbuster. I have scheduled group showings for the class outside of class time. In an emergency, students may be able to watch the film on their own if it is on reserve at the Undergraduate Library.

Papers:

Students will submit a 2-page paper (double-spaced) on their choice of three of the semester's weekly reading/film assignments. These papers will be due at the beginning of the class in which that reading is discussed. The papers may address one of the questions from the study sheet for that reading. See also the guideline for short papers. **Everyone must write one paper by Sept. 16.**

A midterm paper (4-5 pages) is due in class on **October 10**, and a final paper (5-6 pgs.) is due at our last class meeting on **December 9**.

Writing is an important skill that we will be practicing in this class, hence the many brief writing assignments. Students are expected to read and apply The Elements of Style in their work. Some time after the fourth week of class, there will be a pop quiz on this book, which will count as extra credit. Extra credit can also be earned by writing a reaction paper about selected class-related university events announced by the instructor over the course of the semester.

Grade breakdown:

Discussion and attendance	20%
Short papers (3)	20
Midterm paper	30
Final paper	30
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	100%

Policy on plagiarism

Students in this course will be held to UB's guidelines for academic integrity. "Academic integrity is a fundamental university value. Through the honest completion of academic work, students sustain the integrity of the university while facilitating the university's imperative for the transmission of knowledge and culture based upon the generation of new and innovative ideas." (Undergraduate Catalog 2005-06, p. 202)

Readings

All required readings are available on reserve at the Undergraduate Library. Books on reserve are physically at UGL. Articles and book chapters have been scanned into the UB reserve system and may be downloaded through BISON (these are designated on the syllabus).

The following books are for sale at the university bookstore.

Required:

May Ayim, Blues in Black and White (will arrive mid-Sept.)

Jurek Becker, Bronstein's Children

Heinrich Böll, The Lost Honor of Katherina Blum.

Wolfgang Borchert, The Man Outside. CANCELLED

Thomas Brussig, Heroes Like Us.

Rolf Hochhuth, The Deputy. CANCELLED

Monika Maron, Silent Close No. 6.

Peter Weiss, The Investigation. (ordered late)

Recommended:

Mary Fulbrook, The Divided Nation. on reserve

Part I: The German Question

Week 1: Zero Hour, 1945

Mon., Aug. 29: Lecture.

Wed., Aug. 31: Lecture.

Fri., Sept. 2: In-class showing of "A Foreign Affair" (Billy Wilder, 1948)

Recommended Reading: Fulbrook, chs. 5, 6

Week 2: Germany at the Beginning of the Cold War, 1945-1949

Mon., Sept. 5: Labor Day-- no class.

Wed., Sept. 7: In-class showing of "A Foreign Affair" (Billy Wilder, 1948)

Fri., Sept. 9: Discussion of "A Foreign Affair."

Film: "A Foreign Affair" (Billy Wilder, 1948, 1 hr. 56 min.) on reserve in UGL

Recommended Reading: Fulbrook, ch. 6

Week 3: 1950s in the East

Mon., Sept. 12: Lecture.

Wed., Sept. 14: Lecture. *Showing of "Destinies of Women" 3-5 p.m. in Capen 31.*

Fri., Sept. 16: Discussion.

Film: "The Destinies of Women" (Slatan Dudow, 105 min.) on reserve in UGL

Recommended Reading: Fulbrook, ch. 7

Week 4: 1950s in the West

Mon., Sept. 19: Lecture. *Showing of "A Girl Called Rosemarie" 11:30-2 in Capen 31.*

Wed., Sept. 21: Lecture.

Fri., Sept. 23: Discussion.

Film: "A Girl Called Rosemarie" (Bernd Eichinger, 127 min.) instructor's own copy

Recommended Reading: Fulbrook, ch. 7

Part II: Two States, One Nation

Week 5: 1960s in the East

Mon., Sept. 26: Lecture.

Wed., Sept. 28: Lecture.

Fri., Sept. 30: Special visitor, German filmmaker Andreas Dresen

Film: "Willenbrook" (Andreas Dresen)

Recommended Reading: Fulbrook, ch. 8

****Attendance at the special screening of "Willenbrook" on the afternoon of Friday, September 30 is REQUIRED. Exact time and place to be announced.****

Week 6: 1960s in the West

Mon., Oct. 3: Lecture.

Wed., Oct. 5: Lecture.

Fri., Oct. 7: Discussion.

Reading: Peter Weiss, The Investigation. On reserve under The Investigation as well as under the title Marat/Sade ; The investigation ; and The shadow of the body of the coachman.

Recommended Reading: Fulbrook, ch. 8

Week 7: 1970s in the West

Mon., Oct. 10: Lecture. **Midterm paper due.**

Wed., Oct. 12: Lecture.

Fri., Oct. 14: Discussion.

Reading: Heinrich Böll, The Lost Honor of Katherina Blum.

Recommended Reading: Fulbrook, chs. 8-12

Week 8: 1970s in the East

Mon., Oct. 17: Lecture.

Wed., Oct. 19: Lecture.

Fri., Oct 21: Discussion.

Reading: Jurek Becker, Bronstein's Children

Recommended Reading: Fulbrook, chs. 8-12

Week 9: 1980s in the East

Mon., Oct. 24: Lecture.

Wed., Oct. 26: Lecture.

Fri., Oct. 28: Discussion.

Reading: Monika Maron, Silent Close No. 6.

Recommended Reading: Fulbrook, chs. 8-12

Week 10: 1980s in the West

Mon., Oct. 31: Lecture.

Wed., Nov. 2: Lecture. *Showing of "Nasty Girl" 11:30-2 in Capen 31.*

Fri., Nov. 4: Discussion.

Film: "The Nasty Girl" ("Das schreckliche Mädchen," Michael Verhoeven, 1989) on reserve in UGL.

Recommended Reading: Fulbrook, chs. 8-12

Part III: Coming Together, Growing Apart?

Week 11: 1989 and the Wende

Mon., Nov. 7: Lecture.

Wed., Nov. 9: Lecture.

Fri., Nov. 11: Discussion.

Reading: Thomas Brussig, Heroes Like Us.

Recommended Reading: Fulbrook, ch. 13

Week 12: (Re) Unification

Mon., Nov. 14: Lecture.

Wed., Nov. 16: Lecture.

Fri., Nov. 18: Discussion.

Film: Special visit by filmmaker Dorothea Braemer

Recommended Reading: Fulbrook, chs. 13-14

Week 13: (Re) Unification

Mon., Nov. 21: Lecture.

Wed., Nov. 23 and Fri., Nov. 25: Thanksgiving. No class.

Recommended Reading: Fulbrook, chs. 13-14

Week 14: The 90s

Mon., Nov. 28: Lecture.

Wed., Nov. 30: Lecture.

Fri., Dec. 2: Discussion.

Reading: May Ayim, Blues in Black and White

Recommended Reading: Fulbrook, chs. 13-14

Week 15: Outlook for Germany Today

Mon., Dec. 5: Lecture.

Wed., Dec. 7: Lecture.

Fri., Dec. 9: Discussion. **Final paper due.**

Reading: to be announced

Themes/ Lecture topics (27)

What do you do when the worst has happened?

1. Vergangenheitsbewältigung
2. Terrorism (1970s W. ger)
3. Germany and the US
4. Germany and the USSR (Naimark)
5. Greens (Petra Kelly)
6. 1968 (Rudi Dutschke), East and West
7. Counterculture and social revolution
8. (W.) Germany and Europe
9. Stasi/ Markus Wolf
10. Jane Kramer articles, esp. on Sascha Anderson
11. Immigration and guestworkers
12. denazification, Nuremberg Trials, reparations
13. Former POWs
14. Vertriebene-- Germans as victims
15. Division of Germany
16. Honnecker and the "Society of Niches"