

HITLER, NAZISM AND WORLD WAR TWO

History 376G /LAH 350
Unique No.39935/30285
Spring, 2011
TTh 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Garrison 0.128
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Prof. David Crew
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Office Hrs:
TTh 5:00-6:15 p.m. or
by appt.



THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

How was an obscure, unemployed Austrian, who never rose above the rank of corporal in the German army, able to become the leader of a mass political movement which overthrew the most democratic political system Germany had ever known? Why did Germany begin the most devastating and brutal war in world history just two decades after having lost the First World War? Why did the Nazi state systematically murder 6 million Jews? How did the implementation of Nazi plans for a “racial empire” affect the lives of millions of Europeans during the Second World War? And what is the legacy of the Third Reich, for Germany today? These are the primary questions addressed by this course.

REQUIRED READINGS:

(The reading marked with * is available as an electronic resource from the UT-Library system at no charge with your UT-EID. Please feel free to read this material on-line if you prefer.)

Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

*David F. Crew, *Hitler and the Nazis. A History in Documents* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005)

J. Noakes and G. Pridham(editors), *Nazism. A History in Documents and Eyewitness Accounts, 1919-1945* (University of Exeter Press Edition: Volumes 2 &3)

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

We are also going to be working with the images at these two web-sites:

<http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/> and <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/>.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING

A distinctive feature of this course is the fact that we will be working extensively with original documents, in translation. This will give you a more direct and immediate connection to the past, will allow you to experience, at first hand, the language and ideas of the period. It will also allow you to engage directly in the process of interpretation. Rather than simply ingesting the arguments of historians who write about the Nazi period, you will have the opportunity to analyze the "raw materials" with which historians themselves work. The first and second document essays will ask you to comment on the meaning and significance of several documents(or parts of documents) assigned for the class. You will be given a copy of the document(s) which will be clearly identified for you (i.e. author, date, place). These are, therefore, not identification quizzes; your job is rather to write an essay in which you show why the particular documents are important in terms of the larger history of the period from which they derive and what they tell us about that particular phase in the rise or development of Nazism.

Your general participation in class discussions (i.e. attendance + involvement) counts for 20% of the overall grade. There will be a take-home mid-term document essay (5-6 pages, 20% of the final grade). There is no final exam per se but you will have a second take-home document essay (5-6 pages, 20% of the final grade). You will also be asked to write one short review of any one of the books by Remarque, or Levi (4-5 pages, 20% of final grade). Finally, you will be asked to write **two** brief (2-3 page) analyses of the visual evidence(photographs, propaganda, election posters, etc.) discussed in class and/or those that are available on the web-sites listed above. Each of these two assignments is worth 10% of the final grade. Due dates for each of the written assignments are listed at the end of this syllabus. I will be using the full range of +/- grades in this course.

The schedule of classes is as follows(subject to revision if necessary):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment/Reading</u>
January 18&20	Introduction & Germany, 1871-1914	Lecture
January 25&27	World War One <i>Nazis</i> (hereafter:Crew)+ Remarque	Crew, <i>Hitler and the</i>
February 1&3	The Weimar Republic	Crew
February 8&10	The Rise of Nazism	Crew
February 15&17 (hereafter N&P)+ Crew	The Nazi State,1933-1939	Noakes and Pridham

February 22&24	Anti-Semitism and Racial policy before the War	N&P+Crew
March 1&3	<i>Volksgemeinschaft</i> : A Nazi Social Revolution?	N&P +Crew
March 8&10	Foreign Policy and the Origins of World War Two	N&P

March 14-20	Spring Break	

March 22&24	The <i>Blitzkrieg</i> , 1939-41	N&P +Crew
March 29&31	Occupation and Resistance	N&P
April 5&7	Racial Policy during the War	N&P
April 12&14	The Holocaust	Crew+Levi+Film: “Night and Fog”
April 19&21	Total War and Defeat, 1941-45	N&P+Crew
April 26&28	The Burden of the German Past	Crew
May 3&5	Berlin: History in the Urban Landscape	TBA-Independent
reading/research on-line in preparation for on-site study tour of Berlin, May 26-30.		

LAST CLASS DAY-May 6

DUE DATES

(To be revised if necessary)

February 21-Book Essay on Remarque

March 7-First Visual Essay

March 28- First Document Essay

April 25-Second Visual Essay

May 5-Book Essay on Levi

May 17-Second Document Essay

Rough drafts are required for the book and visual essays. You can also submit rough drafts, if you choose, for the document essays. Please get rough drafts to me no later than one week before the final due date for the assignment.

FLAGS: This course carries the Ethics and Leadership flag and the Global Cultures flag. For the details of each of these flags, please see <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/core/flags/guidelines>.

Please note: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities, the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (E-mail: ssd@uts.cc.utexas.edu)

