

History of Modern Germany

TTH 1.30- 2.45 pm

AS 100.233 – Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Victoria Harms

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Office hours: Tuesdays, 11.00 am – 1.00 pm, Thursdays 3.30 – 5.00 pm

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Description

There is more to Germany than beer, BMWs, and Bayern Munich. In this class, we will explore the history of Germany since 1740, however, our focus will be the 20th century. We will interrogate the relationship between politics, culture, economics and society to understand Germany's position within Europe and the world throughout the last 150 years. The class pays special attention to: the making of 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 Germany's role 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, documentary films, short video clips and conduct their own online research.

Learning objectives:

- ✓ Assessing secondary literature
- ✓ Analyzing and interpreting primary sources
- ✓ Critical use of feature and documentary films
- ✓ Critical inquiries into the representation of history (museums, memorials, etc.)
- ✓ Understanding comparative, transnational and entangled history
- ✓ Informed online research
- ✓ Leading group discussions effectively
- ✓ Crafting comprehensive minutes/ meeting report

Required Reading:

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

Optional:

Good Bye, Lenin! (2003), directed by Wolfgang Becker.

Fulbrook, Mary. *A History of Germany, 1918-2014*. New York: Wiley Blackwell, 2015.

Primo Levi. *Survival in Auschwitz*. Any edition based on the 1958 original published by Giulio Einaudi.

- <https://www.you-books.com/book/P-Levi/Survival-in-Auschwitz>

Anonymous. *A Woman in Berlin. Eight Weeks in the Conquered City: a Diary*. New York: Metropolitan Books/Henry Holt, 2005. (or any other edition)

COVID-19 PROTOCOLL

If you found it difficult to develop a proper and effective routine in the spring, please consult the CER's student guideline: <https://cer.jhu.edu/page/preparing-to-take-courses-remotely>. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me to discuss any challenges. Try to establish a pattern and reserve class time for... well... class.

I hate to say it but lying in bed during class is unacceptable. A modicum of professionalism applies. Being a study is your daytime job.

It is *not* a problem if a family member barges in on you during class. It happens. Same goes for cats and dogs (and whatever sort of pets you have) as long as they do not become a constant distraction. Try to keep pet duties to a minimum for the 75 minutes we meet.

If you have to watch younger siblings during class time, please let me know. We can make accommodations for that.

I understand that turning your camera on might be either impossible or uncomfortable for some. You are not obliged to have it on. However, to have a proper conversation in class and to interact with peers (especially with those who have hearing difficulties), I would like to encourage all to have your camera on. You are free to choose your background (with a sense of professionalism, please).

The reasons are multifold: As you have probably realized by now, you are more attentive and focused, and thus will learn more easily, when you can actually see your

peers. Communicating with random voices from the off is not conducive to a proper learning environment. We are not a random collection of people thrown together but rather a *learning community*. Thus, while everyone is mindful that individual circumstances may vary, I would like to ask you to attend class with your camera on, if possible.

I am aware of the option to choose pass/ fail as your final grade. Please sit tight as policy details are still being hashed out. I will make adjustment as soon as we know the details.

If you have to take this class asynchronously, please let the instructors know. We will provide zoom recordings of the lectures and adjust the assignments accordingly.

If you find yourself in a hostile or adverse environment, please take good care of yourself. If you sense that something is not right, do not wait, trust your instinct and get assistance. Do not hesitate to reach out to the Counseling Center during regular working hours 410-516-8278. After hours: press 1.

Grading:

- 25% Class participation
- 25% Reports
- 25% Quizzes
- 25% Primary source analysis

Assignments:

Class Participation: 25%

Make sure you show up to zoom prepared and on time. You are expected to engage with the instructors, assigned material and your fellow students in break out rooms. Common rules of courtesy apply.

At the beginning of each class, we recap the main points of our previous session. If you hesitate to speak out in larger groups feeling unprepared or inadequate this as an excellent opportunity to contribute to the general discussion. Just revisit your notes from the last meeting before class. Whenever you have questions or need clarification, please speak up.

Attendance is the most basic requirement for a college education. If you miss more than four classes unexcused/ without legitimate reasons (such as conflicting athletic, ROTC, academic obligations) **you will not receive a passing grade.**

Reports: 25%

Throughout the semester, please submit **five reports** on a class of your choosing. YOU decide when you take care of this assignment. Only exception: please do not write on more than two consecutive classes.

Introduce the topic(s), summarize the lecture, conversations and the key findings/ main arguments.

Please use proper format (provide basic information: who, what, when and where – think of it as resolutions & findings focused minutes of a meeting).

Two pages max, single space (body text, proper formatting please).

You have **three days** post-lecture to submit each report.

Quizzes: 25%

We will write at least six pop quizzes in the course of the term. The lowest grade will be dropped.

For each week, you will find reading questions on blackboard. The quizzes will be identical to one or two of those. Quizzes are “open book”: you are encouraged to copy-paste the response from your notes. You will have ten minutes in class to submit and tweak them online.

If you miss class for legitimate reasons (e.g. conflicting academic obligations) and inform the instructor in advance, you are free to submit your reading notes by email. In case of a pop quiz, they will count in lieu of the in-class quiz.

There will be no make up quizzes.

Primary Source Analysis: 25%

Pick a primary source from the list provided on blackboard and write a proper primary source analysis. We will discuss the details and expectations in class and provide a checklist on blackboard.

Make sure to properly introduce the source and author. Identify the audience, the author’s intention, possible biases and the author’s message. Be very clear about the historical context in which the source has been produced. Carefully differentiate between the history that has informed author and source prior to its production and the aftermath and consequence following its production and reception. (**max. 6 pages plus bibliography**)

Please declare **your choice of primary source by October 20, 2020 EOD**. You will find the journal "Primary Source Analysis" on blackboard. Please enter your choice and any questions here. Please add the literature and sources you wish to consult to complete this assignment. The content of your journal entry is only accessible to you, the instructor and the TA.

Deadline: October 28, 2020, 11.59 pm. (blackboard turnitin assignment)

Written Assignments - Formal Requirements

- Margins not smaller than 1" all around, 12 pt. font size, font: Calibri, Arial or similar.
- Add your name and basic course information
- Add a title to any written assignment
- Add page numbers
- List of references (separate page)
- file names: ALWAYS add your last name (no spaces in file names)
- check the rules for **academic integrity**

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 instructor at least 4 hours before class.

If you miss more than four classes unexcused/ without legitimate reason, you will not pass this 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.

Make sure to check the rules for Academic Integrity. Violations will be reported.

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 within 24 hours during regular business hours, 9-5, Monday through Friday. Please use proper formatting and address when writing your email.

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 COVID-Adjusted

Please put all mobile devices except the one you are using away. Turn off notifications and sounds on all other devices.

SCHEDULE

Sept 1: Introduction

Sept 3: 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.

- [Carlsbad Decrees](#): Confederal Press Law (September 20, 1819) in GHDI.

Sept 8: 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*, pp. 129-152.

- "[The Nightmare of Coalitions](#)": Bismarck on the Other Great Powers (1879/1898) in GHDI.
- "[Three Emperors' Treaty with Austria and Russia](#), (June 18, 1881)," in GHDI.

Sept 10: Working Class

William W. Hagen, "Sozialdemokratie: workers and politics in the age of industrialization," in *German History in Modern Times*, pp. 153-169.

- Excerpts from Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels (1848), [The Communist Manifesto](#) (check blackboard folder)

Sept 15: 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*, pp. 227-240.

- Bernhard von Brocke "Scholarship and Militarism: [The Appeal of the 93 to the Civilized World](#), (October 4, 1914)," in GHDI.

Sept 17: Patriotism, Pacifism, Defeatism

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

Please take notes while watching (beyond the response to the reading question)

Sept 22:

Weimar Republic

William W. Hagen, "*Democracy's Bitter Fruits, 1918-1933*," in *German History in Modern Times*, pp. 241-260.

- *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*. (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp. 33-35.
- Elsa Herrmann, “This is the New Woman,” (1929), reprinted in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*. (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp. 40-42.

Sept 24: The Rise of Fascism in Germany

William W. Hagen, “A People without a State? Middle-class discontent and populist utopia,” in *German History in Modern Times*, pp. 261-283.

- 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 29: The Third Reich

- Leni Riefenstahl, *Triumph of the Will*, 1935. approx. 105 mins.

Video: <https://archive.org/details/TriumphOfTheWillgermanTriumphDesWillens>

Please take notes while watching (beyond the response to the reading question)

Oct 1: Lebensraum & Strife for the East

William W. Hagen, “Lebensraum: War for Empire in Eastern Europe,” in *German History in Modern Times*, pp. 303-318.

- Adolf Hitler, “Speech before the Reichstag,” (September 1, 1939), reprinted in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*. (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp. 110-112.
- 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*, pp. 112-113.

Oct 6: World War II

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*, pp. 319-350.

- [The Wannsee Protocoll](#) (20 January 1942), in GHDI.

Oct 8: The Holocaust

Primo Levi. *Survival in Auschwitz* (excerpts, tba)

Trigger Warning. This book contains graphic descriptions of violence, inhumane treatment, and genocide.

Oct 13: Postwar Germany

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

- "City Councilor Ernst Reuter Appeals to the "[People of the World](#)" (September 9, 1948)," in GDHI – photo and caption.

Oct 15: Occupied

Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin. Eight weeks in the conquered city: a diary*. New York: Metropolitan Books/Henry Holt, 2005.

Trigger Warning. This book contains graphic descriptions of violence and rape.

- 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 20:

The Making of the Bundesrepublik

William H. Hagen, "Beyond 'zero hour': defeated Germany and the West German Federal Republic, 1949-1989," in *German History in Modern Times. Four Lives of the Nation*, pp. 353-383.

- Neues Deutschland: "[Bill Haley and NATO](#)," (October 31, 1958) in GHDI.

Submit choice of primary source by October 20, 2020 EOD

Oct 22: FALL BREAK

Oct 27: 1968 (the Long Sixties)

Brown, Timothy S. "'1968' East and West: Divided Germany as a Case Study in Transnational History." *American Historical Review* 114, no. 1 (2009): 69-96.

- [“Rudi Dutschke Demands the Expropriation of the Springer Press Empire](#) (July 10, 1967),” orig. *Der Spiegel* (10 July 1967), in GHDI.

October 28, 11.59 pm: deadline primary source analysis

October 29: The GDR – Consolidated Socialism?

William W. Hagen, "Real existing socialism": Soviet-occupied Germany and the German Democratic Republic, 1949-1990," in *German History in Modern Times. Four Lives of the Nation*, pp. 384-398.

- Traude Ratsch, [Interview with Roland Jahn](#): “Personally, I am not a Pacifist,” *tageszeitung* (July 21, 1983) in GHDI.

Nov 3: Neoconservative Revolution (ELECTION DAY IN THE U.S.)

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.

Nov 5: 1989 & German Unification (more time-consuming reading load)

Mary Fulbrook, “The East German Revolution and the End of the Postwar Era,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 259-280.

- DW Documentary: [German Reunification - a Short History](#), January 13, 2017, 43 mins.

Nov 10: Berlin Republic

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

- DW Documentary: [“20 Years After the Rostock Riots. Life After the Brutal Attacks,”](#) 22 August 2017. About 6 mins.

Nov 12: United Germany

Good Bye, Lenin! (2003), directed by Wolfgang Becker

Please take notes while watching (beyond the responses to the reading questions).

Nov 17: Life in the GDR (post-1989)

Gary Bruce, "Participatory Repression? Reflections on Popular Involvement with the Stasi," *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute* 52, Supplement 9 (2014), pp. 47-58.

Barbara (2012), directed by Christian Petzold (on Kanopy)

Alternatively: *Sonnenallee* (2002), directed by Leander Hausmann

****Please take notes while watching (beyond the responses to the reading questions).****

Nov 19: Multikulti – Germany & Diversity

Kebab Connection, dir. Anno Saul, 2004. 92 mins. (on Kanopy)

****Please take notes while watching (beyond the responses to the reading questions)****

Read (at least) two of the selected 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.

- Uta Andresen, "Generation Hate," *tageszeitung* (27-28 March 1999).
- CDU, "Working Principles for the Immigration Commission of the CDU Party of Germany," (6 November 2000).
- Central Council for Muslims in Germany, "Statement of the Islamic Council on the Report of the Immigration Commission," 29 August 2001).
- Pro Asyl, "Counterfeit Labels are Becoming Law," (18 June 2004).

Nov 23-27: Thanksgiving Break

Nov 28: From "Sick Man" To Europe's Growth Engine

Ulrich Sedelmayer, "[Europe after the Eastern Enlargement of the European Union: 2004-2014](#)," Heinrich Böll Foundation, 10 June 2014.

- "[The Sick Man of the Euro](#)," *The Economist*, Special, 3 June 1999.
- Euronews: "[Germany: Europe's Growth Engine](#)," September 11, 2013, 12 mins.

Dec 1: “Ausländer,” Migration background, and Refugees

“Alienating Immigrants. Is Germany lurching to the Right?” *Der Spiegel*, (orig. July 28, 2018), [English translation](#).

“#MeTwo: Germany shares stories of everyday racism,” *DW*, published online 26 July 2018, URL: <https://www.dw.com/en/metwo-germany-shares-stories-of-everyday-racism/a-44841447>

Dec 3: Climate Change

Katharina Wecker, “[Plastic waste and the recycling myth](#),” *DW English*, 12 October 2018.

→ Please watch the embedded video as well.

Rachel Waldholz, “[In Germany, the politics of climate change are shifting beneath Merkel’s feet](#),” September 24, 2019.

Dec 8: Germany and Europe: Coronavirus & Economic Recovery

tba
