

Germany Since 1918
History 4394/5394
Fall 2007

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OH: MWF 8-11:30, M-F 1-4:30

Course Description:

A survey of German history since World War I, including the Weimar Republic, the Third Reich, World War II, and post-war Germany.

Texts:

Erich Maria Remarque, *The Road Back*
William S. Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power: The Experience of a Single German Town*
Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Battalion 101 and the Final Solution*
Joseph E. Persico, *Nuremberg: Infamy on Trial*
Bernhard Schlink, *The Reader*
Optional survey texts: Dietrich Orlow, *A History of Modern Germany, 1871 to Present* (Prentice-Hall paperback) or Mary Fulbrook, *Divided Nation: History of Germany, 1918-1990* (Oxford University Press paperback)

Course Objectives:

This course will enable students to:
A. Gain a basic understanding of major themes in German history in the 20th century.
B. Become aware of major schools of historical thought about Germany.
C. Explore issues of personal and collective responsibility/guilt, obedience/resistance.

Evaluation:

Grades will be awarded according to the following basis:

Midterm exam	100 points	90-100 = A
Final exam	150 points	80-89 = B
Course Project	80 points	70-79 = C
Map quiz	20 points	60-69 = D
Quizzes on readings	50 points	--- 59 = F

Policies:

1. Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade. See statement in *UCA Student Handbook*.
2. UCA adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, contact the UCA Office of Disability Services at 450-3135 during the first week of the semester.
3. UCA adheres to the uniform Sexual Harassment Policy for state universities. Please refer to the *UCA Student Handbook* for more information.
4. Attendance is expected and recorded. Any missed work will be made up at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Project

Choose a group of people from the list below or choose another group, subject to instructor approval.

Gypsies-Roma in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s.
artists (writers) (filmmakers) (professors) in Berlin in the Weimar years (Third Reich)
resistance figures in the Nazi years
students during the fall of the Berlin Wall
church leaders during the Third Reich (Communist East Germany)
farmers (factory workers) during the Great Depression (Third Reich)
Turkish laborers living in Germany after the 1960s
mid-level governmental officials of the Third Reich during the denazification process
ethnic Germans expelled from Eastern Europe in the late 1940s
the Stasi before and after reunification
Skinheads/neoNazis in the 1980s and 1990s
members/leaders of one of the political parties in the Weimar or post-war years, e.g. Green Party in the 1980s and 1990s

Learn as much as you can about this group, and the perspective of people in this group, and produce one of the following products:

1. A creative historical short story that weaves the situation and perspective for this group with some fictional narrative. This story should not be merely descriptive, but also advance an argument about your particular subject. (Approximately 12 pages, typed, with a bibliography of sources used).
2. A role-play simulation in which you create characters to simulate as a classroom activity. This could be a group project or a plan for a full class simulation activity. You should turn in a written guide/script, which includes a bibliography of sources used.
3. A research paper. (Approximately 12 pages, typed, with documentation and bibliography).

Course Outline

- I. Introduction
 - A. Geography and language
 - B. Germany before 1914
- II. Germany before the Third Reich
 - A. Germany and World War I
 - B. The German Revolution and establishment of the Weimar Republic
(Remarque, *The Road Back*)
 - C. The nature of Weimar Germany: politics, culture, the economy
 - D. Hitler, the NSDAP, and Nazi ideology
- III. The Great Depression and Hitler's rise to power
 - A. Economic crisis
 - B. Political crisis and Hitler's accessions (Allen, *Nazi Seizure of Power*, part I)
- IV. The Nature of Hitler's Third Reich
 - A. *Gleichschaltung* -- coordination of state, creation of dictatorship (Allen, *Nazi Seizure Of Power*, part II)
 - B. People & institutions in Nazi Germany: women, labor, culture, religion, education, Jews, etc.

Midterm Exam

- V. Germany and World War II
 - A. Hitler's foreign policy and the road to war
 - B. The war's impact on Germany
 - C. Persecution of Jews and other groups. (Browning, *Ordinary Men*)
 - D. Resistance movements
- VI. The Reconstruction and Division of Germany
 - A. Occupation and denazification (Persico, *Nuremberg: Infamy on Trial*)
 - B. Political and economic reconstruction
 - C. Germany and the arrival of the Cold War in the late 1940s
- VII. The Federal Republic of Germany and German Democratic Republic, 1949-1990
 - A. FRG: Political, economic, and cultural life
 - B. The GDR
 - C. Dealing with the past. (Schlink, *The Reader*)
- VIII. Reunification and Problems/Prospects since 1989

Final Exam

Some Study Questions for Remarque, *The Road Back*

1. What kind of mortality rate does Ernst's unit have? How does the war end for them?
2. What are the signs that a revolution is taking place at the war's end?
3. How does Ernst tell his family about his war experience? How does he react to the news they share about their lives?
4. How has the war affected/changed Ernst? Why does he have the breakdown while he is "student teaching"?
5. How does the revolution take place in Ernst's home town? How aware is he of the issues involved in the revolution?
6. How were war veterans in a peculiar and difficult role? How do people respond to them? How do they feel about their elders? teachers?
7. What evidence do you see of "roaring 20s" culture?
8. How does social class re-emerge after the war among former soldiers?
9. What sort of economic problems emerge?
10. How do you explain the incident when Max Weil is killed by the military police?
11. What's the role of the trial in this book?
12. Is the end hopeful?

Additional requirements for graduate students, HIST5394

1. Graduate students will take the same exams as undergraduates, but expectations and evaluation will be on a higher level.
2. Course project should be a research paper of more substantial size (approximately 20 pages) on a topic of your choosing, subject to instructor approval. In addition, you will give a short class presentation (approx. 15 minutes on the subject of your paper)
3. Annotated bibliography discussing relevant, significant, preferably recent historiography on three particular areas of German history. Examples could be: Hitler biographies, Nazi economic policy, German resistance movements, Weimar culture, Berlin and the Cold War