

History of Modern Germany
MW 6.00-7.15 pm, Gilman 132
AS 100.233 – Winter 2018

Instructor: Dr. Victoria Harms

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There is more to Germany than beer, BMWs, and Bayern Munich. In this class, we will explore the history of Germany since 1860. We will interrogate the relationship between politics, culture, economics and society to understand Germany's position within Europe and the world throughout the last 160 years. The class focuses on the following periods: the German Empire and its collapse in World War I, the interwar period and the short-lived Weimar Republic, National Socialism and the Third Reich, World War II and the Holocaust, the two Germanies (East and West) during the Cold War, the Berlin Republic since 1989 and its role in shaping the affairs of the European Union today. We will not take a parochial national approach but investigate German history in relation to its European neighbors and its friends and foes around the world.

Apart from reading secondary literature, students are expected to engage in class discussions and work with primary sources, movies, and short documentary films and conduct their own online research.

General Reading:

(required) Mary Fulbrook. *A History of Germany 1918-2014. The Divided Nation*. Fourth edition. Wiley Blackwell, 2015. (book store, reserve shelf, blackboard)

(recommended) William W. Hagen, *German History in Modern Times. Four Lives of the Nation*. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Learning objectives:

- ✓ Assessing secondary literature
- ✓ Analyzing and interpreting primary sources
- ✓ Critical use of feature and documentary films
- ✓ Critical inquiries into the representation of history in museums & memorials
- ✓ Comparative and entangled histories
- ✓ Informed online research

This syllabus serves as a contract between you and me that explains what I expect of you, and what you may expect of me. By enrolling in this class, you accept the terms laid out below. Please read them carefully. If at any time I need to make changes to the syllabus, I will provide as much advanced notice as possible.

Grading:

25% Class Participation

25% Quizzes

25% Primary source analysis

25% Essay

Assignments:

Class Participation:

Make sure you come to class prepared and on time. You are expected to engage with the assigned material as well as with your fellow students during discussion sessions and group work. Common rules of courtesy apply.

Quizzes:

You will write at least six pop quizzes in the course of the term. The lowest grade will be dropped. The quizzes will contain one or two questions about the assigned reading for that week. You will find all reading questions for each class on blackboard. They are identical with the questions on the quizzes. You will be able to complete each quiz in 5-8 minutes.

Primary Source Analysis:

Pick a primary source from the list provided on blackboard and analyze it. Make sure to properly introduce the source and author. Pay attention to the potential target audience, the author's intention, possible biases and message. Be very clear about the historical context in which the source has been produced. Carefully differentiate between the per-history and the aftermath/ consequence/ the history that came after the source had been created the source.

Please inform the instructor and the TA about **your choice of primary source by October 26, 2018.**

Write three pages max., double-spaced.

Deadline: November 10, 2018, at 11.59 pm.

Essay:

Pick any one year between 1871 and 2018 and explain its relevance for German history. What does it stand for? Why is it relevant? What happened? What makes it special and/

or representative for German history at large? What do you learn from this one year about modern German history in general?

Compose a convincing, well-structured argument using references to material assigned and discussed in class.

Please inform the instructor and the TA about **your choice by November 26**. Do prepare a preliminary list of material (secondary literature and primary sources) you wish to use.

Write three to four pages, double-spaced (plus bibliography and (optional) cover page).

Deadline: December 10, 2018, at 11.59 pm.

All Written Assignments:

- Margins 1” all around, 12 pt. font size, font: Times (New Roman), Arial, Calibri, Cambria or similar.
- Submit via blackboard.
- Add page numbers
- List of references (separate page)
- Add **ONLY** your university ID to enhance blind reviewing

Papers in this class will be graded blindly. This is a way for me and the TA to be as fair and transparent as possible in grading your work. Please mark all your papers with your ID number (not your JHED), rather than your name.

Grade Scale: 95-100: A, 90-94: A-, 87-89: B+, 83-86: B, 80-82: B-, 77-79: C+, 73-76: C, 70-72: C-, 67-69: D+, 63-66: D, 60-62: D-, 59 or below: F

In addition to the formal requirements, the essays are graded based on the primary and secondary sources consulted, clarity of argument, style of writing, and organization.

SCHEDULE

Aug 30 (instead of Sept 3): Introduction

Sept 5: Out of Many One

William W. Hagen, “Liberté? Facing the French Revolution, 1789-1815,” in *German History in Modern Times. Four Lives of the Nation*, pp. 97-111. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

- [Carlsbad Decrees](#): Confederal Press Law (September 20, 1819) in GHDI.
- The Democrats: Gustav von Struve: [Motion in the German Pre-Parliament](#) (March 31, 1848) in GHDI.
- The Liberals: [Founding Program of the German Progressive Party](#) (June 9, 1861) in GHDI.

Sept 10: The Making of the German Empire

William W. Hagen, “Freedom and Voice, ‘Iron and Blood’ (Eisen und Blut). Liberalism and Nationalism, 1815-1914,” in *German History in Modern Times. Four Lives of the Nation*, pp. 129-152. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

- [“The Nightmare of Coalitions”](#): Bismarck on the Other Great Powers (1879/1898) in GHDI.
- [Secret Reinsurance Treaty](#) with Russia (June 18, 1887) in GHDI.

Sept 12: World War I

William W. Hagen, “*Krieg*: The Prussian-German Monarchy’s Sudden Death in War and Revolution, 1914-1920,” in *German History in Modern Times. Four Lives of the Nation*, 227-240. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

- Check the World War I collection at [Europeana](#). (Instructions on blackboard)

Sept 17: Weimar Republic

Mary Fulbrook, “The Weimar Republic: Origins and Orientations,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 15-39.

- *Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung*: “[Enough is Enough!](#) Against the Masculinization of Women” (March 25, 1925) in GHDI.
- Elsbeth Zander, “Tasks Facing the German Woman,” (January 23, 1926), reprinted in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society. A Brief History in Documents* (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp.
- Elsa Herrmann, “This is the New Woman,” (1929), reprinted in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society. A Brief History in Documents* (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp.

Sept 19: Patriotism, Pacifism, Defeatism

- *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930), directed by Lewis Milestone, based on the novel by Erich Maria Remarque, 133 mins.

Sept 24: The Rise of Fascism in Germany

Mary Fulbrook, “The Collapse of Democracy and the Rise of Hitler,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 40-56.

- Adolf Hitler, “[Appeal to the German People](#)” (February 1, 1933) in GHDI.
- [Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service](#) (April 7, 1933) in GHDI.

Sept 26: Film screening

- Leni Riefenstahl, *Olympia*, 1936. 155 mins.

Oct 1: The Third Reich

Mary Fulbrook, “A ‘National Community’? State, Economy and Society, 1933-1939,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 57-79.

- Adolf Hitler, “Speech before the Reichstag,” (September 1, 1939), reprinted in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society. A Brief History in Documents* (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp.

Oct 3: World War II

Mary Fulbrook, “War, Extermination and Defeat,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 80-110.

- Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of the National Character of the German People, “On the Re-Germanization of Lost German Blood,” (December 1940), reprinted in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society. A Brief History in Documents* (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp.
- [Martin Bormann’s Minutes](#) of a Meeting at Hitler’s Headquarters (July 16, 1941) in GHDI.

Oct 8: The Holocaust (Columbus Day)

William W. Hagen, “*Shoah*. Banned from Nation and Earth: German Jews after 1914, National Socialist ‘Jewish Policy,’ and the Holocaust,” in *German History in Modern Times. Four Lives of the Nation*, 319-352. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

- Primo Levi. *Survival in Auschwitz* (excerpts, “Initiation” and “Ka-Be,” pp. 39-55, “The Drowned and the Saved,” pp. 87-100)

Oct 10: Post-War (Dis-) Order

Mary Fulbrook, “Occupation and Division, 1945-1949,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 113-141.

- Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin*. April 22-23, pp. 16-26; April 27 – May 1, pp. 44-71; May 2-4, pp. 94-124; May 13, pp. 172-191; May 21-25, pp. 201-212; May 28-31, pp. 224-232; June 16, pp. 257-261.

Oct 15: Two Germanies

Mary Fulbrook, “Crystallization and Consolidation, 1949-1961,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 142-163.

- Neues Deutschland: “[Bill Haley and NATO](#),” (October 31, 1958) in GHDI.
- Emerich Budweis, “[Rhapsody in Blue Jeans](#),” *Twen* 1 (1959), p. 42, in GHDI.
- [Report](#) by the SED Factory Party Organization at the VEB Bergmann-Borsig (December 1, 1955), in GHDI.

Oct 17: The Making of the Bundesrepublik

Mary Fulbrook, “Transformation and the ‘Established Phase’, 1961-1988,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 164-182.

- DW Documentary: "[The 50th Anniversary of the Turkish-German Guest Worker Treaty](#)," September 23, 2013, 6 mins. (**watch in class**)

Oct 22: 1968 or the Long Sixties

Klimke, Martin. "West Germany." In *1968 in Europe. A History of Protest and Activism, 1956-1977*, edited by Martin Klimke and Joachim Scharloth, 97-110. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2008.

Von der Goltz, Anna. "Attraction and Aversion in Germany's '1968': Encountering the Western Revolt in East Berlin." *Journal of Contemporary History* 50, no. 3 (2015): 536-559.

**** October 26: Choice of Primary Source Due**

Oct 29: Willy Brandt's Eastern Policies

Hanhimäki, Jussi M. "Détente in Europe, 1962–1975 Volume 2: Crises and Détente," chap. 10 in *The Cambridge History of the Cold War*, edited by Odd Arne Westad and Melvyn P. Leffler, 198-218: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

- Egon Bahr, "[Change through Rapprochement](#)," speech delivered on July 15, 1963, at the Evangelical Academy in Tutzing, in GHDI.
- Willy Brandt, [[Two States, One Nation](#) – excerpt from] "Policy Statement from October 28, 1969," 6. Deutscher Bundestag, in GHDI.

Oct 31: Independent study (Halloween – class does not meet)

- *Good Bye, Lenin!* (2003), directed by Wolfgang Becker
- Gary Bruce, "Participatory Repression? Reflections on Popular Involvement with the Stasi," *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute* 52, Supplement 9 (2014), pp. 47-58.

Nov 5: Discussion Session

Nov 7: The GDR – Consolidated Socialism?

Mary Fulbrook, "Dissent and Opposition," in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 217-236.

- Traude Ratsch, [Interview with Roland Jahn](#): “Personally, I am not a Pacifist,” *tageszeitung* (July 21, 1983) in GHDI.
- Robert J. McCartney, “[East German Police, Rock Fans Clash](#) in Berlin for the Third Straight Night,” *International Herald Tribune* (June 10, 1987) in GHDI.

**** November 10: Deadline Primary Source Analysis**

Nov 12: Neoconservative Revolution in the 1980s (Veterans Day)

Moeller, Robert G. "War Stories: The Search for a Usable Past in the Federal Republic of Germany." *The American Historical Review* 101, no. 4 (October 1996): 1008-1048.

- Richard von Weizsäcker, [speech in the Bundestag](#) on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II, May 8, 1985.
- Chancellor Kohl Justifies the [Creation of a German Historical Museum](#) (October 29, 1987) orig. Helmut Kohl, “Berlin Remains the Focal Point of the German Question,” *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, October 29, 1987, in GHDI.

Nov 14: 1989: Germany Unites

- DW Documentary: [German Reunification - a Short History](#), January 13, 2017, 43 mins. (**watch at home**)
- Timothy Garton Ash, “Berlin: Wall’s End,” in *The Magic Lantern*. New York: Vintage, 1999 (orig. 1990), pp. 61-77.

Nov 19 & 21: Thanksgiving Break

Nov 26: The Berlin Republic

Mary Fulbrook, “The Berlin Republic,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 283-300.

- DW Documentary: “[Twenty Years after the German Capital Moved](#) from Bonn to Berlin,” June 17, 2011, 6 mins. (**watch at home**)

Nov 28: German Memory

- James E. Young, “Berlin’s Holocaust Memorial. A Report to the Bundestag Committee on Media and Culture,” 3 March 1999.
- Check the official [website](#) of the Foundation Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin. (instructions on blackboard)
- DW Documentary: “[Berlin: Traces of the Former Wall](#),” November 23, 2013, 6 mins. (**watch at home**)

**** Nov 30: Choice of Year (Essay) Due**

Dec 3: Guestworkers, *Ausländer* and Migrants

- One out of four two-page primary sources from Deniz Göktürk, David Gramling, and Anton Kaes, eds. *Germany in Transit. Nation and Migration, 1955–2005*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2007. (blackboard)
- DW Documentary: “The Turkish-German Guest Worker Treaty: [Integration Successes and Failures](#),” September 30, 2011, 6 mins. (**watch at home**)
- “Alienating Immigrants. Is Germany lurching to the Right?” *Der Spiegel*, orig. No 30/ 2018 (July 28, 2018), [English translation](#).

Dec 5: Germany and Europe: New Challenges

- Euronews: “[Germany: Europe’s Growth Engine](#),” September 11, 2013, 12 mins.
- DW Documentary: “[The EU and the Refugee Crisis](#),” January 9, 2018, 28 mins.

***** December 12 at 11.59 pm: Deadline Essay**

General policies

Absences

Absences are excused for illness, religious observance, participation in certain university activities, and other circumstances described in the university's policies and must be explained to your TA at least 48 hours before class.

Academic Integrity

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. See Ethics Board Web Site (<http://ethics.jhu.edu>) for more information.

Accommodations

Accommodations will be made for those who need them. Please come talk with me in the first two weeks of the semester to discuss your needs. Any student with a disability who may need accommodations in this class must obtain an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services, 385 Garland, (410) 516-4720, studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu.

Communication

I read and respond to email during regular business hours, 9-5, Monday thru Friday. Please use proper formatting and address when writing your email. The best way to reach me is to come to my office hours.

Mental Health

The University is aware that many students experience anxiety, depression, and other emotional challenges. If you would like to speak to a professional counselor, please visit the campus Counseling Center. Information is available on the Counseling Center's website: <https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/counselingcenter/>

Screen Policy

Laptops, electronic readers, and cell phones are both a boon and a distraction to higher education. Current research suggests that most of us learn better through longhand note taking. Computers are not forbidden in this class, you will in fact need them for some in-class assignments. It is your choice how to make the best use of them. Social media, texting, chatting, email, and other non-class related activities are prohibited during class time. **Make sure all of your devices are silenced.**