Honors 391
From Weimar to Hitler: Modern Culture -- Degenerate Culture -- Nazi Culture

http://www.cofc.edu/~nennon/Hons391.html

Richard Bodek                  Nancy Nenno
216 Jewish Studies Bldg         Randolph Hall 306 D
Bodekr@cofc.edu                Nennon@cofc.edu
T, Th 9:00-11:00                MWF 8:30-9:30, Th 11-12

Both professors are also available by appointment

COURSE ORGANIZATION AND GOALS:

Honors 391 is one of the interdisciplinary courses that students can take to graduate as honors students at the College of Charleston. It will focus on the culture of the Weimar Republic and Nazi Germany, arguably one of the most significant cultural moments in the modern world. These twenty-five years confronted issues that resonate: questions of urban environments and modernity, the relationship of “high” to “low” culture, the nature of film as an art form, gender and culture, and “decadence.”

As this is a small course for honors students, there will be very little lecturing. Instead, class will consist largely of discussion of texts.

This course has several objectives:

• to provide students with the chance to learn about a central moment in modern cultural history.

• to learn how to write short – one page – analytical pieces. You will write two of these in the first five weeks of the class. These papers will be critical responses to a given reading. They should show both an understanding of the material by itself and how it fits into the larger world of Weimar and/or Nazi Culture. Each essay must fit onto one side of an 8 1/2 by 11 sheet of paper. You may wish to consider the following questions in formulating your essays. What are the main points or conclusions of the reading? What types of evidence or reasons are provided? How convincing are the evidence or reasons presented to support the argument? What assumptions are being made? Are there areas of the argument/rationale that are ambiguous? Is there information that is missing or incomplete? How does this piece relate to the other readings?

• to learn how to write a research paper, using the Chicago Style.

The essay for this class will interpret one or more important texts within the social-cultural-intellectual context in which it was produced. Text is loosely defined here. Novels, plays, works of philosophy, and musical scores or films are all acceptable.

Your paper will answer the following questions:
-----What is the nature of the text you have chosen? What was it meant to accomplish?
-----Why did the author write the text?
-----What did the author need to know to write the text?
-----What does this text tell us about the world in which it was written?
-----How do you interpret the text?

The paper will be divided into two installments
a) the first installment – due February 10 – This installment will consist of a preliminary bibliography in Chicago Style, a research question, a
discussion of the texts that will be used to address the question, and a tentative hypothesis.

b) the second installment -- due April 14 -- 10 pages. This is the final installment. The question must be precise. All of the citations must be according to Turabian. The paper must make significant use of at least 3 primary and 6 secondary sources. Any and all use of sources found on the world wide web must first be ok’d by the professors.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Thomas Mann, Doctor Faustus
Anton Kaes, Martin Jay, and Edward Dimendberg (eds.), The Weimar Republic Sourcebook
There will also be Electronic Reserve Reading

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:
Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations
Michael Burleigh, The Third Reich
Hans Mommsen, The Rise and Fall of Weimar Democracy

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
The combined assignments equal 200 points, divided as follows:
Class Participation (Including possible quizzes)---20
Two Short Papers:
   Each Paper 10
Seminar Paper:
   First Installment 30
   Second Installment 70
Final Examination: 40

You must complete all assignments. Failure to complete any assignment will result in an automatic failure for the class. Late papers will be docked 10% per day. Papers more than 3 days late will not be accepted without an excuse from the dean of undergraduate studies. Each unexcused absence after the third will lower your grade 10 points.

Grades scale:
A =180-200 points    B+=170-179 points
B =160-169 points    C+=150-159 points
C =140-149 points    D =120-139 points
F =119 and fewer points

Collateral Credit: We would be happy to discuss collateral credit with any student who would like to do additional work in German for one credit. If this possibility is of interest to you, please come to speak to us.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is committed any time a scholar or a student presents work as entirely his or her own, when in fact it derives entirely or partially from another source (either literature or peers). All material taken from another source (even when the wording is paraphrased) must be acknowledged by use of a textnote, footnote or endnote. Direct statements taken from elsewhere must be attributed and marked by quotation marks. Should you have any questions about plagiarism, discuss them with us. WE WILL REPORT ANY CASE OF SUSPECTED PLAGIARISM OR CHEATING TO THE HONOR BOARD. Anybody found guilty of plagiarism or cheating will automatically fail the class.

The schedule and procedures described on this syllabus are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.
SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Wed 8 Jan
Syllabi handed out
Leaf through the bibliographies in Kaes, Mommsen, and Burleigh to start thinking about what topics interests you. (A great deal of material in German has been translated. The R.S. Small Library, however, has a relatively limited collection. Therefore, speed in choosing a topic is important if you need to use interlibrary loan).

Fri 10 Jan
Mon 13 Jan
Germany: War – Republic – Dictatorship – Destruction (Lecture)
Germany: War – Republic – Dictatorship – Destruction (Lecture)

Section One ---- War

Wed 15 Jan
The Legacy of the War in Weimar Culture
Sourcebook, Chapter 1

Fri 17 Jan
Coming to Terms with Democracy: Sourcebook, Chapter 4

Mon 20 Jan
NO CLASS -- Martin Luther King Day

Wed 22 Jan
National Socialism Confronts Pacifism
Modris Eksteins, “The Fate of the Film „All Quiet on the Western Front” (ER)

Fri 24 Jan
War and Culture in the Third Reich
Watch Kolberg in the OMT
Klaus Kreimeier, The Ufa Story (ER)

Mon 27 Jan
War and Culture in the Third Reich
Omer Bartov, “The Distortion of Reality” Hitler’s Army (ER)

Josef Goebbels, “Youth and the War”
http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/goeb33.htm

Josef Goebbels, “Nation, Rise Up, and Let the Storm Break Loose”
[http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/goeb36.htm]

Wed 29 Jan
War and Culture in the Third Reich
Eric Rentschler, “The Ministry of Illusion” (ER)
POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Fri 31 Jan  Violence in Republican Streets
Bowlby, Chris, “Blutmai 1929: Police, Parties and Proletarians in a Berlin” (ER)

Mon 3 Feb  Right-Wing Philosophies of Violence
Sourcebook, 338-340, 342 – 344, 347-352

Wed 5 Feb  Nazism and Violence
Sourcebook, Chapter 5

Fri 7 Feb  Hitlerjunge Quex
Watch Hitlerjunge Quex on reserve in the OMT
Eric Rentschler, “Emotional Engineering: Hitler Youth Quex” download at http://muse.jhu.edu/demo/mod/2.3rentschler.html

Mon 10 Feb  Discussion – Violence in Weimar and Nazi Germany

Geography

Wed 12 Feb  Berlin
Bodek., “Communist Music in the Streets: Politics and Perceptions in Berlin at the End of the Weimar Republic” (ER)
Sourcebook Chapter 16

Fri 14 Feb  Imagined Space
Mann, Klaus, "Karl May, Hitler's Literary Mentor." Kenyon Review II (4) (1940): 391-400 (ER)
Woodruff Smith, “Lebensraum” and “Imperialist Ideology in the Weimar Republic” (ER)

Mon 17 Feb  The Blue Light
On Reserve at the OMT: Das Blaue Licht (Riefenstahl, 1932)
Eric Rentschler, "Mountains and Modernity: Relocating the Bergfilm.” (ER)

Wed 19 Feb  Space in the Ideology of the Third Reich
Woodruff Smith, “Nazi Imperialism” (ER)

Mon 24 Feb  Discussion – Space in German Culture

Theme: Race and Identity

Wed 26 Feb  Lecture: Race, Racism, and Identity in Germany

Fri 28 Feb  America as Model and Other
Sourcebook, pp. 558-560; Chapter 15

SPRING BREAK
Mon 10 Mar  Gebrauchsmusik and Opera  
Sourcebook, Chapter 23

Wed 12 Mar  Jonny spielt auf  
Jonny spielt auf (Libretto) (ER)

Mon 17 Mar  Jud Süß  
On Reserve at the OMT

**Theme: Identity -- Gender**

Wed 19 Mar  The Cult of the Body  
Sourcebook, Chapter 28

Fri 21 Mar  David Bathrick, “Max Schmeling on the Canvas. Boxing as an Icon of Weimar culture” (ER)

Mon 24 Mar  Kuhle Wampe (Body Politics)  
No Reading

Wed 26 Mar  Kuhle Wampe, continued  
Atina Grossman, “‘Your Body Belongs to You’: Abortion and the 1931 Campaign Against Paragraph 218” (ER)  
Claudia Koonz, Eugenics, Gender and Ethics in Nazi Germany: The Debate About Involuntary Sterilization 1933-1936” (ER)

Fri 28 Mar  Discussion: Race and Gender

**Theme: Modernity/Modernism**

Mon 31 Mar  Radio and the Gramophone  
Sourcebook, Chapter 24

Wed 2 Apr  Film  
Sourcebook, Chapter 25  
Nancy Nenno, “Women, Film, and Fascism” (ER)

Fri 4 Apr  Metropolis  
On Reserve at the OMT

Mon 7 Apr  Triumph of the Will  
Susan Sonntag, “Fascinating Fascism” (ER)

Wed 9 Apr  Radio and Myth
David Bathrick, “Making a National Family with the Radio: The Nazi Wunschkonzert” download at http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/modernism-modernity/v004/4.1bathrick.html

Fri 11 Apr  Speed, Technology and Modernity
Edward Dimendberg, “The Will to Motorization: Cinema, Highways, and Modernity” (ER)

Mon 14 Apr  Discussion, Gender and Modernity

What does it All Mean? Thomas Mann

Wed 16 Apr  Doctor Faustus
Fri 18 Apr  Doctor Faustus
Mon 21 Apr  Doctor Faustus
Wed 23 Apr  Concluding thoughts