

German Nationalisms

Spring 2023

GSD 361K (37704) / GOV 368T (38289) / EUS 346 (36079) / REE 335 (43474)

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The term “nation” is ubiquitous, but not simple. There are different and at times conflicting definitions of that one word. The same holds for the related word “nationalism.” We may have a pre-conception of what nationalism means for one society and political system, but not all national movements are the same. This course is devoted to investigating the complex and influential phenomena of nation and nationalism in the modern era. We will study the case of Germany, in particular the diverse expressions and implications of national concepts and movements that have occurred in German-speaking regions of Europe in their respective historical contexts over the last two and a half centuries.

Questions that will help us explore these issues include: What is the relationship between nationalist movements and state structures? What prompts shifts in the definition and use of key terms such as the nation, the people, the *Volk*? How and when are cultural and social traditions appropriated in the name of nationalism? And what theoretical approaches to the phenomenon of nationalism best account for its variation and history?

By examining various cultural expressions and critical definitions of “Germany” and “Germanness” in the modern era, this course challenges a simplistic understanding of the history of German nationalism as an inevitable progression towards totalitarianism. It also provides numerous points of comparison for other national cases and histories. It encourages students to reflect on the possible validity as well as the dangers of nationalism in the present moment.

The course is also structured to help students to improve their critical thinking abilities, their research skills, their writing, and their ability to make formal oral presentations. It carries a writing (Wr) and global cultures (GC) flag.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- describe major events and trends in the history of German nationalism
- compare and contrast differing views of the German nation
- analyze the rhetorical and stylistic elements authors use to talk about political identity
- locate relevant sources regarding recent views or debates about national identity
- compose a well organized and clearly written research project
- present their research findings orally to others and respond to questions
- critique the ideas and views of others in a constructive and professional manner

Required Texts:

- A course reader with primary texts (available at Jenn's Copies, 2518 Guadalupe St.)
- Fulbrook, Mary. *A Concise History of Germany*. Cambridge University Press, 2019 (3rd ed.).
- Remarque, Erich Maria. *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Random House, 1987. (or reprint)
- Strunk, William and E. B. White. *Elements of Style*. Pearson/Longman, 1999. (any ed.)

Recommended Text:

Hairston, Maxine, et al. *Scott Foresman Handbook for Writers*. Many editions available in PCL.

Assignments:

- 1) **Preparation** consists of completing **assigned readings** (in books, in the reading packet, or on Canvas) *before class* on the day listed on the syllabus. Come to class prepared to discuss the material and/or pose questions about them. The best daily preparation for the essays and tests is careful close reading and note taking of the assigned texts. It also includes collaborative commentaries on films. **Participation** includes discussing the readings and completing regular in-class activities, including short writing tasks: “reaction papers” or “minute papers.” Missing more than two of these activities will impact your grade for preparation and participation. If you miss a class meeting it is your job to contact a fellow student to find out what was covered and what deadlines, changes, or new information were announced.
- 2) Written homework consists of three **essays** and a **peer review** of another student’s research project. All assignments are posted on Canvas. In the first 3-page essay you will compare and contrast concepts and context regarding views about the German nation in at least two primary readings. In the second 3-page essay you will respond to (at least) one primary reading by using stylistic, rhetorical, and other formal elements we have encountered. In the last essay (6 pages) you will investigate a recent aspect of the nation, nationalism, or national identity in German society (from 1990 to the present). This will require locating relevant sources. Discuss your topic with me by March 10 and submit an annotated core bibliography, a thesis statement, and an outline in the first week of April. Note that you may submit your work in an innovative or creative format. If you are interested in such an option, discuss it with me by March 10. You will submit a draft for peer review and comment on another student’s draft. Due dates are listed on the syllabus. You may use the University Writing Center resources: <https://uwc.utexas.edu/services/resources/>
- 3) In order both to share your research and to benefit from feed back you will make a **formal presentation** to the class (in the context of a panel during the last two weeks) on the topic of your final research project. Your presentation should have a thesis and a conclusion, be clearly organized, 5 minutes in length, and accompanied by a 1-page handout that explains your key terms and main points. You are expected to speak freely (using only notes and/or your outline). Students will evaluate at least two presentations (on the days when they are not presenting) and provide **comments** (suggestions for improvement for the final version) to the presenters and the instructor. For tips on public speaking visit:
<https://ugs.utexas.edu/slcsupport/speaking-center>
- 4) There will be two **exams** (with short answer and quotation IDs) on material from readings, lectures, and discussions. Review sheets will be posted on Canvas.

Grading:

- ◆ Two 3-page essays (10% each): 20%
- ◆ Preparation and participation (incl. discussion, group work, in-class assignments and commentaries): 10%
- ◆ Research topic; bibliography; thesis statement; outline: 5%
- ◆ Formal presentation on research topic and comments on other presentations: 10%
- ◆ Peer-review of another student's research paper: 5%
- ◆ Research paper: 20%
- ◆ Two exams (15% each): 30%

Grades are assigned according to the following scales:

93.0-100	A	83.0-86.9	B	73.0-76.9	C	63.0-66.9	D
90.0-92.9	A-	80.0-82.9	B-	70.0-72.9	C-	60.0-62.9	D-
87.0-89.9	B+	77.0-79.9	C+	67.0-69.9	D+	0-59.9	F

Questions?

Talk to me if you have questions about any aspect of the course. I'm here to help!

Syllabus

Date	Period	Reading and/or writing assignment	history reading in Fulbrook = F
Week 1 Definitions of Nationalism: Problem of Nationalism in German History; Enlightenment; Classicism: Tolerance; Cosmopolitanism; History; Folk Culture; National Culture			
M 1/9	1	Introduction	
M 1/11	2	Lessing	F 1-13
F 1/13	3	Herder; Goethe	F 69-94
Week 2 Romanticism; Liberation; Liberalism; Restoration: Wars of Liberation; National Revival; Anti-national Restoration			
W 1/18	4	Fichte	F 94-103
F 1/20	5	Körner; Jahn; Arndt Joint assignment about film: <i>A Nation Returns: Germany</i> (1993)	
Week 3 Internationalism; Revolution; Socialism: Pre-March period; 1848 Revolution; Liberalism vs Socialism			
M 1/23	6	Schneckenburger; Hoffmann von Fallersleben; Heine [discuss with partner: <i>Handbook for Writers – Thesis, outline, title</i>]	F 104-115
W 1/25	7	Heine [in class: <i>Strunk and White</i>]	F 116-122
F 1/27	8	Marx/Engels	
Week 4 Theories of Nationalism: “Ethnic;” “Ethnonationalism”			
M 1/30	9	DUE: Essay #1: 3-page conceptual comparison	

W 2/1	10	Smith; Connor	
F 2/3	11	Gellner	
Week 5 Theories of Nationalism: “Imagined Communities”; “Invention of Tradition”			
M 2/6	12	Anderson	
W 2/8	13	Hobsbawm	
F 2/10	14	<u>First Exam</u>	
Week 6 Imperialism; Volk and Völkisch Ideologies of the Nation: Wars of Unification; Wilhelminian Germany; Anti-semitism; Germany’s “Special path”			
M 2/13	15	Wagner; Bismarck and Imperial Documents	F 122-144
W 2/15	16	Treitschke	F 144-154
F 2/17	17	Joint assignment about film: <i>The Germans: Portrait of a New Nation</i> (1995) <u>Begin thinking about research topic</u>	
Week 7 War, Heroes, and Homeland (<i>Heimat</i>): World War I; Treaty of Versailles; Weimar Republic; “Stab in the Back”			
M 2/20	18	Nietzsche [in class: <i>Handbook for Writers – Revise, edit, proofread</i>]	
W 2/22	19	Lissauer; Remarque	F 155-179
F 2/24	20	Remarque	
Week 8			
M 2/27	21	Tucholsky	
W 3/1	22	<u>Review and discussion of sample research papers</u>	
F 3/3	23	<u>DUE: Essay #2: 3-page rhetorical/stylistic comparison</u>	
Week 9 Nation as Race; National Socialism: Nazi Racial Doctrine; World War II; Holocaust			
M 3/6	24	Hitler; Goebbels	F 179-204
W 3/8	25	Riefenstahl (view film before class)	
F 3/10	26	<u>DUE: discussion of research topic</u>	F 212-220
SPRING BREAK			
Week 10 Division of the Nation; Two States vs One Nation: The “good” and the “bad” Germany: Defeat, Occupation, Division			
M 3/20	27	Brecht	F 205-212
W 3/22	28	Mann	
F 3/24	29	Sichrovsky	F 220-243

Week 11 Con-Federation, Unification, or Colonization: November 1989 - “National Revolution?”; October 3, 1990 – Day of Unification			
M 3/27	30	Film: <i>ABCNews Nightline: East Germany Opens its Borders</i> DUE: TOPIC for research paper	F 243-249
W 3/29	31	Schneider	
F 3/31	32	de Bruyn; Grass; Bohrer	F 250-273
Week 12 Memory and the Legacy of the Past in German Identity: Constitutional Patriotism; Bitburg; “Historians’ Debate”; Legacy of Colonialism			
M 4/3	33	Sternberger; press reports on Bitburg visit; Kohl DUE: annotated core BIBLIOGRAPHY for research paper	
W 4/5	34	Nolte; Habermas; Leicht	
F 4/7	35	<i>Guardian</i> editorial; <i>New York Times</i> articles (international reporting) DUE: THESIS and OUTLINE for research paper	
Week 13 Citizenship and Migration: Normalcy for Germany?			
M 4/10	36	Second Exam	
W 4/12	37	<u>Panel presentations; comments due by 10 pm</u>	
F 4/14	38	<u>Panel presentations; comments due by 10 pm</u>	
Week 14 Germany and Europe: Regionalism and Internationalism			
M 4/17	39	<u>Panel presentations; comments due by 10 pm</u>	
W 4/19	40	<u>Panel presentations; comments due by 10 pm</u>	
F 4/21	41	<u>Panel presentations; comments due by 10 pm</u> DUE: DRAFT of 6-page research paper for peer review	
Week 15 The Future of Nationalism			
M 4/24	42	Conclusions DUE: PEER REVIEW of another student’s 6-page research paper	
F 4/28		DUE: FINAL VERSION of 6-page research paper	

Course policies and academic resources

Syllabus and Assignments

It is your responsibility to read and keep this syllabus so that you understand all course requirements and know when all assignments are due. I will not be sending you reminders about due dates. *Nota bene: late work is not accepted*, except in the case of excused absences listed below (“Religious Holidays and other Absences”).

Classroom policy

Respecting your classmates includes listening closely when they are speaking. To that end, I ask you to use any technology for course-related purposes only. During class do not surf the internet, text, or do anything that might prevent you from paying attention and/or distract your fellow students.

Academic Integrity

Learning is a complex process that, of course, includes working together with fellow students. I strongly encourage you to study together. There will also be a few group activities assigned. You are, however, expected to submit your own work on individual assignments, essays, quizzes, and exams.

Because dishonesty harms the individual, other students in the course, and the integrity of the University, UT's policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. The website of the Office of the Dean of Students explains the standards of conduct and academic integrity expected of all UT students: <https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/>. Students who do not comply with University rules on scholastic integrity are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University.

S.B. 11

You received oral notice during the first week of class in accordance with official university policy (UT-Austin policy (HOP 8-1060, VII-C)). This notice is a written reminder that ***Prof. Belgum's office, BUR 324, is a gun-free zone.***

Religious Holidays and other Absences

If you will miss a due date because of a religious holiday, notify me by email at least one week before the absence. The same applies to obligations such as performances or competitions. A medical absence requires written documentation from a physician; an absence for a funeral requires documentation as well. In all cases, work must be completed within one week of the absence. A conflict due to family or work-related events must be arranged by email two weeks in advance and assignments must be turned in on or before their regular due dates.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact the Service for Students with Disabilities to request an official letter which you must give to instructors: <https://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/accommodations-and-services/>. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 512-471-6259, video phone: 512-410-6644.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If you have concerns about the safety or behavior of fellow students, TAs, professors, or staff, you can call the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss your concerns: 512-232-5050 or visit: <https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line/>. Trust your instincts and share your concerns.

Confidential Advocates

UT Austin provides two private support programs for students who have been impacted by interpersonal violence that are not mandated to report to Title IX. To find a confidential advocate please visit: <https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/confidentialadvocates.php/>.

Wellness

Your physical and emotional health are very important. Wellness workshops and other resources are available to all UT students. To find out more visit: <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/index.html/>.

Please also review the document "Additional Notices to Students" posted on Canvas.