

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
Department of History

HIST 52 – Modern Germany 1871-1990

Spring 2013

Professor Udi Greenberg

Class Time: MWF 10:00-11:05 (X hour on Thursday 12:00-12:50)

Office Hours: Office 306 Carson Hall, Monday 3-5 PM, Friday 3-5 PM, or by appointment.

Contact: Phone (603) 646-2524

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A note on email: Email is the best way to reach me, however, keep in mind that I am unable to respond to all email messages right away. Emails sent to me after 7 PM will be answered the following day.

Course Description:

The century after Germany's first unification (1871) was an era of dramatic transformations and contradictions: while Germans enjoyed unprecedented prosperity, technological advances, and mobility, they also unleashed and experienced terror, total war, foreign occupations, and mass murder. Contrasting visions of a new society ushered in a range of different regimes—an Empire, a liberal republic, a murderous racist dictatorship, Communist rule, and a democratic welfare state—yet these visions also led to the emancipation of women, the development of a new consumer society, the transformation of everyday lives, and the creation of environmentalist movements and new counter-cultures.

Reviewing Germany's history from 1871 until today, this course will explore the drastic changes that permeated German life. Our central theme will be the forces that foster change: how did ideas, everyday experiences, and major political trends intersect to transform each other in modern Germany? What tensions did these changes bring forth; how did various groups and individuals interpret, embrace, challenge, and/or resist the social, political, and cultural changes pursued by different German leaders and regimes? Why did certain changes survive for decades, while others failed and ended abruptly? Drawing from a wide variety of primary sources, including film, literature, political tracts, letters, and historical speeches, the course will present a multidimensional picture of the social, intellectual, political, and cultural transitions that shaped German experiences in modern times.

Course Requirements:

This course aims to develop a variety of skills:

1. The mastery of facts and concepts.

2. The ability to assess and interpret various sources (both primary and secondary, visual and textual).
3. The ability to express ideas and arguments (both in writing and in class).

You will be assessed on all of these skills. For this purpose, the course includes several different requirements:

1. Participation (20%): Following the first week, Wednesdays will be devoted to discussing the readings. You will be divided into two discussion sections. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to these Wednesday meetings and to attend and actively participate **actively** in all discussions.

In addition, you are expected to post on Blackboard **two** questions, thoughts, or comments that you had about the assigned readings for the week. Those postings are intended to be informal observations to help spark our discussions. They are due at 12:00 AM on the night before discussion sections. You must post these under “class discussion” on Blackboard, and they will be part of your overall participation grade.

2. Reading Essay (15%): During week 3 and 4 of the term, each student must write **one** essay (up to 1,200 words, about 4 pages, double-spaced) about the readings assigned for **one** of these weeks. (During the first week of the term, each student will be assigned to a specific week). Professor Greenberg will assign a question the week before the essay is due. This essay will be due on the day before the discussion for the corresponding readings (i.e., either Tuesday, April 9, or Tuesday, April 16) at 7:00 PM.

3. Midterm Exam (15%): There will be an in-class midterm exam on **Thursday, April 25, at 12:00 PM (x-hour)**. The exam will consist of identifications and short questions, and will be based on lectures and reading materials.

4. Question Essay (20%): In the second part of the term, each student must write an essay, which will be based on questions listed on Blackboard. It must be submitted **Thursday, May 16th, at 7:00 PM**. Length limit: 2,000 words (about 6-7 pages).

5. Final exam (30%), consisting of two parts:

1. A 2 hours in-class exam on **Saturday, June 1st, at 8:00 AM**. This is worth 15% of your final grade.
2. A take-home essay of up to 1,500 words, due on **Monday, June 3, at 5:00 PM**. This is worth 15% of your final grade.

Course Readings:

The reading will include both primary and secondary sources. The course’s books, **which are available both for purchase at Wheelock Books and on Reserve at the library**, are:
purchase at Wheelock Books and on Reserve at the library, are:

1. Margaret Lavinia Anderson, *Practicing Democracy: Election and Political Culture in Imperial Germany* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000).
2. Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front* (New York: Random House, 2009).
3. Richard Evans, *The Third Reich in Power* (New York: Penguin, 2006).
4. Richard Evans, *The Third Reich at War* (New York: Penguin, 2009).
5. Uta Poiger, *Jazz, Rock, and Rebels: Cold War Politics and American Culture in a Divided Germany* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000).
6. Peter Schneider, *The Wall Jumper: A Berlin Story* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1983).

The rest of the readings, both primary and secondary sources, will be available both through Blackboard (under “Course Readings”) and on Reserve at the library.

Course Policies

Attendance:

You are expected to attend all classes. If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to get the missed material from a classmate. Students who would fail to attend more than **three** classes (either lecture or discussion), **or** more than **two** of the discussion sections, will receive a **zero** grade on their participation, which will severely reduce their final grade. Moreover, since discussion sections are highly important for this class, **any absence from discussion** will result in a reduction of the student’s overall participation grade.

Writing:

All written material should be submitted in 12 point Times New Roman Font, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins. Sources must be cited in footnotes. Submissions are accepted **via upload on Blackboard**. You may **not** email me your paper. For guidelines citing sources, see the short citation guide (“how to write footnotes”) provided on the course website on Blackboard.

All submitted written material must be **your own work** and must conform to the Dartmouth honor code (see <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~reg/regulations/undergrad/acad-honor.html>). If you have questions about citing the work of others in your paper, please come see me before submitting your work.

Note on late submissions:

Any late submission will be penalized a **two-third letter grade** (for example, from A- to B). Additionally, late submissions will be penalized **another** third letter grade for every 12 hours after the initial deadline (for example, from B to B-). If you know you will need an extension, you must contact Professor Greenberg well in advance. Last minute requests will not be approved.

When submitting a paper via Blackboard, it is **your** responsibility to make sure that you have uploaded the right file. If you submit an incorrect file (a rough draft instead of a final draft,

notes, a different assignment etc.), your essay will be subject to late penalties (applied from the original deadline) until I receive the correct file.

Technology Policy:

Laptops are allowed during lectures, but must only be used for note taking purposes. **No laptops will be allowed on discussion days.**

Accommodation:

All students who may need academic adjustments or accommodations during the term are strongly encouraged to convey those needs to me as soon as possible. Early communication is especially important in cases in which students will miss class due to athletic events or religious holidays; it is also important in cases involving disabilities, which may require in-class or other accommodations. During the first week of class, students will be given an opportunity to indicate requests in these areas via an in-class survey; they are also invited to discuss these requests in person and/or via email. All communications will remain confidential, although it may be necessary to consult with the Student Disabilities Coordinator in some cases involving documented disabilities.

Course Schedule

1. Monday, March 25: Course Introduction and Overview

Unit 1 – Unification and its Discontents

2. Wednesday, March 27: Bismarck and the Creation of Germany
3. Friday, March 29: On the Margins of the New Nation – Catholics and Socialists

Reading:

The Social Democratic Workers' Party, "Manifesto" (1869). [Blackboard]
Association of German Catholics, "Founding Manifesto" (1872). [Blackboard]

4. Monday, April 1: The Restless Empire – Urbanization, Feminism, and Colonialism
5. Wednesday, April 3: Freedom and Control in Imperial Germany (Discussion)

Reading:

Margaret Lavinia Anderson, *Practicing Democracy*, 1-13; 35-66; 106-133; 147-151; 286-305; 241-275; 399-437.

The Constitution of the German Empire, Articles 1-40 (1871), *The Democratic*

Tradition: Four German Constitutions (New York: Berg, 1989) 121-133.
[Blackboard]

Unit 2 – World War I and its Contested Legacies

6. Friday, April 5: From “The Spirit of 1914” to “Total War”
7. Monday, April 8: Exhaustion, Defeat, and Disappointments
8. Wednesday, April 10: The Legacies of War and Defeat (Discussion)

Reading:

German Students’ War Letters (New York: Oxford University Press, 1929) 1-8, 39-59, 61-64, 104-113. [Blackboard]
Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1929).

Unit 3 – Hopes, Unrest, and Anxieties in the First German Democracy

9. Friday, April 12: Democratic Revolution, Civil War, and Economic Chaos

“Inflation Experience of a Family,” in Fritz Ringer (ed.), *The German Inflation of 1923* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1969) 119-120, 130-146.
[Blackboard]
10. Monday, April 15: Republic of Desire – Mass Consumption, New Media, and New Sexuality
11. Wednesday, April 17: The Political Worlds of Weimar (Discussion)

Reading:

Eric Weitz, *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007), 81-127. [Blackboard]
The Constitution of the Weimar Republic (1919). [Blackboard]
Social Democratic Party [SPD] “Program” (1925); German Center Party [Centrum], “Program” (1922); German People’s Party [DVP] “Program” (1931); German National People’s Party [DNVP], “Program” (1931); The German Communist Party [KPD] “Program” (1919). [Blackboard]

12. Friday, April 19: A State of Emergency – Depression, Dictatorship, and Political Collapse

Unit 4 – The Nazi Revolution

13. Monday, April 22: Creating the Nazi Regime

14. Wednesday, April 24: The Racial Utopia (Discussion)

Reading:

Richard Evans, *The Third Reich in Power*, 506-515; 524-610, 220-260.

Adolf Hitler, “Race, Conflict, and Power,” *The Second Book* (New York: Enigma Press, 2003) 29-37. [Blackboard]

“The Nuremberg Laws” (November, 1935). [Blackboard]

15. Thursday, April 25 (x-hour): **MIDTERM EXAM**

16. Friday, April 26: in-class screening (mandatory attendance)

Film: *Triumph of the Will* (1935) Leni Riefenstahl.

17. Monday, April 29: Nazi Culture and Mobilization – Life in the New Community

18. Wednesday, May 1: Were the Nazis Conservative or Revolutionary? (Discussion)

Reading:

Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *Three New Deals: Reflections on Roosevelt's America Mussolini's Italy, and Hitler's Germany* (New York: Metropolitan, 2006) 1-48; 138-191. [Blackboard]

Carl J. Friedrich and Zbigniew K. Brzezinski, *Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1965) 15-26. [Blackboard]

Ian Kershaw, “Working Towards the Führer: Reflections on the Hitler Dictatorship,” *Contemporary European History* 2:2 (1993) 103-118. [Blackboard]

Unit 5 – From War to Mass Murder

19. Thursday, May 2 (x-hour): Nazi Foreign Policy Before the War

20. Friday, May 3: The Reich Goes to War

21. Monday, May 6: From Total War to Total Defeat – The End of the Third Reich

22. Wednesday, May 8: The Nazi Genocide (Discussion)

Reading:

“Minutes of the Wansee Conference” (January 1942). [Blackboard]

Richard Evans, *The Third Reich at War*, 28-105, 217-318.

Unit 6 – After Catastrophe: Occupation, Division, and Competing Visions of Democracy

- 23. Thursday, May 9 (x-hour): Occupation and Division in a Bipolar World
- 24. Friday, May 10: American Power and Rise of Christian Democracy in West Germany
- 25. Monday, May 13: Soviet Hegemony and the Communist Revolution in East Germany
- 26. Wednesday, May 15: The United States and the German Culture Wars (Discussion)

Reading:

Konrad Adenauer, “Christian Civilization at Stake,” and “Worldwide Aggression by Totalitarian Communism,” *World Indivisible* (New York: Harper, 1955) 11-15; 38-48. [**Blackboard**]

Walter Ulbricht, *Whither Germany? Speeches and Essays* (Dresden: Zeit, 1966) 116-129. [**Blackboard**]

Uta Poiger, *Jazz, Rock, and Rebels*, 1-105; 137-167; 223-228.

Thursday, May 16, 7:00 PM – Question Essay Due (via Blackboard)

Friday, May 17: No Class – Enjoy Green Key Weekend!

Unit 7 – Subversion, Protest, and the End of the Cold War

- 27. Monday, May 20: 1968 – The New Left, New Violence, and New Foreign Policy
- 28. Wednesday, May 22: The Legacies of Division (Discussion)

Reading:

Peter Schneider, *The Wall Jumper: A Berlin Story*.

Film: *Good Bye, Lenin!* (2006) Wolfgang Becker. [**Online Streaming via Blackboard**]

- 29. Friday, May 24: 1989 – The Collapse of Communism and the Creation of ‘The Berlin Republic’

Monday, May 27: No Class – Memorial Day

- 30. Wednesday, May 29: Germany and the European Union – From Euphoria to Crisis

Saturday, June 1, 8:00 AM – In-Class Final Exam

Monday, June 3, 5:00 PM – Final Essay Due (hard copy at Professor Greenberg’s office)