

HITLER, NAZISM AND WORLD WAR TWO

History 376G/LAH 350
Unique No.39750/30130
Spring, 2013

Prof. David Crew

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 BOOKS:

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)[also available on-line at the PCL as an e-book]

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/>.

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

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 essay on 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. I will be using the full range of +/- grades. Due dates for each of the written assignments are listed at the end of this syllabus.

The schedule of classes is as follows:

<u>Class Meetings</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment/Reading</u>
January 15,17	Introduction: Germany before World War I	Lecture
January 22,24	The Legacy of World War I <i>the Nazis</i> (hereafter:Crew)+ Remarque	Crew, <i>Hitler and</i>
January 29,31	The Weimar Republic	Crew
February 5,7	The Rise of Nazism	Crew
February 12,14	The Nazi State,1933-1939 (hereafter N&P)+ Crew	Noakes and Pridham
February 19,21	Anti-Semitism and Racial policy before the War	N&P+Crew
February 26,28	<i>Volksgemeinschaft</i> : A Nazi Social Revolution?	N&P +Crew
March 5,7	The Road to World War Two	N&P

March 11-17	Spring Break	

March 19,21	The <i>Blitzkrieg</i> ,1939-41	N&P +Crew
March 26,28	Occupation and Resistance	N&P
April 2,4	Racial Policy during the War	N&P

April 9,11	The Holocaust	Crew+Levi
April 16,18	Total War and Defeat,1941-45	N&P+Crew
April 23,25	Occupied Germany, 1945-1949	Crew
April 30, May 1	The Burden of the Nazi Past	Crew

LAST CLASS DAY-May 3

DUE DATES:

February 8-Book Essay on Remarque

March 8-First Visual Essay

March 22- First Document Essay

April 26-Second Visual Essay

April 29-Book Essay on Levi

Second Document Essay due no later than May 11

You are strongly encouraged to submit rough drafts for all the written assignments. Please get rough drafts to me no later than one week before the final due date for the assignment.

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)

SCHOLASTIC HONESTY:

University guidelines with regard to Academic Integrity will be applied in this course.

Standards for Academic Integrity are posted at

http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

Absences for observance of religious holidays are accommodated as per University policies.

