Hist 354
"History of Modern Germany"
2007-2008

Prof. Eagle Glassheim
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Times and Classroom: Tu/Th 3:30-4:50, Buch B 216

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to major themes in German history and historiography from early efforts towards national unification in 1848 through the reunification of divided Germany in 1990. After the failed attempt to unify Germany from below in 1848, Otto von Bismarck welded together a new German Empire under Prussian leadership in 1871. In conjunction with German unification from above and late but rapid industrialization at the end of the nineteenth century, we will raise the question of a German Sonderweg, or special path, in the modernization of state and society. We will examine continuities and discontinuities in German development from the Empire through World War I and the Weimar Republic, with a special emphasis on the causes of the breakdown of Weimar democracy and the rise of Hitler's National Socialism. The course will then turn to the Nazi revolution in politics and society, focusing on the place of racism, anti-Semitism and anti-Communism in Nazi ideology and practice. We will look at how Nazi ideology combined with the structure of the Nazi state and the cover of the Second World War to produce the unique horror of the Holocaust. The total defeat of Germany in 1945 and its subsequent reconstruction as two states again raises the question of continuities and discontinuities. We will trace the divergent, but linked histories of democratic West Germany and the Communist East, concluding with the dramatic fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and subsequent reunification of the two states.

Required Texts:

Christopher Browning. *The Path to Genocide* (Cambridge, 1995).

Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the course reading pack.

Course Requirements:

- Regular discussion responses—due in class on days marked R (2 graded per semester)
- One short paper (4-5 pgs) each semester (Oct. 25 and either Mar. 4 or Apr. 3)
- Take-home exam (4-5 pgs) at end of each semester
Term I

I. Making Germany, Making Germans

Week 1
Lecture: Introduction (Sept. 4)
Lecture: Napoleon and the Holy Roman Empire (Sept. 6)
Readings: Schulze 33-63, 105-121

Week 2
Lecture: 1848 (Sept. 11)
Discussion: Nationalism and Liberalism (Sept. 13-R)
Readings: Schulze 1-31, 64-81, 122-140; *Snyder 162-165, 174-191; *Evans

Week 3
Lecture: Nationalism and Unification (Sept. 18)
Lecture/Discussion: What is Germany? (Sept. 20)
Readings: Schulze 82-101, 141-146; *Elon 196-210; *James 55-87

II. Imperial Germany

Week 4
Lecture: Industry and Mass Society (Sept. 25)
Discussion: Modernity's Discontents (Sept. 27-R)
Readings: *Blackbourn; *Elon 210-220; *Volkov; *Snyder 270-273

Week 5
Lecture: Popular Movements: Workers, Women, and the Middle Classes (Oct. 2)
Discussion: Heimat, the Environment, and German Identities (Oct. 4-R)
Readings: *Applegate; *Confino 97-124; *Snyder 234-236, 244-247

Week 6
Lecture: Imperialism and Militarism (Oct. 9)
Lecture/Discussion: The Sonderweg I, Authoritarianism and Empire (Oct. 11)
Readings: *Mitchell; *Zantop; *Hull and Zimmerer articles; *Second Zimmerer article

Week 7
Lecture: Nietzsche, Freud, and Modernity (Oct. 16)
Discussion: The Sonderweg II, Cultural Despair (Oct. 18 R)
Readings: *Stern; Nietzsche, excerpts
III. War and Revolution

Week 8

No class on Oct. 23.
Lecture: Origins of World War I (Oct. 25)

Readings: Jünger, first half

Paper due Oct 25 on Nationalism and Modernity

Week 9

Lecture: The Fronts (Oct. 30)
Discussion: Storm of Steel (Nov. 1 R)

Readings: Jünger, second half

Week 10

Lecture: Revolution (Nov. 6)
Discussion: Revolution? (Nov. 8 R)

Readings: Fulbrook 1-24; *Haffner

IV. Weimar: The Liberal Experiment

Week 11

Lecture: Weimar Democracy (Nov. 13)
Discussion: Debate on Versailles (Nov. 15)

Readings: *Lederer; Fulbrook 24-31; Gay 1-22; *Weimar documents 5-16

Week 12

Lecture: Weimar Culture (Nov. 20)
Discussion: Faith and Doubt (Nov. 22 R)

Readings: Fulbrook 32-36; Gay 23-45, 70-101; *Weimar documents, 393-402, 438-445

Week 13

Lecture: Weimar on the Wane (Nov. 27)
Discussion: Crisis of Democracy (Nov. 29 R)

Readings: Fulbrook 37-49; *Elon 355-403; *Weimar documents 80-85, 330-341, 352-360
Term 2

V. Nazi Germany

**Week 1**

Lecture: The Rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party (Jan. 8)
Discussion: Why Hitler? (Jan. 10 R)

Readings: Fulbrook 49-61; Leitz 1-48; *Allen

**Week 2**

Lecture: Nazi Society (Jan. 15)
Discussion: The Reach and Limits of Totalitarianism (Jan. 17 R)

Readings: Fulbrook 61-78; Leitz 95-128, 179-204, 229-252

**Week 3**

Lecture: Nazi Racism and Eugenics (Jan. 22)
Discussion: Women, Workers, and Health (Jan. 24 R)

Readings: Leitz 151-178, 205-228; *Owings; *Kaplan

**Week 4**

Lecture: Total War (Jan. 29)
Discussion: Collaboration and Resistance (Jan. 31 R)

Readings: Fulbrook 79-85; Leitz 49-94, 129-150, 253-274

**Week 5**

Lecture: The Holocaust I (Feb. 5)
Film: Conspiracy (Feb 7)

Readings: Fulbrook 85-99; *Wannsee Protocol; Browning preface, chpts. 1,5,7

**Week 6**

Lecture: The Holocaust II (Feb. 12)
Discussion: Responsibility—Hitler, Bureaucrats, Ordinary Men, Modernity? (Feb. 14 R)

Readings: *Klemperer Diaries, pages TBA; Browning, chpt 8

Break Week Feb. 18-22

**Week 7**

Lecture: Defeat, Expulsion, and de-Nazification (Feb. 26)
Discussion: Germans as Victims? (Feb. 28 R)

Readings: Fulbrook 100-123; *Naimark; *Schieder documents
VI. Germany Divided

Week 8

Lecture: Divided Germany (Mar. 4)
Discussion: A New Totalitarianism? (Mar. 6 R)

Readings: Fulbrook 123-159; *Fulbrook, People’s State 23-48, 235-249, 291-298

Week 9

Lecture: Economic Miracles and the Environment, East and West (Mar. 11)
No class Mar. 12

Readings: Fulbrook 160-174; *Dominick; *Snyder 569-576; start reading for next week

Week 10

Lecture: Communism (Mar. 18)
Discussion: Women and Consumption under Communism (Mar. 20 R)

Readings: Fulbrook 174-204; *Harsch; *Merkel; *Rubin

Week 11

Lecture: Democracy and Its Discontents (Mar. 25)
Discussion: Memory of War and Genocide (Mar. 27 R)

Readings: Fulbrook 204-234; *Moeller 21-50; *Maier 1-33

Week 12

Lecture: The Wall in our Heads (Apr. 1)
Lecture: The Wall Falls, Long Live the Wall (Apr. 3)

Readings: Fulbrook 235-256; Schneider first half

Week 13

Discussion: The Wall and (N)Ost-algia (Apr. 8-R)
Film: Good-Bye Lenin (Apr. 10)

Readings: Fulbrook 257-301; Schneider second half

Reader Contents

Term I


Term II