

History 495: Modern Germany

Fall 2014

Mondays and Wednesdays: 4:00-5:15pm, Ruffner 252

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Kravetz

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays: 10:00-11:00, Fridays 10:00-12:00, or by appointment

Course Description:

The course examines German history from 1870 to the present. It will cover the political, economic, military, cultural, and social events that have defined Germany and the German people with a special emphasis on themes that have influenced the creation of present-day Germany and Germans—nationalism, militarism, authoritarianism, and democracy. The readings, discussions, and lectures will cover continuities and discontinuities in German history; Germany's so-called "special path" to modernity; unification and rule under Bismarck; imperialism under Wilhelm II; the First and Second World Wars; the collapse of democracy in Weimar Germany; the rise of Hitler and the Nazi party; the nature and ideology of the Third Reich; the Holocaust and modernity; *Stunde Null* or "Zero Hour"; reconstruction, occupation, and memory; two Germanys guided by two emerging super powers; identity in the re-unified Germany; and Germany's important role in the European Union and in defining Europe and the world in the 21st century.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students should:

1. Be able to speak and write convincingly about the key concepts, events, individuals, and chronology of Modern Germany within the context of European history.
2. Know how to write historically and how to connect argument and evidence
3. Read historical texts and images with care, reflection, and critical analysis
4. Be able to differentiate between primary and secondary sources and understand how to use these sources as evidence for their own arguments.

Required Texts:

Fallada, Hans. *Little Man, What Now?* New York: Melville House, 2011. (must buy off Amazon)

Funder, Anna. *Stasiland: Stories from Behind the Berlin Wall*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2011.

Remarque, Erich Marie. *The Road Back: A Novel*. New York: Random House, 2013.

Spiegelman, Art. *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1986.

Spiegelman, Art. *Maus II: A Survivor's Tale: And Now My Troubles Begin*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1986.

I highly recommend buying these books on Amazon, where they are all available for a reasonable price in used form. Additionally, a number of primary source documents can be accessed through the course Canvas site. To access the readings on Canvas, begin by logging on at <https://canvas.longwood.edu/> and find our course—History 495—under the Courses tab on the blue bar. You can find the course source readings by clicking on the Modules tab on the left-hand side of the page. All readings are listed by author and title.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Monday, August 25: Introduction to the Course: What is Germany? What does it mean to be German?

Instructor and student introductions

Discussion of course syllabus and requirements

Rose Jacobs, “On Top of the World: This Could Be the Start of a Century of German Success,” *Newsweek*, July 17, 2014 (Canvas)

Wednesday, August 27: The Wars of Unification

Documents of German Unification (Canvas)

Week 2

Monday, September 1: Labor Day-No Class

Wednesday, September 3: Bismarck: Germany’s New Leader

Otto von Bismarck, Reflections and Reminiscences and Speech to the Reichstag (Canvas)

Week 3

Monday, September 8: Imperial Germany: Domestic and Foreign Affairs

Houston Stewart Chamberlain, The Importance of Race (Canvas)

German Brutality in Southwest Africa: Exterminating the Herero (Canvas)

Wednesday, September 10: The Precursors to War

Pan-German League, There are Dominant Races and Subordinate Races (Canvas)

Heinrich von Treitschke, The Greatness of War (Canvas)

Friedrich von Bernhardi, Germany and the Next War (Canvas)

Philipp Scheidemann, Berlin: The Hour We Yearned For (Canvas)

Start reading Remarque, *The Road Back*

Week 4

Monday, September 15: The Great War

Erich Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front (Canvas)

Continue reading Remarque, *The Road Back*

Wednesday, September 17: The Long Road Back from War

Discussion of Remarque, *The Road Back*

Week 5

Monday, September 22: Germany Punished: The Treaty of Versailles
Georges Clemenceau, French Demands for Security and Revenge (Canvas)
German Delegation to the Paris Peace Conference, A Peace of Might (Canvas)

Wednesday, September 24: Revolution, Political Upheaval, and Economic Instability
Fallada, *Little Man, What Now?* (first third)
Klara Zetkin, Rosa Luxemburg, Karl Liebknecht, and Franz Mehring, Spartacist Manifesto (Canvas)
J. M. Keynes, The Economic Consequences of the Peace (Canvas)
Heinrich Hauser, With Germany's Unemployed (Canvas)

Week 6

Monday, September 29: The Golden Years of the Weimar Republic
Fallada, *Little Man, What Now?* (second third)

Wednesday, October 1: The Rise of Extremist Politics
TAKE HOME EXAM #1 GUIDELINES DISTRIBUTED
Fallada, *Little Man, What Now?* (last third)
Friedrich Jünger, Antidemocratic Thought in the Weimar Republic (Canvas)
Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf (Canvas)

Week 7

Monday, October 6: Explanation of Digital Essay

Wednesday, October 8: Digital Essay Follow-Up Session
TAKE HOME EXAM #1 DUE

Week 8

Monday, October 13: No Class-Fall Break

Wednesday, October 15: Hitler's National Community: Life under Nazism
Spiegelman, *Maus I*

Week 9

Monday, October 20: The Road to War and World War II
REFLECTION PAPER GUIDELINES DISTRIBUTED
Neville Chamberlain, In Defense of Appeasement (Canvas)
Winston Churchill, A Disaster of the First Magnitude (Canvas)
The Indoctrination of the German Soldier (Canvas)
Joseph Goebbels, The Morale of the German People (Canvas)

Wednesday, October 22: The Holocaust
Spiegelman, *Maus II*

Week 10

Monday, October 27: Memory and the Legacy of Nazism
Discussion of "coming to terms with the past" in *Maus*

Jeffrey Herf, *Divided Memory: The Nazi Past in the Two Germanys* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997), 1-12, 373-394 (Canvas)

Wednesday, October 29: Germany's Special Path?

Jürgen Kocka, "German History before Hitler: The Debate about the German Sonderweg," *Journal of Contemporary History* 23.1 (January 1988), 3-16 (Canvas)

Week 11

Monday, November 3: Defeat, Division, Occupation and Judgment

REFLECTION PAPER DUE

Josef Foschepoth, "German Reaction to Defeat and Occupation," in *West Germany under Construction*, ed. Robert G. Moeller (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1997), 73-89 (Canvas)

Gerold Frank, *The Tragedy of the DPs* (Canvas)

Friedrich Meinecke, *The German Catastrophe* (Canvas)

***Tuesday, November 4: Visit to Virginia Holocaust Museum (leave Longwood at 8:30am and return by 2pm)**

Wednesday, November 5: The West: Adenauer's Germany

Axel Schildt and Arnold Sywottek, "'Reconstruction' and 'Modernization': West German Social History during the 1950s," in *West Germany under Construction*, ed. Robert G. Moeller (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1997), 413-440 (Canvas)

Konrad Adenauer, *Speech to Christian Democratic Union* (Canvas)

Week 12

****EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: Sunday, November 9: Annual Kristallnacht Memorial Service: 2pm, Emek Sholom Memorial Cemetery, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Richmond**

Monday, November 10: The East: Ulbricht's Germany

Corey Ross, "'Protecting the Accomplishments of Socialism'? The (Re) Militarisation of Life in the German Democratic Republic," in *The Workers' and Peasants' State: Communism and Society in East Germany under Ulbricht, 1945-71*, ed. Patrick Major and Jonathan Osmond (New York: Manchester, 2002), 78-93 (Canvas)

Otto Grotewohl, *Speech at Buchenwald Concentration Camp* (Canvas)

Wednesday, November 12: Digital Essay In-Class Work Day

Week 13

Monday, November 17: Instability and Dissent

TAKE HOME EXAM #2 GUIDELINES DISTRIBUTED

Uta G. Poiger, "Rock 'n' Roll, Female Sexuality, and the Cold War Battle over German Identities," in *West Germany under Construction*, ed. Robert G. Moeller, (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1997), 373-410 (Canvas)

Funda, *Stasiland* (first half)

Wednesday, November 19: The Revolution(s) of 1989

Funda, Stasiland (second half)

Week 14

Monday, November 24: German Reunification

TAKE HOME EXAM #2 DUE

Wednesday, November 26: No Class-Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15

Monday, December 1: Germany: Leader on the Pitch and in the EU and Global Politics?

Return to *Newsweek* article: Rose Jacobs, “On Top of the World: This Could Be the Start of a Century of German Success,” *Newsweek*, July 17, 2014 (Canvas)

Anthony Faiola and Anne Hull, “A Score for German Patriotism,” *Washington Post*, July 13, 2014 (Canvas)

Roger Cohen, “Germany is Weltmeister,” *New York Times*, July 17, 2014 (Canvas)

Wednesday, December 3: Digital Essay In-Class Screening

Grading:

Participation: 20%

Reflection Paper: 15%

Take Home Exam #1: 15%

Take Home Exam #2: 20%

Digital Essay: 30%

The following scale will be used for calculating letter grades:

A	94-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-93%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%
		B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%

***Visit to Virginia Holocaust Museum**

Note that we will be visiting the Virginia Holocaust Museum on Tuesday, November 4. This is a required field trip and I will be writing a letter to get you excused from your other classes. We will be leaving Farmville around 8:30am and returning to campus by 2:00pm.

****Extra Credit Opportunity**

Students will have the opportunity to earn extra credit by attending the Annual Kristallnacht Memorial Service on Sunday, November 9 at 2:00pm at the Emek Sholom Memorial Cemetery at the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Richmond. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a longer-term independent research project associated with the Emek Sholom Memorial beginning in the spring semester. If interested in doing independent research on Holocaust victims, I would highly recommend attending this memorial service.

Attendance and Participation (20%):

Regular class attendance and serious participation are **CRUCIAL** to success in this course. Students should treat this course like a seminar. Every class meeting will consist largely of

discussion of that day's assigned readings, often with discussion leaders leading the discussion. It is expected that all assigned readings are completed PRIOR to coming to class, and that all students will come to class equipped with comments, questions and a willingness to engage the material. You will receive a participation grade (on an A through F scale) for every class you attend. Merely showing up to class is not sufficient and will result in a D for that day's participation. Participating only when called on will result in a C grade. Active verbal participation and engagement in course discussion and readings will result in a B grade. Active verbal participation and engagement in course discussion and readings as well as original contributions will result in an A grade. If you are concerned that your level of participation may be unsatisfactory, please come meet with me so we can discuss how you may improve your participation in discussions. You may always ask me about your participation grade.

Excused absences include medical or family emergencies and religious observances. Note that this does **not** include doctor's appointments and minor illness. **Students are allowed one undocumented absence per semester; each additional undocumented absence will drop your final grade by one-third of a letter grade.** Students who are absent (excused and unexcused) from 25% or more of the scheduled class meetings will receive an automatic F.

Exams (35%):

Students will have two take-home exams. Students will receive the guidelines for these exams one week prior to the due date. The first exam will be due on Wednesday, October 8. The second exam will be due on Monday, November 24. On these exams, students will be asked to identify and explain the significance of key terms from readings and lectures and answer essay question(s) that require students to synthesize information from the monographs (Remarque, Fallada, Spiegelman, and Funda) and course lectures. Students will receive the guidelines for Exam #1 on Wednesday, October 1 and the guidelines for Exam #2 on Monday, November 17. No make-up exams will be permitted.

Digital Essay (30%)

Students will spend the second half of the semester creating a five minute digital essay using the IWitness digital testimonies available from the USC Shoah Foundation: <http://iwitness.usc.edu/SFI/>. Students will receive guidelines on how to use IWitness from Jenna Leventhal, IWitness Manager, on Monday, October 6. Students will have a chance to ask further questions about how to use IWitness and to begin their projects on Wednesday, October 8. Students will work on their digital essays throughout the second half of the semester outside of class and will have an in-class work day on Wednesday, November 12. Students will screen their videos for the class and members of the History Department during the last class on Wednesday, December 3.

Students will be producing a digital essay that handles the question of German identity, which will be an ongoing theme throughout the course. Students will choose one IWitness testimony and use it to discuss German identity during the First World War and Weimar period (1914-1932), during the Nazi period (1933-1945), and during the period of reconstruction, occupation, and division (1945-1989). Students will piece together testimony, images, and text in a digital essay format and they will also include a brief reflection at the end as to why they used this particular testimony. Further guidelines will be distributed on Monday, October 6.

Reflection Paper on *Maus* (15%)

Students will write a 3-4 page (double-spaced) reflection paper on *Maus*. In the paper, students will reflect on how these books demonstrate the characters “coming to terms with the past.” “Coming to terms with the past” has been a major theme of post-World War II German history—not only on the national and international stage, but also on a personal and community level. We will discuss the meaning of “coming to terms with the past” in class and in this paper, students will discuss the problems of “coming to terms with the past” for Art and Vladek. Students will also choose and analyze a couple different panels that demonstrate the characters “coming to terms with the past.” The reflection paper is due on Monday, November 3 and guidelines will be distributed on Monday, October 20.

All assignments must be completed to pass this course.

Late Policy:

All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. After the first five minutes, all assignments will be considered late. Late assignments must be turned in to my office by 5pm and will be marked down one-third of a letter grade for each day they are late. For example, if you turn in a paper two days late which warrants a B+, the grade will be a B-. Weekends and holidays DO count when determining how many days an assignment is past due. If you need an extension on an assignment, they will be granted only in the case of emergencies and after consulting with me.

Classroom Etiquette:

Longwood University and I value the diversity of its student body and is committed to providing a classroom atmosphere that encourages the equitable participation of all its students. Students must be respectful to others’ opinions at all times. Personalized comments, inappropriate language and raised voices are not conducive to learning and will not be tolerated in the classroom. All cell phones should be switched off for the entirety of the class period. The use of laptop computers will be allowed **only** for taking notes during lectures so long as students remain engaged with class material. **If the cell phone or laptop policies are abused, students will be marked absent for the day, which will be factored into the overall participation grade.**

Office Hours:

Please do not hesitate to be in contact with me if you have concerns or questions. You are encouraged to make use of my office hours—that’s why I have them! I would be glad to meet with you outside of office hours if you cannot make the times listed.

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. You will be expected to abide by the Longwood University Honor Code (<http://www.longwood.edu/studentconduct/12011.htm>) for all work in this class. Any violations of the honor code will be handled according to Longwood University policy. **If you ever have questions about when or how to cite appropriately, please ask me.**

Academic Support:

Students requiring any special accommodation because of a disability should inform me at the beginning of the semester, as well as the Office of Disability Resources (Graham Hall; 434-395-

2391) to learn about appropriate accommodations. All information will be kept confidential. More information can be found here: <http://www.longwood.edu/disability/>

Writing Help:

The Longwood Writing Center (<http://www.longwood.edu/academicsuccess/15878.htm>; Greenwood Library, Room 155) is a good place to get help with your written work.

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