German 497A / History 497N
Nazi Germany

This course explores one of the most tumultuous and vexing periods in history: The rise of the Nazi dictatorship and its role in murder and genocide. The course introduces students to the lively debates on the origins Nazi Germany: the degree the source of German fascism was the militarism of pre-1914 Germany, the culture of defeat after 1918, the political and economic instabilities of the Weimar Republic, or the Nazi’s mobilization of voters through their pioneering tactics. Students will also evaluate various theories of the Nazi state by scrutinizing the role of Hitler, big business, Nazi ideology, and political entrepreneurs in the polycratic state. Much of the course is devoted to investigating the experience of youth, women, workers, dissenters, and Jews. Particular attention is also given to the causes and nature of the genocide. As an upper-level course, students will evaluate various historiographical interpretations on Nazism.

This course consists of both lecture and discussion. As an upper-level history course, it requires students be able to read on average 75 pages per week over the fifteen weeks of the semester. Unlike some other course, the reading is tightly integrated into the lectures, the exams, and the grading structure. Passing the course depends on completing this reading on time and the accompanying assignments.

To Purchase:

At Amherst Books (8 Main Street, tel. 256-1547):


All are available on two-hour reserve at Du Bois library. Note that used and older editions may be cheaper at amazon.com, alibris.com, half.com, and bn.com.

At CopyCat Print Shop (37 East Pleasant St, tel. 549-2854):

Coursepack for German 497A / History 497N

WebCT

All students must have an OIT account and regularly check the WebCT site for this course. The WebCT site contains this syllabus, review sheets, the reading assignments, other handouts, and the lecture outlines (posted by 2pm on the day before class). Students are encouraged to print the outlines before class for note-taking during lecture and discussion. You can also check your grades on all assignments on WebCT; rest assured that WebCT prevents other students from seeing your grades.
Office Hours

I encourage all students to drop by office hours to introduce themselves, chat, or get extra help. If you cannot make them, please email me to make an appointment. I am happy to accommodate you. Note that my office does not have voice mail. If your problem needs immediate attention, please send me an email with a telephone number and time of day that’s best to reach you.

Final Grade Composition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of final grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Assignments (ungraded, see below)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Five- to Ten-Page Paper</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>25</td>
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Bonus on Reading Assignments (ungraded, see below) 2 points added to final grade

Note that Umass has moved to a +/- system. Letter grade equivalencies: A=92.5-100; A-=89.5-92.4; B+=87.5-89.4; B=82.5-88.4; B-=79.5-82.4; C+=77.5-79.4; C=72.5-78.4; C-=69.5-72.4; D+=67.5-69.4; D=62.5-68.4; D-=59.5-62.4; F=below 59.5.

Paper

Topics and style sheets for the two five- to ten-page papers will be available two weeks before the paper is due.

Exams

The exams will consist of about fifteen short-answer questions like the reading questions. Students chose about ten to answer. The final exam is not cumulative: It covers only the material after the spring break.

Reading Assignments

This class requires that students submit written answers to questions on the weekly reading assignments. They are ungraded: Students will receive 100% if they submit them on time and make a good-faith effort to answer all the questions. The assignments will be posted one week prior to the due date on WebCT. Answers do not have to be in full sentences but must sufficiently answer the questions. I strongly prefer typed answers.

One of the purposes of these assignments is to give students incentive to prepare for discussion in class. Hence, reading assignments turned in late without a legitimate excuse will be marked down 40 points. There is no penalty for turning in the assignments early to my box in Herter Hall 513.

To get 100 on the reading assignment portion of the grade, students need to have a weighted average of 80 percent or above on all the reading assignments. Students with an average over 80 percent will have bonus points added to their final grade according to the following formula: [(weighted average on all reading assignments)-80]/10. Thus, students who complete all the reading assignments on time will have 2 bonus points added to their final grade.
Some examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
<th>Pages in Assignment</th>
<th>Grades, Student A</th>
<th>Grades, Student B</th>
<th>Grades, Student C</th>
<th>Grades, Student D</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>

Final Reading Assignment Grade
- Student A: 100
- Student B: 100
- Student C: 88.3
- Student D: 74.5

Bonus Points Added to Final Grade
- Student A: 2.0
- Student B: 0.78
- Student C: 0
- Student D: 0

An additional incentive to complete the reading assignments is that close to half of the questions on the exams will come from the reading assignments.

**Late Papers, Missed Exams, and Other Student Responsibilities**

- **Late papers:** A late paper without a legitimate excuse may be marked down five points for each day it is late. Students who speak to me promptly about late papers will have fewer points deducted than those who avoid the issue.
- **Papers or reading assignments may not be emailed to unless I give prior permission, and the student has a legitimate reason and submits a paper copy as soon as he or she attends the next class.**
- **Missed exams:** There will be no make up for missed exams without a legitimate excuse.
- **Legitimate excuses:** To receive a legitimate excuse, a student should contact me in person or by email or telephone before the paper is due or the exam is given. Some examples of a legitimate excuse are illness or death of a friend or family member (there are others as well). Having too much work is not a legitimate excuse.
- **Please retain a second copy of papers until your graded paper is returned.**
- **Please hold all graded assignments until you receive your final grade.**
- **Please respect a 24-hour moratorium on discussing any individual grade.**
- **Plagiarizing or cheating is a serious violation of academic integrity.** If you are panicked and can’t finish your paper, plan to hand in the paper late and take a penalty of a few points. I happily work with students who are having trouble. I reserve the right to lower the grade of a student caught plagiarizing or cheating or to fail him or her for the entire course. Students found to have committed multiple acts of academic dishonesty may also face suspension or expulsion from the University. Note that I regularly use tools like turnitin.com, which makes detecting plagiarism easy. For the University of Massachusetts’s academic honesty policy, see www.umass.edu/dean_students/rights/acad_honest.htm
Calendar of Lectures, Papers, Exams, and Reading Assignments

- There are about 90 pages of reading per week on average, but certain weeks are heavier than others. Plan ahead!
- Readings marked (CP) are in the coursepack.

1 Thu, Jan 27th  Intro: Germany before 1918

2 Tue, Feb 1st  War, Defeat, and Revolution

Thu, Feb 3rd  The Early Weimar Republic

Reading Assignment #1 (60 pp.):
- Sax and Kuntz, Docs #1-6.
- Weimar Republic Documents by Jünger, Ostwald, Gumbel, Rosenberg, Reich, and anon., “Enough is Enough.” (CP)
- Overy, Goering, 1-23. (CP)

Recommended: Spielvogel, 1-20.

3 Tue, Feb 8th  No class. Prof. Donson has a professional obligation.

Thu, Feb 10th  The Early Nazi Party

Reading Assignment #2 (96 pp.):
- Sax and Kuntz, Docs #8-10, 12-15, 17-19, 20-21, 23, 26, 46, the statistics pp. 66, 95-96, and the campaign posters, pp. 239-44.
- Abel, Why Hitler Came to Power, 204-18, 262-89. (CP)

Recommended: Spielvogel, 20-68.

4 Tue, Feb 15th  Fall of the Weimar Republic

Thu, Feb 17th  The Rise of Nazi Party

Reading Assignment #3 (147 pp.):

Recommended: Spielvogel, 68-80.

5 Tue, Feb 22nd  The Nazi Seizure of Power

Reading Assignment #4 (170 pp.):
- Sax and Kuntz, Docs #28-31, 32-7, and 39.

Thu, Feb 24th  The National Socialist Revolution: Gleichschaltung (Coordination)

6 Tue, Mar 1st  The Polycratic State I: Relationship between the Bureaucracy and the Party

Reading Assignment #5 (100 pp.):
- Kuntz and Sax, Docs #40, 42-44, 67, 87-88.
- Kershaw, “Hitler: ‘Master in the Third Reich’ or ‘Weak Dictator.’” (CP)
- Overy, Goering, 22-75. (CP)
Thu, Mar 3rd  The Polycratic State II:  The Police System and Economic Policy

7  Tue, Mar 8th  Life in the Third Reich:  The Working Class
Reading Assignment #6 (14 pp):

Recommended:  Spielvogel, 153-167.

Thu, Mar 10th  Midterm Exam.

Tue, Mar 15th  No class.  Spring Break.

Thu, Mar 17th  No class.  Spring Break.

8  Tue, Mar 22nd  Life in the Third Reich:  Women, Religion, and Science
Reading Assignment #7 (65pp):
  • Sax and Kuntz, Docs # 47, 53, 55-57, 61, 69, 72-78, and 117-19.
  • Proctor, The Nazi War on Cancer, 248-78.  (CP)

Recommended:  Spielvogel, 111-16, and 167-89.

Thu, Mar 24th  Life in the Third Reich:  Youth and High Culture

9  Tue, Mar 29th  Life in the Third Reich:  Degeneracy and Anti-Semitism
Reading Assignment #8 (97 pp.):
  • Sax and Kuntz, Docs #48-50, 79 (only pp. 345-49), 80, 96-100, and 120.
  • Klemperer, “Diaries, 120, 122-26, 128-32, and 134-35.  (CP)
  • Bartov, Germany’s War, 192-215.
  • Over, Goering, 75-108.

Recommended:  Spielvogel, 184-88, 192-211, 269-77, and 288-89

Thu, Mar 31st  The Road to War: Hitler’s Foreign Policy

10 Tue, Apr 5th  The Second World War:  Blitzkrieg and Operation Barbarossa
Reading Assignment #9 (83 pp.):
  • Sax and Kuntz, Docs # 90-91.
  • Bartov, Germany’s War, 3-75.

Recommended:  Spielvogel, 211-29, and 233-58.

Thu, Apr 7th  No class.  Prof. Donson is presenting a paper in Washington, D.C.
11 Tue, Apr 12th  The Second World War: The Home Front

Reading Assignment #10 (55 pp.)
- Sax and Kuntz, Docs # 62-63, and 83-85
- Overy, Goering, 109-37. (CP)
- Overy, Why the Allies Won, 315-325. (CP)

Thu, Apr 14th  Open.

12 Tue, Apr 19th  Genocide I

Reading Assignment #11 (65 pp.):  
- Sax and Kuntz, Docs # 92-93, and 104-06.
- “War Diary of Blutordensträger Felix Landau,” 187-203. (CP)
- Bartov, Germany’s War, 122-36.


Thu, Apr 21st  No class. Follow your Monday schedule.

13 Tue, Apr 26th  Genocide II

Reading Assignment #12 (96 pp.):
- Bartov, Germany’s War, 79-121, and 139-191.

Thu, Apr 28th  Genocide III

14 Tue, May 3rd  Dissent and Resistance I

Reading Assignment #13 (37 pp.):


Thu, May 5th  Dissent and Resistance II. Five- to Ten-Page Paper due.

15 Tue, May 10th  The Third Reich’s Legacy

Reading Assignment #14 (30 pp.)
- Bartov, Germany’s War, 216-36.

Recommended: Spielvogel, 305-09.

Thu, May 12th  Open.

To be announced.  Final Exam