

# Hist 405: Modern Germany

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Fall 2003  
MWF 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Gruening 409  
Blackboard:  
<http://classes.uaf.edu>

Prof. Timothy Pursell, Ph.D.  
Gruening 605-C  
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Office Hours: MW 2-3  
or by appointment

## Course Description

The history of Germany from 1848 to present. Topics include German unification under Prussian leadership; the nature and problems of the Bismarckian Reich; the outbreak of World War I and the war's impact on Germany; the rise and fall of the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich; World War II and Germany's defeat; and the postwar division, reconstruction, and reunification of Germany. Special attention given to social developments in Germany. (Prerequisite: HIST 100X; HIST 101 or 102; or permission of instructor.)

## Course Objectives

- ❖ To contribute to your understanding of German history as a basis for understanding the contemporary German nation
- ❖ To develop understanding of Germany's role in modern European and world history
- ❖ To sharpen critical thinking skills necessary for analyzing documents as well as developing general (marketable!) reading, writing, listening, and discussion skills
- ❖ To encourage the consideration of interpretation in all fields and areas of history
- ❖ To strengthen understanding of history as a discipline, including assessment of argument and interpretation, benefits of various modes of interpretation, analysis of sources, and individual research and writing

## How your grade will be determined (all assignments discussed in depth below)

Attendance and participation	20%
Map quizzes (2)	5%
Portfolio	30%
Final exam	25%
<u>Outside project</u>	<u>20%</u>
Total:	100%

(Use next time taught – Frank B. Tipton. *A History of Modern Germany since 1815*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003. \$24.95)

## Books Required for All Students:

- Rampolla, Mary. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. 3rd edition. New York: Bedford/St Martin's, 2001.
- Frevert, Ute. *Women in German History: From Bourgeois Emancipation to Sexual Liberation*. London: Berg, 1993.

- Fulbrook, Mary. *Interpretations of the Two Germanies, 1945-1990*. New York: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2000.
- Mommsen, Wolfgang. *Imperial Germany 1867-1918: Politics, Culture, and Society in an Authoritarian State*. London: Arnold, 1995.
- Peukert, Detlev. *The Weimar Republic: The Crisis of Classical Modernity*. New York: Hill & Wang, 1993.
- Schulze, Hagen. *Germany: A New History*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001.

**Choose One of the Following Books for Purchase:**

- Kershaw, Ian. *The Hitler Myth*. Reissue edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Kitchen, Martin. *Nazi Germany at War*. London: Longman, 1995.
- Koonz, Claudia. *Mothers in the Fatherland: Women, the Family and Nazi Politics*. New York: St. Martin's, 1988.
- Schoenbaum, David. *Hitler's Social Revolution: Class and Status in Nazi Germany, 1933-1939*. Reprint edition. New York: Norton, 1997.

**E-reserves (password is Germany):**

The following readings (articles and selections from historical monographs) are on E-reserve (<http://eres.uaf.edu/courseindex.asp>). The password is "Germany". These readings are particularly important for our class discussions.

- Browning, Christopher. *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1992.
- Diehl, James. "Germany in Defeat, 1918 and 1945: Some Comparisons and Contrasts." *The History Teacher* 22/4 (August 1989): 397-409.
- Eksteins, Modris. *Rites of Spring: The Great War and the Birth of the Modern Age*. New York: Anchor/Doubleday, 1989: xiii-xv, 55-94.
- Eley, Geoff and David Blackbourn. *The Peculiarities of German History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984.
- Goldhagen, Daniel. *Hitler's Willing Executioners*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1996.
- Kaudelka-Hanisch, Karin. "The Titled Businessman: Prussian Commercial Counsellors in the Rhineland and Westphalia during the Nineteenth Century." In *The German Bourgeoisie*. Ed. David Blackbourn and Richard Evans. London: Routledge, 1991: 87-114.
- Maier, Charles. *The Unmasterable Past History, Holocaust, and German National Identity*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1988: pp. 1-16.
- McAdams, Kay. "'Ersatzmänner'. Trümmerfrauen and Women in 'Men's Work' in Berlin and in the Soviet Zone, 1945-1950." *Arbeiter in der SBZ-DDR*. Ed. Peter Hübner and Klaus Tenfelde. Essen: Klartext Verlag, 1999: 151-167.
- McGowan, Lee. *The Radical Right in Germany, 1870 to the Present*. London: Longman, 2003. (1-15, 173-213)
- Prowe, Diethelm. "Prospects for the New Germany: Reading the Historical Evidence, 1945-60 and 1989-91." *The Historian* 54/1 (Autumn 1991): 19-34.

- Pursell, Timothy. “‘The Burial of the Future’: Modernist Architecture and the Cremationist Movement in Wilhelmine Germany.” *Mortality* 8/3 (August 2003): 233-50.
- Theweleit, Klaus. *Male Fantasies*. Minneapolis: Minnesota University Press, 1987.

### **Late work, missed class, and makeup exams**

Late work will be penalized. Make-up exams or quizzes will only be possible in cases of documented illness (or documented illness of a pet or family member or for cases of military deployment). If you are ill and choose not to go to a doctor, you must contact the instructor BEFORE the scheduled time of an exam or due date for a paper. Missing class detracts from the learning dynamic of the class as a whole, and as a result excessive absences will be severely penalized. **Missing class six times or more for any reason other than documented illness will result in a failing grade.** Please plan flights and travel times accordingly.

Discussion is the single most important aspect of this course, and participation in our discussions is a significant portion of your course grade. You must be prepared to discuss the readings. Readings should be completed by the date they appear on the schedule. Reserve readings should be printed out or you should come with notes in hand. Obviously, you should bring the books we will be discussing. I will randomly call on students to contribute to the discussion. There are no right or wrong answers – “I don’t understand the reading” is a very good question to ask. Bring questions and comments daily!

### **Course Requirements**

#### **1. Participation and attendance (20%)**

Active participation in class discussion is a vital part of the learning process for all class participants. You will be expected to have read and prepared the assigned readings before the class meetings in order to understand the ramifications of competing historical interpretations. Individual input and analysis will be essential.

#### **2. Map Quizzes (5%)**

(1) Europe and the regions of Germany c. 1900. (2) Europe and Germany after 1945. Study guides will be provided.

#### **3. Portfolio (30%)**

The portfolio is a class-by-class record of reading summaries and what we did in class, including what we discussed and what you found interesting. **DO NOT** simply type up your class notes for the portfolio. You should instead provide a brief summary of what we did in each class session you attended and what you learned from it. You should also provide a brief summary of **EACH** of the assigned readings and include a statement of the author’s argument (thesis) and your reaction to the argument. This portfolio must be typed and well-organized by

date. Portfolios are due at specific points during the semester. I reserve the right to collect them at other times as well (announced in class), so stay on top of the readings and class summaries.

**4. Final Exam (25%)**

There will be an in-class final exam (25%), and it will be an essay exam. No study guides will be provided although there will be ample opportunity for in-class review of material.

**5. Outside project (20%)**

You have four options here. Pick one and be prepared to meet its deadlines.

**Option One: 15 page research paper**

A research paper on an original topic. The project should be narrow enough to be covered well within 15 pages. The topic must be discussed with and approved by me in advance to confirm that it will be a successful paper.

Due dates

September 22 Paper topic due with 5 bibliographic references

September 29 Bibliography due

October 8 Paper outline and thesis statement due

December 8 Papers due

**Option Two: Source analysis paper (10-12 pages)**

Locate and read four memoirs dealing either with the Third Reich or with the Holocaust. This may require interlibrary loan. You will assess these memoirs for what they reveal about the Third Reich or the Holocaust in terms of experience, survivorship, the telling of history, and memory.

Due dates

September 22 Paper topic due

September 29 Bibliographic references due

December 8 Papers due

**Option Three: Three book reviews on assigned readings (10-12 page paper)**

Due dates

October 15 First book review due (Mommsen)

November 10 Second book review due (Peukert)

December 8 Third book review due (Third Reich)

**Option Four: One book review (3-4 pages) plus one 10-15 minute oral presentation**

Plan to review one of the three books and to meet the review deadline for that book (see above). Discuss and schedule a presentation time with the instructor. One option would be a presentation related to the topic of the book you are

reviewing. Presentations will include submission of a thesis statement, a bibliography, and a prepared handout for the class. Your grade will be based on the quality of the written material as well as the quality of the oral presentation.

**Policy on paper acceptance: NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED OR GRADED THAT ARE NOT STAPLED OR FASTENED WITH A PAPER CLIP. ALL PAPERS MUST BE TYPED AND PROOFREAD. DO NOT SIMPLY RELY ON SPELL-CHECK. REREAD WHAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN. UNLESS YOU ARE PHYSICALLY ABSENT FROM FAIRBANKS, SUBMIT A PAPER COPY RATHER THAN AN EMAIL ATTACHMENT.**

### **Student Conduct**

The class will be conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect. You can expect me to be attentive to your questions and your ideas – whether or not they are the same as mine. I expect the same from you, and I expect you to treat your classmates with respect as well. Sleeping, answering cell phone calls, talking with others, doing other course work, discussing other things during films, running in and out of the classroom, etc. are all disrespectful behaviors. Likewise, although I encourage you to bring coffee, water, etc. to class, please do not eat during class unless you plan to share with the entire class. (If you are pregnant or diabetic, please tell me in advance). If you need to leave class early for some reason, please let me know.

All students are expected to conform to the University of Alaska Student Code of Conduct (<http://www.alaska.edu/bor/regulation/9r/r09-02.html>), especially as it relates to issues of cheating, plagiarism, and disruptive behavior. The Student Code of Conduct lists a number of actions that may be taken to punish instances of plagiarism or other academic misconduct. Cheating and plagiarism are defined as:

using material sources not authorized by the faculty member during an examination or assignment, utilizing devices that are not authorized by the faculty member during an examination or assignment; providing assistance to another student or receiving assistance from another student during an examination or assignment in a manner not authorized by the faculty member; presenting as their own the ideas or works of another person without proper acknowledgment of sources; knowingly permitting their works to be submitted by another person without the faculty member's permission; acting as a substitute or utilizing a substitute in any examination or assignment; fabricating data; possessing, buying, selling, obtaining, or using a copy of any material intended to be used as an instrument of examination or in an assignment in advance of its administration; altering grade records or their own or another student's work; or offering a monetary payment or other remuneration in exchange for a grade. (SCC)

Students who harass other students or the instructor or whose behavior disrupts the classroom will also be subject to disciplinary action. Harassment is defined as:

physical or verbal abuse, sexual harassment, intimidation, or other conduct which unreasonably interferes with or creates a hostile or offensive learning, living, or working environment. (SCC)



### **Office Hours and Questions about Grades**

Please feel free to take advantage of my office hours, to contact me via e-mail, or to stop by my office even if you do not have specific questions or problems. E-mail is the best way to contact me outside of class time or office hours. If you do not have e-mail, leave a message on my voice mail (474-2718) or simply stop by my office. Don't struggle by yourself if you are having difficulties in the class. Please let me know so I can help you.

Grades are best discussed during office hours, not in the classroom. Feel free to make an appointment if my office hours don't fit your schedule well. Please note that I will not discuss grades in the classroom other than to aid in deciphering my handwriting!

I am happy to give you suggestions about how you might improve your work or to explain comments I've made on your work. However, please do not approach me with questions about grades until the day after you receive back any work (Example: You receive a paper back on Thursday. You need to wait until Friday before you approach me.) Please do not call me at home, but feel free to email me at any time. I check my email several times daily.

**Note:** This syllabus is subject to change and any changes to this syllabus will be announced in class.

### **Blackboard**

There is a Blackboard site available for this course. Handouts and the syllabus will be posted on the site. Go to <http://classes.uaf.edu> for the login page.

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Date	Topic	Readings
<b>The Bismarckian Kaiserreich</b>		
Sept 5	Introductions: Bismarck and the Unification of Germany	Schulze, 123-154; Mommsen, 1-40; Rampolla, 1-20
Sept 8	Constitutional, Bureaucratic, and Social Structure of the Prusso-German Empire	Mommsen, 41-56; Schulze, 155-190
Sept 10	Social, Political, and Economic Forces in the Second Empire	Mommsen, 57-74, 101-118; Frevert, 83-148; Rampolla, 32-42
Sept 12	Religious, Social, and Economic Conflicts: <i>Gründerzeit</i> and <i>Kulturkampf</i>	Mommsen, 119-106; Rampolla, 20-31
Sept 15	Discussion: Who benefited from German unification?	Mommsen, 75-100

<b>Wilhelmine Germany</b>		
Sept 17	The “New Course” and the Character of Wilhelm II	Mommsen, 141-162; Rampolla, 43-56
Sept 19	The Rise of German Social Democracy	Frevert, 107-148; Modris Eksteins. <i>Rites of Spring</i> (E-reserve)
Sept 22	Wilhelmine Culture	Geoff Eley and David Blackbourn. <i>The Peculiarities of German History</i> , pp. 190-205 (E-reserve)
Sept 24	<b>Quiz 1</b> -and- Discussion: Wilhelmine Counter-cultures	Timothy Pursell. “The Burial of the Future” (on E-reserve)
Sept 26	Lessons in Sabre-rattling: Germany’s Bid for World Empire	Mommsen, 163-216; Rampolla, 57-67
Sept 29	Discussion: How feudalized was German society on the eve of World War I?	Geoff Eley and David Blackbourn. <i>The Peculiarities of German History</i> : pp. 91-97, 144-155, 221-237, 186-292 (E-reserve, skim for argument)
Oct 1	<b>Portfolios due</b> -and- Film: <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>	<b>Portfolios due</b>

<b>Germany and the First World War</b>		
Oct 3	From Schlieffen to Ludendorff: Breakdown of the Burgfrieden	Schulze, 191-214
Oct 6	The World War and German Society	Mommsen, 217-232; Frevert, 149-167
Oct 8	The November Revolution	Mommsen, 233-254

<b>The Birth of the Weimar Republic</b>		
Oct 10	Social and Political Forces in the Weimar Republic: From Revolution to Putsch, 1918-1923	Schulze, 215-244; Peukert, 1-18
Oct 13	Discussion: Paramilitarism in German society	Peukert, 19-78; Theweleit. <i>Male Fantasies</i> (E-reserves, all read I and skim either II or III for discussion)

<b>Weimar Culture</b>		
Oct 15	The Golden Twenties	Peukert, 79-106; Peter Gay. <i>Weimar Culture</i> (E-reserve); Gropius. <i>The New Architecture and the Bauhaus</i> (E-reserve); Howard Dearstyne. <i>Inside the Bauhaus</i> (E-reserve)
Oct 17	Video: "The Bauhaus" and discussion	Frevert, 168-204
Oct 20	Film: <i>Nosferatu</i> and discussion	Peukert, 107-146
Oct 22	Weimar Society: Social Change and Cultural Conservatism	Peukert, 147-190
Oct 24	Film: <i>Metropolis</i>	Peukert, 190-246
Oct 27	Film (cont'd) and discussion	Begin reading your chosen Third Reich book

<b>The National Socialist Seizure of Power and Hitler's War</b>		
Oct 29	Democratic Crisis and Collapse, 1930-1933	Schulze, 245-276; Peukert, 247-80; McGowan. "The Far Right in German History" (E-reserve)
Oct 31	<i>Gleichschaltung</i> : Nazi Consolidation of Power	Continue Third Reich book
Nov 3	Life in the Third Reich I	Continue Third Reich book
Nov 5	Life in the Third Reich II	Frevert, 205-252
Nov 7	Nazi Foreign Policy: From the Rhineland to Barbarossa	Schulze, 277-298
Nov 10	<b>Portfolios due</b> -and- Film: <i>Triumph of the Will</i>	<b>Portfolios due</b> Continue Third Reich book

<b>Germany's Unmasterable Past</b>		
Nov 12	The Holocaust	Continue Third Reich book
Nov 14	Film: <i>Night and Fog</i>	Christopher Browning. <i>Ordinary Men</i>

		(E-reserve); Daniel J. Goldhagen. <i>Hitler's Willing Executioners</i> (E-reserve); Charles Maier. <i>The Unmasterable Past</i> , (E-reserve)
Nov 17	Discussion: The Holocaust as Moral and Historical Problem	Finish your chosen Third Reich book.

### 1945: A Fresh Start?

Nov 19	Guest Speaker Claus Naske: Fleeing before the Red Army in 1945	Schulze, 299-333
Nov 21	Defeat, Occupation, and Division	Fulbrook, 1-10
Nov 24	Discussion: The <i>Stunde Null</i> and Germany's Second Experiment in Democracy	James Diehl. "Germany in Defeat." (E-reserve); Fulbrook, 11-28
Nov 26	Economic Recovery and Democratic Practices in West Germany	Fulbrook, 29-46

### Germany Today

Nov 28	No class Thanksgiving	No class
Dec 1	Behind the Iron Curtain	Fulbrook, 47-64
Dec 3	<b>Quiz 2</b> -and- Film: <i>The Nasty Girl</i>	Fulbrook, 65-76
Dec 5	Film (cont'd) and discussion	Fulbrook, 77-96
Dec 8	Women East and West	Frevert, 253-327; Kay McAdams. "Trümmer-frauen" (E-reserve)
Dec 10	Re-Unification and Its Discontents	McGowan. "Homeland and Hate" (E-reserve); Schulze, 333-340
Dec 12	<b>Portfolios due</b> -and- Discussion: Comparing Germanies	<b>Portfolios due</b> Prowe. "Prospects for the New Germany." (E-reserve)
Dec 17	<b>Final Exam</b> <b>10:15-12:15 a.m.</b> <b>Wednesday, Dec 17</b>	<b>Final Exam</b> <b>10:15-12:15 a.m.</b> <b>Wednesday, Dec 17</b>

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