History 341: History of Modern Germany 1848 - Present
RLC 300
MWF 11 AM

After centuries of political fragmentation and the failed revolution of 1848, many Germans believed in 1871 that Bismarck had achieved their dream of a united and powerful German empire. German society remained deeply divided, however, by conflicts between social classes, between men and women, between religious denominations, and between regions. In this class we will analyze the tension between the dream of national unity and the realities of social and then political division from the revolution of 1848 through the reunification of East and West Germany in 1990. We will explore thematic topics such as the wars of national unification, the growth of the labor movement, World War I and the Weimar experiment in democracy, the Nazi state, the Second World War and the Holocaust, the consolidation of democracy in the Federal Republic of Germany, the collapse of the German Democratic Republic, and the successes and frustrations of national reunification.

Modern Germany has achieved some of the world’s most impressive successes in economic development, scholarship, the arts, urban planning, and welfare state development, but it also played a major role in the outbreak of two world wars and was responsible for the Holocaust. The Nazi ascension to power may be the most puzzling case in world history of reversion into barbarism by a country that had attained a democratic political constitution and a high level of economic and social development. Some scholars regard this period as an aberration in German history, a dreadful accident that should not detract attention from the many positive developments in Germany before 1933 and after 1945, but others argue that the Third Reich revealed deep-seated and long-lasting authoritarian currents in German society and culture. In the second half of the course, students will compare the Nazi regime with the Federal Republic and the East German communist dictatorship, which were founded at the outset of the Cold War. Finally we will investigate German reunification and the challenges that modern Germany faces.

Class Policies:

Attendance & Participation:

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class period, so it is important that students arrive before class begins. If you are going to be more than 15 minutes late do not bother coming to class. A student may have three absences over the course of the semester. Additional absences will result in a lower grade for attendance and participation. Please be sure to turn off your cell phone before class begins. If you have to leave class early for any reason, let me know before class.

Lectures will expand upon topics in the textbook and introduce additional information and materials. This class will provide you with a forum to express your own views on the course reading and lecture material. So keep up with the reading, come prepared and speak up! Asking questions and making comments are equally important to the quality of our discussion. Remember that any question you have is an important question. Any relevant comment you want to make is an important comment. Similar to your overall grade, when I determine your grade for participation, I will take into consideration improvement over the course of the semester. If you are a shy person by nature, take advantage of this course as an opportunity
to speak up with confidence. The best discussions are normally those in which a variety of different people take part.

**Communication:**

If a serious matter keeps you from attending class, keep me informed about your situation and progress. Communicating with me via email is generally the best.

**Requirements & Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation &amp; Attendance</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Including 5 of 6 reaction papers)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First paper (3-4 pages)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper (5-7 pages)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-94</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-91</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>85-88</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82-84</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-81</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-78</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Essays will be graded on content (including argument and evidence), organization, style and grammar. Essays should be submitted on time at the beginning of class. The grade of any late paper will drop by one letter grade for each day that the paper is late.

No student will receive a passing grade for the course without submitting all of the required exams and papers.

Absences from exams will only be accepted under extreme circumstances and prior notification is essential. Make-up exams are sometimes more challenging because more obvious essay questions appeared on the first version of the exam. If you have three final exams scheduled on one day and are interested in rescheduling this exam, make sure to see me at least two weeks in advance to discuss your situation.

Quizzes on reading assignments may be used if it becomes apparent that students are not keeping up with the reading.

**Course Objectives and Assessment:**
The educational objectives and testing methods used in this course are categorized below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Form of assessment:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stronger understanding of the historian’s craft</td>
<td>Discussions, reading assignments, essays and exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancement of critical thinking skills</td>
<td>Discussions, reading assignments, essays and exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Evaluation of sources, judgment of evidence)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stronger grasp of the history &amp; geography of modern Germany, historical patterns and developments.</td>
<td>Discussions, quizzes, essays and exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toning writing skills and the construction of historical arguments.</td>
<td>Essays and exams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WNEC Policy on Academic Integrity:**

According to the WNEC catalog, “Honesty in all academic work is expected of every student.” This means giving one’s own answers in all class work, quizzes, and examinations without help from any sources not approved by the instructor. Written material is to be the student’s original composition. Appropriate credit must be given for outside sources from which ideas, language or quotations are derived.”

All students have been given information concerning plagiarism. Please be familiar with WNEC policies with respect to intellectual property. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult me or your academic advisor.

**Required Texts:**


Other course readings available via e-reserves or at the duplication (photocopied at cost).

**Lecture & Reading Schedule:**

**Week 1:**

January 18: **Introduction**

January 20: **The Germanic Lands prior to Unification**
Week 2:

January 23: **Unified Germany as an Economic & Political Power**
- Orlow, 12-24.

*First Map Quiz*

January 25: **Unified Germany as an Economic & Political Power II**
- Orlow, 24-41.

*First reading quiz on Orlow.*

January 27: **Imperial Politics 1890-1914**
- Orlow, 42-65.

Week 3:

January 30: **Elite & Bourgeois Culture & Society in Imperial Germany**
- Orlow, 65-72.
- Chapter 4, “Graduation with Honor,” from Kevin McAleer’s *Dueling: The Cult of Honor in Fin-de-Siecle Germany* (Princeton, 1994), 119-158.

*First response paper due on McAleer.*

February 1: **Working-class Culture & Society in Imperial Germany**

February 3: **Nationalism & Empire**
- Orlow, 72-77.
- Begin reading Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front.*

Week 4:

February 6: **The Origins of World War I & the German Battlefront**
- Orlow, 78-97.
- *All Quiet on the Western Front*, chapters 1-3.

February 8: **WWI as a Lived Experience**
- Orlow, 97-103.
- Discuss the rest of *All Quiet on the Western Front.*

*Response paper due on Remarque.*

February 10: **Versailles & the Foundation of the Weimar Republic**

Week 5:
February 13: **Weimar Culture I:**

*View Walther Ruttmann’s film “Berlin: Symphony of a Great City.”*

**First paper due**

February 15: **Weimar Culture II**
- Orlow, 149-154.

February 17: **Weimar Politics**
- Orlow, 128-140.
- Introductory material & excerpts from 3 party platforms in Anton Kaes, *Weimar Sourcebook*.

**Week 6:**

February 20: **The Rise of National Socialism**
- Orlow, 140-149.
- Excerpt from DAP party platform in Anton Kaes, *Weimar Sourcebook*.

February 22: **The Rise of National Socialism II**
- Orlow, 154-170.

**Response paper due on Allen.**

February 24: **The Nazi Seizure of Power I**
- Orlow, 170-175.

**Week 7:**

February 27: **The Nazi Seizure of Power II**
- Orlow, 175-186.

March 1: **A Nazi Social Revolution?**

March 3: **Nazi Culture**
- Film clip from Leni Riefenstahl’s “Triumph of the Will” (1934).

**Week 8:**
March 6: **Resistance & Conformity to National Socialism**

March 8: **Midterm Review**

March 10: *Midterm exam*

**Week 9: Spring Break**
*Start brainstorming a topic for your research paper.

**Week 10**

March 20: **Viewing of Helma Sanders-Brahm’s *Germany, Pale Mother* (1979).**

March 22: **Finish Viewing & Discussing *Germany, Pale Mother* (1979).**

March 24: **Appeasement & the Path towards War**
  - Orlow, 186-205.
*Paper consultations: during this week each student will need to make an appointment to see me about the topic for their research paper. Students should come to the appointment with a printed sheet listing at least one or two possible topics and readings they could use to do their research.

**Week 11**

March 27: **World War II**
  - Orlow, 205-214.
*Submit final paper theme and list of 3-4 sources you will be using.*

March 29: **The intensification of Jewish Persecution**
  - Orlow, 214-216.
  - Begin reading the Browning text.

*Extra credit lecture at the library on this Wednesday,* Robert Spector, Professor of History at Worcester State College, "The Significance of the Holocaust in Human History." D'Amour Library, Room 319, 4 PM.
March 31: **The Holocaust**
- Orlow, 216-219.

*Response paper due on Browning.*

**Week 12**

April 3: **Defeat & Occupation**
- Film clip from Wolfgang Staudte’s *The Murderers are Among Us* (1946).
- Orlow, 219-256

April 5: **The Foundation of East & West Germany**
- Orlow, 257-265, 295-304.

April 7: **The Politics of Memory in the Two Germanys**

**Week 13:**

April 10: **Divergent Societies**
*Research paper due.*

April 12: **The Two Economic Miracles**

April 14: **Politics in the GDR and BRD**
- Orlow, 265-294, 304-314.

**Week 14:**

April 17: **No class**

April 19: **Women in the Two Germanys**

*Response paper due on Langenhan, Ross and Moeller.

April 21: Cold War Influence & the German Fascination with America


Week 15:

April 24: Youth Culture in the Two Germanys

• Excerpts from Peter Sichrovsky Born Guilty: Children of Nazi Families (1988), 16-47.

April 26: The GDR in its Final Years

• Orlow, 314-322.

April 28: The Fall of Communism & Reunification

• Orlow, 322-32 (ending with Herzog).

*Extra credit viewing of film Goodbye Lenin over the weekend.

Week 16

May 1: Post-Reunification Germany

• Orlow, 332-342.

*Final map quiz.

May 3: From National Unification to Melancholy

• Orlow, 342-7; 351-358.

*Response paper due on Berdahl.

May 5: Concluding Thoughts & Review

• Orlow, 359-363.