

GERMANY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

LAH 350/HIS 337N/REE 335
Prof. David Crew
Fall, 2012.
Unique Nos.30071/39310/44690

THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

Hitler and the Nazis have given twentieth-century Germany a world-historical significance it would otherwise have lacked. Even from our vantage point, the Nazi regime is still one of the most dramatic and destructive episodes in western European, indeed, in world history. Nazism is synonymous with terror, concentration camps and mass murder. Hitler's war claimed the lives of tens of millions and left Europe in complete ruins. The danger resides in the temptation to view all of German history from the end of the nineteenth-century onwards as merely the pre-history of Nazism, thereby failing to deal with each period on its own terms. And what do we do with the more than half a century of German history since 1945? With the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945, the course of German history appears to have experienced a radical break. New political and social systems were imposed upon the two halves of the divided Germany by the victors. The hostilities of the Cold War appeared to ensure a permanent division of Germany, which in 1961 assumed a compelling symbolic form, the Berlin Wall. But in 1989, the dramatic changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe revolutionized East Germany as well. The Berlin Wall came down, East and West Germany were once again joined together in one nation. What exactly this newest version of the German nation will look like in ten or twenty years is still unclear.

In the first half of the course, we will begin by discussing the origins and effects of World War One(1914-1918), then move on to the German Revolution(1918-1919) and the Weimar Republic(1918-1933), the Nazi regime (1933-1945) and the Holocaust. The questions we will focus on here are: Was Germany's first experiment with democracy between 1918 and 1933 doomed to failure? What factors contributed to the rise of Nazism and how did the Nazi regime affect Germany and Europe? Were all vestiges of Nazism destroyed in 1945? In the second half of the semester we will discuss the history of Germany in the Cold War(1945-1989). We will end by talking about the consequences of the end of the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989 to the present). Here, the main questions will be: Did, West and East Germany follow fundamentally new paths? What clues can be found in the histories of the Federal Republic in West Germany and the German Democratic Republic in East Germany since 1949 that may indicate the possibilities for change in the future? How does the unification of East and West Germany affect Germany's future role in Europe and the world?

Flags: This course carries the Ethics and Leadership flag, the Global Cultures Flag and the Writing Flag. For descriptions of these flags please see <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/ccc/flags/ethics-leadership/criteria> and <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/core/flags/global-cultures> and <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/teaching/writing>

Required Reading:

Mary Fullbrook, *The Divided Nation*

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

Richard Bessel(ed) *Life in the Third Reich*

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

Peter Schneider, *The Wall Jumper*

Please also make sure to bookmark the following web-site. We will be working extensively with materials on this site: <http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/>

Assignments/Grading:

This course combines lectures and discussions of secondary readings as well as original historical documents (short selections) and contemporary visual materials such as photographs, newsreels, propaganda and election posters. The writing assignments are designed to allow you to think and write about each of these different ways of gaining access to the German past. There will be no formal mid-term or final exam. Plus/minus grades will be assigned for the final grade. This class is a Significant Writing Component Course (SWC). The writing requirements are:

(1) Two longer essay assignments (each 6-8 pages typewritten, each worth 30% of your final grade) which ask you to think critically about some of the major issues in twentieth century German history. The first assignment will deal with the period up to 1939. The second will focus on the period from 1939 to the present. **Essay 1 will be due on October 30. Essay 2 is due no later than the official exam date for this course, December 15. You must submit one rough draft of each of these essays.**

(2) In addition to these two longer essay assignments, you will be asked to write one shorter essay (4-5 pages typewritten—worth 20% of the final grade) on any one of the books by Remarque, Bessel, Levi, or Schneider. This is not a book report. I will hand out specific questions on each of these books which you need to answer in your essays. **You must submit one rough draft of this assignment. Due Dates listed on syllabus**

(3) Finally, you will be asked to write **two** short (2-3 page) analyses of the visual evidence (photographs, propaganda, election posters, etc.) that I will use in class or that you find on the web-site listed above (each of these 2 assignments is worth 10% of the final grade). **You must submit one rough draft of each of these essays. Due Dates: any time during the semester but no later than the official exam date for this course, December 15**

Schedule of Lectures, Discussions and Reading Assignments:**Week Beginning****Topic****Assignment/ Readings**

August 23

Introduction

September 3

The New Nation:

Imperial Germany, 1871-1914 Lectures

September 10

World War One, 1914-1918

Discussion of Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Tuesday, September 13 ; essay on this book due September 28

3

September 17	Defeat, Revolution and the Weimar Republic, 1918-24	Fullbrook, Ch.1-2
September 24	Weimar Culture	
October 1	The Great Depression and the End of Weimar	Fullbrook, Ch.3
October 8	The Rise of Nazism	
October 15	The Nazi State,1933-39	Fullbrook, Ch.4-5
October 22	Nazism and German Society,1933-39	
	Discussion of Bessel, <i>Life in the Third Reich</i>, October 25; essay on this book due November 9	
October 29	World War Two	
November 5	The Holocaust	
	Discussion of Levi, <i>Survival in Auschwitz</i>, November 8; essay on this book due November 26	
November 12	Occupation and Reconstruction	Fullbrook,Ch.6-7
November 19	The Two Germanies after 1945	Fullbrook,Ch.8-9.
November 23	The Two Germanys after 1945	Fullbrook, Ch.10-12
	Discussion of Peter Schneider, <i>The Wall Jumper</i>, essay due no later than the official final exam date, December 15	
November 30	German Unification, 1989-present	Fullbrook, Ch.13-14+Film: "Good-Bye Lenin"

[DECEMBER 7 ---LAST CLASS DAY]

Please note the following|:

Students in this course are subject to the UT Honor Code and all university regulations governing academic dishonesty and plagiarism:

www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/_files/pdf-4/ai2012.pdf

Accommodations will be made for religious holidays. By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

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
<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>