From World War to Cold War:
The Politics and Cultures of Occupied Germany 1945-1949
History 392/95- 37  Spring 2010
University Hall 118, MW 4:00-5:20

With the end of the Second World War and the collapse of the Third Reich in May 1945, the future of Germany was one of the most pressing concerns for the Allied powers, and indeed for much of the world. Germany had instigated the war, conquered most of Europe, formed the Axis alliance with overtly global aspirations, and bore responsibility for mass murder and devastation on a scale previously unknown in modern warfare. Five years later, however, defeated Germany had been geographically redefined and split into two distinct states, one socialist and under Soviet influence, and the other capitalist and closely tied to the United States; the World War had been replaced by the Cold War. This course will explore the complexities of the intervening four years from 1945 to 1949, when Germany was divided into four zones, each under the control of one of the Allied powers (the USA, USSR, Great Britain and France.) In addition to learning about the complex political, economic and cultural history of occupied Germany, the course will address questions of historiography (the writing of history) as well as teaching you how to work historically with a wide variety of visual and textual primary sources.

This course requires all participants to complete the assigned readings on-time and to come to class prepared to discuss them. Please bring hard copies of the readings to class with you. For readings that are available on-line, please jot down some notes while you are reading so that you do not have to rely on your memory during class discussions.

Course Requirements and Grading Scale

392 and 395: Attendance and Participation: 40%
   One unexcused absence is permitted. Each additional unexcused absence will drop your participation grade by a third.
392: Short Response Essays (3): 30%
392: Final paper (June 10th): 30%

395: Draft of paper (due May 10th) 10%
395: Presentation of paper project (May 26th):10%
395: Research paper (June 10th): 40%
Writing Assignments

392:
Paper #1: Film, April 7th
Write a 2-3 page paper on Germany Year Zero. What does the film suggest will be some of the most important issues facing postwar Germany? Please be specific, referring to dialogue and/or scenes in the film. Remember that this is a fictional source and not a documentary. Your paper should address not only the narrative of the film, but the filmmakers’ technique, aesthetics, and potential impact on the viewer.

Paper #2: Propaganda, April 19th
Write a 2-3 page paper on one of the American military pamphlets on Germany that are available on-line at http://www.historians.org/projects/GIRoundtable. Discuss this pamphlet as a historical source. What does this pamphlet tell us about America as well as about Germany? What is the role of propaganda in American military occupation and in the reconstruction of Germany?

Paper #3: Reportage, May 5th
Write a 2-3 page paper on Dear Fatherland, Rest Quietly. What kind of source is this, and what is its intended goal? How does the author perceive Germans, and what do her descriptions and depictions say about the legacy of the war? How does she define the categories of ‘victims’ and ‘perpetrators,’ and what sorts of judgments does she make about the population of occupied Germany?

Final Paper: Thursday June 10th
Write a 6-8 page paper answering one of the following two questions. This paper requires no additional research and should pull upon the materials used in class. It does require direct quotations from relevant readings that are properly cited as well as a bibliography.

1. Genre
In this course we have examined primary sources from a wide variety of genres: speeches, film, propaganda, journalism, fiction, photographs, music and surveys. Write a paper discussing the ways in which genre affects the information conveyed by a source. Do not summarize different sources, nor should you rate sources in terms of greater or lesser historical accuracy. Instead, reflect on the ways in which the specific constraints and opportunities of a medium, the expected audience, and the circulation of the source affect a source’s meaning. Finally, consider the ways in which these different genres tell us different things about occupied Germany. Are there any genres that seem particularly revealing or particularly problematic for studying this moment in modern history? Why? Be specific in your references to the actual sources used in this class, although you do not need to mention every source or every genre discussed in class.

2. Historiography
The four monographs that we read for this course each represented different ways of studying the history of ‘everyday life.’ What is Everyday Life? What is gained by studying it historically? What are the pitfalls and rewards of this genre of history writing? Why do you think that the years 1945-1949 are so dominated by scholarship on everyday life? In other words, reflect on the ways in which the style of historical writing affects the histories that are told.

395:
Legacies of Occupation
Based on the material we have discussed in class, select what you think is a particularly interesting or important legacy of the German occupation in Germany, the USSR, or the United States. Find a relevant primary source, develop a clear argument, locate 6-8 secondary sources, and write a thesis-driven 15-20 page research paper. Your paper should engage with the issues and materials discussed in class, but you feel free to be creative in approaching the question of ‘legacies.’

Any student with a documented disability needing accommodations is requested to speak directly to the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities and to the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first two weeks of class). All discussions will remain confidential.
Reading and Assignment Schedule

Week 1: Introduction and the War

Monday March 29: Introduction
   Why does Occupied Germany matter?

Wednesday March 31: The Third Reich and World War II: Hitler and the Germans
   Sources: Speeches

   Reading:
   Hitler: Proclamation to the German nation, February 1 1933 (Reader)
   Hitler: Speech October 6 1939 (Reader)
   FDR: War with Japan, December 9 1941 (Reader)
   Admiral Doenitz: Announcement of Hitler’s Death, May 1 1945 (Reader)

Week 2: Capitulation and Occupation: German and Allied Expectations (Defeat or Victory)

Monday April 5: Strategies of Occupation
   Sources: Public Opinion Surveys

   Reading:
   Truman: Declaration regarding the Defeat of Germany, May 8 1945 (Reader)
   Potsdam Conference, August 1 1945 (Reader)
   Public Opinion in Occupied Germany (Reader)

Wednesday April 7: The Peoples and Problems of Postwar Germany
   Source: Photographs and ‘documentary’ imagery

   Assignment: Paper #1
   Movie: Germany Year Zero
   In-Class: Photos of 1945

Week 3: Responsibilities and Rights in Occupied Germany

Monday April 12: American Responsibility toward defeated Germany
   Source: Print Journalism

   Reading:
   “American Responsibility” McMormick (Blackboard)
   Hoover, “American Food Relief to Germany” (Blackboard)
   “From Villains to Victims: Fraternization and the Feminization of Germany” Petra Goedde
   (Blackboard)

Wednesday April 14: German Responsibility for the War: Nuremberg
   Source: Television News Footage

   Reading:
   “The Sachsenhausen trials: War Crimes Prosecution in the Soviet Occupation Zone and in West and East Germany” Jonathan Friedman (Blackboard)

   Capturing the American Eye (available on-line), Chapters 1 and 2, pgs 21-69 “American Atrocity Propaganda” and “American Propaganda Films”
Week 4: Germans in Occupied Germany: Living in the Rubble

Monday April 19: A Destroyed Capital: The City of Berlin
Method: Fiction

Assignment: Paper #2 (392):
Research Paper topic due and titles of three sources (395)

Reading:
Borchert "Rats do Sleep at Night" (Reader)
Enssle "Five Theses on Everyday Life in Germany after World War II" (Blackboard)
Black Market Cold War: Introduction

Wednesday April 21:
Source: Alltagsgeschichte

Reading: Black Market, Cold War, Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5,

Week 5: Germans and Occupation Soldiers

Monday April 26
Source: Music

Reading:
Recasting Race after WWII, chapters 1, 2, 4, 5
In-Class: jazz

Wednesday April 28
Source: Radio

Voices in Ruins: Radio and Normalization after 1945” (on-line ebook)
Film: A Foreign Affair

Week 6: Germans and Jews

Monday May 3:
Reading:
Jews Germans and Allies: Introduction, chapters 1, 3, 4, 6

Wednesday May 5:
Source: Photojournalism

Reading:
Dear Fatherland, Rest Quietly (Reader)
Assignment: Paper #3

Week 7: Germans and Communists

Monday May 10: Gender, Generation and Communism in Germany
Assignment: Research Paper draft (395)
Reading:
Donna Harsch, “Approach/avoidance: Communists and women in East Germany, 1945–9” (Blackboard)
*The Antifascist Classroom*: introduction, chapters 1 and 4

**Wednesday May 12: Antifascism as Ideology**
**Source:** Film
**Reading:**
*The Antifascist Classroom* chapters 5-7

Film: Murderers Among Us

**Week 8: Germany and the Creation of the Cold War**

**Monday May 17: Making a New War**
**Source:** Speeches

**Reading:**
Churchill: The Sinews of Peace, March 5 1946 (Reader)
Stalin: Reply to Churchill, March 14 1946 (Reader)
Kennan: The Charge in the Soviet Union, February 22 1946 (Reader)
Novikov: To the Soviet Leadership, September 27, 1946 (Reader)

**Wednesday May 19: The Occupation Years in the Cold War**

**Reading:**
Moeller, Germans as Victims (Blackboard)
Jarausch, Rupture of Civilization (Blackboard)
Schildt and Sywotteck Reconstruction and Modernization (Blackboard)

**Week 9: After Occupation**

**Monday May 24: Re-Historicizing the End of the War**

**Reading:**
Eley: When Europe Was New (Blackboard)
Davies: Misunderstood Victory in Europe (Blackboard)

**Wednesday May 26: Legacies of Occupation**

**Assignment:** In-class presentation of 395 paper projects

**Final Paper due in the History Office by 4 p.m. Thursday June 10th**