History of the Third Reich and the Holocaust
HIST 4391 90L - Sp Topics Euro History
Summer 2017
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Syllabus

Introduction
Over the course of the semester, we will analyze the rise of Adolf Hitler and the National Socialist German Workers’ Party (NSDAP) in the wake of World War I as well as the prevalence of racism and antisemitism in Modern Germany. Following an investigation of the anti-democratic, anti-semitic, and racist policies that the Nazis implemented between 1933 and 1939, the course discusses World War II and the Holocaust in tandem. While the class thus focuses on the most horrific examples of human behavior, it also addresses forms of resistance as examples of courage, humanity, and selflessness.

Course Objectives
In this course, active participants will…
• practice how to critically read and engage with secondary and primary sources;
• practice how to present their research findings in written and forms.
• be able to demonstrate the ability to identify and critically discuss major historical concepts, political, intellectual, and cultural themes.

Required Readings
This course is reading and writing intensive. My approach to teaching is based on the firm belief that the ability to read scholarly texts and to express one’s ideas eloquently in writing is an essential skill that every self-reliant, responsible, and college-educated individual should possess. Moreover, reading and writing is what historians do. It is the staple of our profession. To consider yourself a historian, a history nerd or something of the kind, you have to know the art of reading and writing.

In order to actively participate in and successfully complete this course, you have to purchase/rent the following two books¹:

¹ Please be advised that the page numbers provided in the schedule below refer to the print-version of these two books. If you purchase another version of these books, it will be your responsibility to keep track of the correct readings/page numbers.


The books are available at UTRGV’s bookstore as well as through many other venues.

Additional readings will be made available as PDFs on Blackboard. Moreover, we will be using online platforms such as “German History in Documents and Images” by the German Historical Institute.

**Format and Assignments**

Over the course of this class, **you have to complete nine modules**. Each module requires you to read assigned texts and, based on your readings, complete two tasks:

• You have to complete a **test** that consists of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, short-answer, put-in-chronological order etc. questions. These tests quiz you on major events, developments, concepts, or individuals. Please note that these tests are **cumulative**.

• You have to complete a **writing, discussion, or research assignment**.

Please note that **all nine modules will become available right at the beginning of the term**. This allows you to work at your own pace. However, each module has to be completed by a certain deadline. In general, **modules will be due by 11:59 PM on either a Thursday or a Sunday**.

The course **concludes with a final exam** at the end of the term. It quizzes you on the IDs that you had to study for the Modules One through Nine.

These assignments are weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modules</th>
<th>Weightage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Modules</td>
<td>90% of your final course grade (10% per module)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Final Exam</td>
<td>10% of your final course grade</td>
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**Basic Assumptions**

Since this is an upper-level course for advanced students, I assume that you already know

• the distinction between [primary and secondary sources](#);
• how to search for and read [scholarly sources](#);
• how to search for, analyze, and interpret [primary sources](#);
• how to [write academically](#);
• how to [quote correctly](#);
Schedule

Module I
Before 1933: Politics and Society in Weimar Germany
Deadline for Completion: Sunday, July 16, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)
Required Readings:
  • Secondary Sources:
    o Epstein, Nazi Germany, 1-20.
  • Primary Sources:
    o Thomas Mann, “On the German Republic” (1922); Morgan Philips Price on the Enemies of the Republic (1923) in German History in Documents and Images online at the German Historical Institute.
Required Tasks:
  • Complete Test
  • Complete Discussion Assignment

Module II
Into Darkness: The Rise of Adolf Hitler and the NSDAP
Deadline for Completion: Thursday, July 20, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)
Required Readings:
  • Secondary Sources:
    o Epstein, Nazi Germany, 21-43.
  • Primary Sources:
    o Adolf Hitler, “Mein Kampf” (1925); Ludecke, “The Demagogic Orator” (1939); Mann, “An Appeal to Reason” in Sources in European History: Since 1900.
Required Tasks:
  • Complete Test
  • Complete Discussion Assignment

Module III
Creating a Dictatorship: Power and Politics in Nazi Germany
Deadline for Completion: Sunday, July 23, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)
Required Readings:
  • Secondary Sources:
    o Epstein, Nazi Germany, 45-67.
    o Friedländer, Nazi Germany, 3-31.
Required Tasks:
  • Complete Test
  • Complete Writing Assignment

Module IV
Creating a “Master Race”: Ideology and Society in Nazi Germany
Deadline for Completion: Thursday, July 27, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)
Required Readings:
  • Secondary Sources:
    o Epstein, Nazi Germany, 69-95.
    o Friedländer, Nazi Germany, 32-60.
Required Documentary
  • “The Euthanasia Films of the Third Reich: Selling Murder”
Module V
The Road to War: Nazi Germany, 1935-1939
Deadline for Completion: Sunday, July 30, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)
Required Readings:
• Secondary Sources:
  o Epstein, Nazi Germany, 97-106 and 113-121.
  o Friedländer, Nazi Germany, 87-110.
Required Tasks:
• Complete Test
• Complete Research/Writing Assignment

Module VI
Before Barbarossa: War and Occupation, 1939-1941
Deadline for Completion: Thursday, August 3, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)
Required Readings:
• Secondary Sources:
  o Epstein, Nazi Germany, 123-136 and 154-155.
  o Friedländer, Nazi Germany, 143-163, 177-185, and 190-199.
Required Tasks:
• Complete Test
• Complete Writing Assignment

Module VII
From Mass Murder to Genocide: The “Final Solution”, 1941-1945
Deadline for Completion: Sunday, August 6, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)
Required Readings:
• Secondary Sources:
  o Epstein, Nazi Germany, 149-179.
  o Friedländer, Nazi Germany, 287-315.
• Primary Sources:
  o Tadeuz Borowski, This Way to the Gas Ladies and Gentlemen, 29-49.
Required Tasks:
• Complete Test
• Complete Discussion Assignment

Module VIII
Compliance and Resistance: What Germans Could Have Known and Done
Deadline for Completion: Thursday, August 10, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)
Required Readings:
• Secondary Sources:
  o Epstein, Nazi Germany, 110-113 and 187-198.
  o Friedländer, Nazi Germany, 361-365.
• Primary Sources:
  o “Leaflets of the White Rose”.

Required Tasks:
- Complete Test
- Complete Discussion Assignment

Module IX
The End: The Defeat of Nazi Germany
Deadline for Completion: Sunday, August 13, 2017 (by 11:59 PM)

Required Readings:
- Secondary Sources:
  - Epstein, *Nazi Germany*, 198-220.
  - Friedländer, *Nazi Germany*, 395-422.

Required Tasks:
- Complete Test
- Complete Writing Assignment

Final Exam will be made available after 11:59 PM on Thursday, August 10, 2017. The exam has to be completed by 11:59 PM Friday, August 18, 2017.