History 372 (A01) – CRN# 12971

Imperial Germany, 1870–1918

University of Victoria, Fall 2010

Instructor: Christian Lieb (contact: clieb@uvic.ca)
Office: CLE B-218
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 11:30–1:30.
(or by appointment)
Lectures: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:30–11:20 pm
Room: COR B-143

Required Readings:


Course Description:

This course primarily focuses on the social, political, and economic developments of Germany between the foundation in 1870-71 and the end of the First World War and Treaty of Versailles in 1918-19. However, since the French Revolution of 1789, the Napoleonic Wars and Congress of Vienna in 1815, as well as the Revolution of 1848 had a strong impact on later developments in central Europe, the first two to three weeks of the course will be dedicated to laying the foundations for the events that facilitated and shaped the later unification of Germany.

Course Requirements:

To pass the course, you must attend the five discussions and provide a one-page commentary for each of these seminars (including the one on Effi Briest). You must also submit the short essay on Theodor Fontane’s novel Effi Briest, as well as write a research paper and the final exam.

1) Discussion Groups:

Since discussion groups only work when students are well-acquainted with the assigned readings, one requirement of the seminars will be to provide a short (~one page) commentary identifying the main arguments and themes of the articles and a short
paragraph in which you outline the most important question(s) that the readings raised for you. This will help you to focus your thoughts for the discussions and will train you to identify the main arguments of the texts you read.

The discussion groups count for 20% of the final grade in the course. About half of this share will be earned by being present and submitting the required short paper. The other half is divided between the frequency of your participation and the quality of your comments (with an emphasis on your understanding of the arguments in the readings).

Note: Some of the discussion readings will be placed on Reserve in the Library.

2) Short Essay:

The short essay will be about 1,200 words in length, based on Theodor Fontane’s Effi Briest and your argument regarding one of the themes present in the novel will be supported by evidence from your textbook (sections of chapters 3, 6, 7, and 9 will be especially useful). The essay will have a thesis statement at the end of the first paragraph, an analytical discussion of the issue raised in the main part, and a short conclusion. The academic standards of the history department as outlined in the Departmental Style Guide will apply – i.e. footnotes (http://web.uvic.ca/history/styleguide/style.html). Please provide a separate cover page with your name and student number, the name and number of the course, the name of the instructor, and the title of the essay. More specific details for this assignment will be provided in the first weeks of the course.

Essay is due at the beginning of class on October 19, 2010.

3) Research Essay:

The research essay will be about 2,000–2,500 words in length, based on a minimum of one primary source and five secondary sources (academic books and articles). I will provide a list of topic choices (to be posted on my office door). If you wish to develop your own topic you are certainly welcome to do so. In that case, you should submit a short written proposal before Thanksgiving to inform me about your plans. For secondary sources, please use books or articles from academic journals – if you plan to use internet sites, please use those only in addition to the minimum number of five books and articles (which should form the backbone of your research) and make sure that the information comes from a credible source (i.e. www. … .edu). If in doubt about
possible internet sources, you should come and talk to me. For citing internet sources, make sure that you provide the complete address and the date you accessed the site (see the History Department Style Guide: http://web.uvic.ca/history/styleguide/style.html). For primary sources relating to your topic, especially the English translations of documents on the website of the German Historical Institute in Washington D.C. (http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/home.cfm) will be useful. There are two sections relevant for this course: “Forging an Empire” and “Wilhelmine Germany.” Alternatively, there are some translated primary sources in the library (i.e. Bernhard von Bülow’s memoirs).

Similar to the short essay, the research paper will have a thesis which will clearly state your argument. This should be followed by an analytical discussion of the problem you raised, and a short conclusion. You will use the secondary sources to support your argument. The same academic standards of the history department as outlined for the short essay will apply to the research paper.

**Essay is due at the beginning of class on November 19, 2010.**

4) **Final Exam:**

In the final exam you will be asked to identify the contexts of the major themes covered in the lectures and discussion groups. Therefore, the most effective way to prepare for the exam is to attend all discussion groups and lectures as well as to read the assigned chapters in the textbook for each class.

**Fall term examinations begin on December 6 and end on December 20, 2010.**

Instructors do not control the exam schedule. Calendar (p.24): “Students should wait until the final examination timetable is posted before making travel or work plans.”

5) **Final Mark:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>short essay (1,200 words)</td>
<td>20 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>research paper (2,000-2,500 words)</td>
<td>30 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>final exam (during exam period in December)</td>
<td>30 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discussion groups and small assignments</td>
<td>20 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage Grades will be converted to letter grades as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90–100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85–89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A−</td>
<td>80–84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>75–79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70–74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B−</td>
<td>65–69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>60–64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>55–59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C−</td>
<td>50–54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>0–49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

3
The date and title for each lecture is not cast in stone, but provides a guideline for the sequence of topics!

**Week 1** (Sept. 8–12)

Lecture #1 (Sept. 8): Introduction and Course Business.


**Week 2** (Sept. 13–19)

Lecture #3 (Sept. 14): Wars of Liberation and the emergence of the German Confederacy at the Congress of Vienna, 1806–1815.
Lecture #4 (Sept. 15): Restoration and “Pre-March” in Germany, 1815–48.
Lecture #5 (Sept. 17): The Revolution of 1848.

**Week 3** (Sept. 20–26)

Lecture #6 (Sept. 21): German Dualism – Austro-Prussian Rivalry, 1848–1864.

Retallack, *Imperial Germany*, p. 61–82.
Lecture #7 (Sept. 22): The end of the German Confederacy, 1864–1866.
Lecture #8 (Sept. 24): class cancelled!

**Week 4** (Sept. 27–Oct. 3)

Lecture #9 (Sept. 28): Franco-Prussian War and the Founding of the German Empire, 1870–1871.

Discussion #1, Group A (Sept. 29): Liberalism versus Authoritarianism
Discussion #1, Group B (Oct. 1): Liberalism versus Authoritarianism

**Week 5** (Oct. 4–10)

Lecture #10 (Oct. 5): The political system and party politics in Bismarck’s Germany, 1871–1890.

**Week 6** (Oct. 11–17)

Discussion #2, Group A (Oct. 12): Bismarck’s Kulturkampf
Discussion #2, Group B (Oct. 13): Bismarck’s Kulturkampf

Lecture #13 (Oct. 15): Class, gender, and demographic change, 1871–1914.
**Week 7** (Oct. 18–24)

Lecture #14 (Oct. 19): Minority groups in Germany

☞ **Short Essay due at beginning of class (October 19, 2010)**

☞ Discussion #3, Group A (Oct. 20): *Effi Briest*

☞ Discussion #3, Group B (Oct. 22): *Effi Briest*

📖 Theodor Fontane, *Effi Briest* (entire book)

**Week 8** (Oct. 25–31)

Lecture #15 (Oct. 26): Bismarck’s treaty system and the European balance of power.

Lecture #16 (Oct. 27): Bismarck’s resignation and the undoing of the treaty system in the 1890s


Lecture #17 (Oct. 29): German imperialism and Great Power competition


**Week 9** (Nov. 1–7)

Lecture #18 (Nov. 2): Germany’s overseas possessions, 1884–1918.

☞ Discussion #4, Group A (Nov. 3): German Imperialism.

☞ Discussion #4, Group B (Nov. 5): German Imperialism.

Week 10 (Nov. 8–14)

Lecture #19 (Nov. 9): Changes in German politics after Bismarck’s resignation, 1890s.

📖 Retallack, Imperial Germany, p. 40–50.

November 10–12: Reading Break – no classes

Week 11 (Nov. 15–21)

Lecture #20 (Nov. 16): Militarization, Naval Race, and the isolation of Wilhelmine Germany

📖 Retallack, Imperial Germany, p. 196–218.

Lecture #21 (Nov. 17): Society and politics after the turn of the century, 1900–1914

📖 Retallack, Imperial Germany, p. 186–195.

Lecture #22 (Nov. 19): The Road to War, 1905–1914

📖 Retallack, Imperial Germany, p. 50–60.

💡 Research Essay Due at beginning of class (November 19, 2010)

Week 12 (Nov. 22–28)

Lecture #23 (Nov. 23): Germany at War, 1914–1918

📖 Retallack, Imperial Germany, p. 242–263.

💡 Discussion #5, Group A (Nov. 24): Road to World War I

💡 Discussion #5, Group B (Nov. 26): Road to World War I

📖 Wolfgang Mommsen, “The Topos of Inevitable War in Germany in the Decade before 1914,” in: Berghahn and Kitchen (Eds.), Germany and the Age of Total War, p. 23–45; and Fritz Fischer, “German War Aims 1914–1918 and German Policy before the War,” in: Hunt and Preston (Eds.), War Aims and Strategic Policy in the Great War 1914–1918, p. 105–123 (Both on Reserve)
Week 13 (Nov. 29–Dec. 5)

Lecture #24 (Nov. 30): Defeat and Revolution, 1918


Lecture #25 (Dec. 1): The Treaty of Versailles and the end of the German Empire

Lecture #26 (Dec. 3): Summary of course (and discussion of what to expect for the final exam)

End of Term!

Final Exam will be during Examination Period (Dec. 6–20).

☞ Note: Late papers will be subject to a grade reduction of 5% per day, so please start early!!!