

HTS 3046 A
Science, Politics and Culture in Nazi Germany
Professor Kristie Macrakis
Fall 2011

Class Meets: MWF, 11:05-11:55, College of Management, Room 101
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Old Civil Engineering Building Room 120
Office Hours: MW, or after class or by appointment

This class is about Nazi Germany and about science and technology during the period in its social, political and cultural context. The goal is to understand and evaluate the regime and the fate of science and technology under National Socialism as a window into better understanding the interaction of science and politics under totalitarian regimes. Questions we will consider include: What is the nature of the regime? What was it like to live in Nazi Germany? How did science change? Was there a decline and destruction of science? How did institutions and disciplines react and function during the phases of Nazi Germany? What is the political responsibility of the scientist? And how should we judge scientists' actions?

We will spend the first month learning about the history of Nazi Germany in general in order to have a firm understanding of the context. This year's featured book is *In the Garden of the Beasts* Then we will turn to science in Germany before the rise of Nazism and after. After the general overview we focus on policy, institutions, disciplines and biographies.

Books Available at Bookstore (Engineers Bookstore)

Required:

Cornwell, John. *Hitler's Scientists: Science, War, and the Devil's Pact*. NY: Viking, 2003. (\$17/\$11)

Katz, Eric. *Death by Design: Science, Technology and Engineering in Nazi Germany*. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2006. (\$36/\$32)

Larson, Erik. *In the Garden of Beasts*. New York: Crown, 2011. (Please get cheap edition. Available on amazon for \$ 13 hardback, kindle, paperback)

Spielvogel, Jackson. *Hitler and Nazi Germany*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall. [any edition is fine] Please get used copy.

Requirements:

There will be two written in class tests (a mid-term and final), pop quizzes, class discussion and a final research paper (8-12 pages). The tests examine your understanding of the readings and class discussions. You can pick the topic of the research paper in consultation with the instructor. It can be on any topic related to the class whether one topic in depth or a topic not covered.

Class attendance and participation is vital to learning and profiting from this class. It is also required. Material covered in the class will be on the tests and may not be covered in the reading. There will be occasional pop quizzes on the movies and readings at the discretion of the instructor if the students are not keeping up with the class.

READ the material *before* the class discussion. 30-50 pages a class time are assigned depending on difficulty of reading.

Grading:

Mid-term Test: 25% (10 October, Monday)

Final Test: 25% (9 December)

Research Paper 25% (30 November)

Mid-Term Paper Outline Due: (required, rolls into research paper grad) 18 October

Class Discussion & Pop Quizzes 25%

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 0-59

Teaching Philosophy:

I believe in *active learning*. This means I don't lecture *to* you as you passively take notes, but rather you are a fully involved student taking part in class discussion, class role-playing, pair-share, and other activities to ensure you learn something in this class.

I also want you to learn how to *think critically* and analyze material. The point is not to regurgitate facts, but rather to understand the material and to critically analyze it, think about it, discuss it and write about it.

The course should help you *improve your reading and writing skills* as critical thinking means nothing if you can't write about it in a coherent fashion without major stylistic or grammatical errors.

I want you to succeed in the class. You need to:

1. Do the reading
2. Take NOTES (preferably in a notebook for the class: What is the main point of the reading? How does the author illustrate the points? Note your reaction to the events or reading. Share them with the class. Notes will help you as you review for exams.
3. Be able to present a thumbnail sketch of the reading in class

Georgia Tech Honor Code:

Plagiarism and cheating is not tolerated and will be penalized. All students are expected to follow the Georgia Tech honor code. See www.honor.gatech.edu.

Organization of Course

Prelude: In the Garden of Beasts

20th Century Germany before the Nazis

Nazi Germany, 1933-1939; WW II

Espionage in Nazi Germany

Science and Technology in Weimar Germany

Science and Technology in Nazi Germany

Policy

Institutions:

Universities

Research Institutions

Disciplines:

Biology

Medicine

Physics

Technology

Codes and Ciphers

Calendar & Reading Schedule & In-class Topics (Subject to Change)

August

- 22 (M) Introductions/Syllabus Overview/Housekeeping: READ the SYLLABUS carefully!
- 24 (W) Getting to know you & what you know – Writing Exercise in Class.
QUIZ on Syllabus.. Start reading *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson, pps. 1-50.
- 26 (F) Larson, 51-101. Berlin You Tube Selections, (MH))
- 29 (M) Larson, 102-153. (D)
- 31 (W) Larson, 154-202. (D)

September

- 2 (F) Larson, 203-253. (D & M)
- 5 (M) No Class-Labor Day
- 7 (W) WWI & Weimar Germany (D)
Spielvogel, Intro., chs.1 & 2 (pps. 1-41, 6th edition)
- 9 (F) Growth of Nazism (D & M)
Spielvogel, ch. 3, pps. 45-80.
- 12 (M) FRED KEMPE: BERLIN 1961 Visit. Lecture Required, 4-5
- 14 (W) The Nazi State, 1933-39 (D)
Spielvogel, ch. 4, pps. 83-118
- 16 (F) Leni Riefenstahl, *Triumph of the Will* (M)
- 19 (M) The Dictator
Spielvogel, ch. 5, pps. 121-144
- 21 (W) Culture and Society in Nazi Germany
Spielvogel, ch. 6, 146-78
- 23 (F) Hitler and his War (D & M)
Spielvogel, ch.7 pps. 182-217
- 26 (M) Nazi Germany in Wartime
Spielvogel, ch. 8, pps. 220-252

28 (W) The Holocaust
 Spielvogel, ch 9, pps. 255-287

30 (F) Judgment at Nuremberg (M)

October

3 (M) Science and Technology in Weimar Germany
 John Cornwell, pps. 1-46

5 (W) Student Recess

7 (F) Science and Technology in Weimar Republic (R)
 Cornwell, pps. 47-84
 Judgment (M)

10 (M) MID-TERM TEST

12 (W) "Coordination" and Dismissals
 Cornwell, 127-141; 14 (F)

17 (M) STUDENT RECESS. No Class.

19 (W) Science and Technology in Nazi Germany (General Issues)
 Kristie Macrakis, *Surviving the Swastika*, ch. 4, pps. 73-96 Google books or as
 Handout

21 (F) Hi-Tech Hitler (M)

24 (M) Biology & Racial Hygiene under National Socialism
 Eric Katz, pps. 201-218;
 Cornwell, 152-165;

26 (W) Medicalized Killing in the Nazi Death Camps
 Katz, 219-250;

28 (F) Health and Cancer under the Nazis (D & M)
 166-173

31 (M) Physics
 Cornwell, 93-110; 178-190;

November

2 (W) The German Atomic Bomb
299-340

4 (F) German Atomic Bomb (M)

7 (M) WW II, Machines of War & Radar
Cornwell, 207-280

9 (W) Hitler's Spies
Handouts

11 (F) Hitler's Spies (M)

14 (M) Codes, Ciphers & Invisible Ink
Cornwell, 281-295/Macrakis handout

16 (W) Technology and Engineering
Katz, 70-112

18 (F) Architecture & Technology (D & M)
Katz, 147-80

21 (M) Engineering, Technology & Business (IBM & IG Farben)
Katz, 250-288

23 (W) TBA

25 (F) (Thanksgiving Holiday, no class)

28 (M) Rocket Science & V-2's
Cornwell, 341-390

30 (W) Rockets & V-2 (M)

December

2 (F) Library Day

5 (M) FINAL PAPER Drafts DUE/Presentation of Results

7 (W) Catch-up/Presentation of papers: FINAL PAPERS DUE

9 (F) Homework Paper Due