

HIS 238-01

The Making of Modern Germany

Spring Semester 2013

Monday Wednesday Friday 9:00 - 9:50 a.m.

ARH 120



COURSE INFORMATION

Dr. Kelly J. Maynard, Grinnell College Department of History

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Office Phone: (641) 269-4465

Office Hours: M+F 10:00-11:00 a.m. Mears #305, Tues 4:15-5:15 p.m. at the Grill, and by appt

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course traces the rise of the modern German nation from the rise of so-called enlightened despotism in the mid-eighteenth century through the Cold War. We examine the gradual decline of Habsburg dominance; the ascent of a powerful economic, military, and intellectual "Germany" dominated by Prussia by 1871; the rupture of World War I and the ensuing radicalism of the Weimar Republic; the rise and fall of the Third Reich; and Germany's recovery from the catastrophes of the early twentieth century. We address the role of geography, culture, ethnicity and ideas in the construction of national identity and concentrate especially the ongoing interplay between politics and culture.

COURSE MATERIALS

David Blackbourn, *History of Germany, 1780-1918: The Long Nineteenth Century* 2nd ed. Paper. Blackwell Publishing, 2003 [ISBN: 063123196X]

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *The Sorrows of Young Werther* trans. Michael Hulse. Paper. Penguin Classics, 1989 [ISBN: 9870140445039]

Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men*. Paper. Harper Perennial Reprint, 1993 [ISBN: 978-0060995065]

All other readings, indicated by a bullet [•], will be 1) available on Pioneer Web, 2) accessible on the internet, or 3) handed out in class. Please note that the scheduling of all reading assignments is subject to change based on the ebb and flow of class discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course takes the form of a fluid combination of lecture and discussion. Occasional lectures elaborate upon the political and economic background provided by the textbook readings. For the most part, however, our meetings center upon discussion of assigned primary and secondary sources, and it is through the free and open exchange of ideas that we all benefit the most from the class. Your preparation and engagement, then, are crucial to its success. Because discussion figures so heavily in the way we spend class time and wrestle together with the course materials, I sometimes send out discussion questions via email before we meet as a tool to help us focus on common themes and issues.

Please come to class awake and on time with the appropriate reading materials in hand. You are expected to attend class regularly, except in case of dire emergency. By definition, every absence from class has a negative impact upon the overall quality of our conversations. Your grade will be impacted accordingly. After three uncommunicated absences you will receive an F for the participation portion of the course grade. After four uncommunicated absences you will fail the course entirely.

In addition to the mid-term and final exam requirements for this class, each student must complete a **historiographical research project** outside of class. You will work closely with the professor on the development of your topic, and the basic requirements include that you work with a minimum of four scholarly sources. At least two must be monographs and at least one must be an article or chapter. This project culminates in a **paper of 7-8 pages** due near the end of the term. This assignment will be explained in detail early in the semester, and the relevant deadlines for its successful completion are indicated on the syllabus.

Your overall grade will be calculated according to the following formula:

Participation	35%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Historiographical Paper	20%
Final Exam	25%

Students with any form of documented disability are encouraged to contact me early in the semester so that we can arrange for your learning needs to be met and for you to participate fully in the class. You will also need to provide documentation of your condition(s) to the Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, on the third floor of the JRC (x3702).

COURSE SCHEDULE

M 21 January Introduction

PROLOGUE

W 23 Jan Lecture: Enlightenment/Absolutism
Textbook Reading/Discussion: Blackbourn, Prologue: Germany in the Eighteenth Century (pp. 1-33)

F 25 Jan Discussion: Enlightenment Perspectives on Reason, Religion, and Politics

- Marquis de Condorcet, excerpt from "Sketch of a Historical Picture of the Human Mind" (1795)
- Frederick II of Prussia, Essay on the Form of Government (1777)
- Joseph II of the Habsburg Empire, Edict of Toleration (1781)
- Immanuel Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" (1784)

M 28 Jan Discussion: The Enlightenment and its Discontents

- Goethe's *The Sorrows of Young Werther* (1774)

THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS, 1789-1849

W 30 Jan The French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars
Lecture: Phases of the Revolution, Phases of Response
Textbook: Blackbourn, Chapter I: "In the Shadow of France" (pp. 37-68)

F 1 February Discussion: Revolutionary Response, Revolutionary Backlash

- Johann Gottlieb Fichte, Addresses to the German Nation (1808)
- Ernst Moritz Arndt, "The Spirit of the Times" (c. 1806-1809)

M 4 Feb Discussion: Political Ex/Repression during the *Vormärz*
Textbook: Blackbourn, Chapter II: "Germany in Transition" (pp. 69-103)

- Eyewitness Account of the Wartburg Festival (1817)
- Carlsbad Decrees excerpts (1819)
- *Bursenschaft* meeting (1820)

W 6 Feb Discussion: Popular Politics under Wraps

- James M. Brophy, "Carnival and Citizenship: The Politics of Carnival Culture in the Prussian Rhineland, 1823-1848" in *Journal of Social History* (Summer 1997): 873-904 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3789787>

- F 8 Feb Individual Consultations re: Historiography Project
PRELIMINARY PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE
- M 11 Feb Discussion: Triumph and Collapse of Liberalism, 1848-1849
Textbook: Blackbourn, Chapter III: "The Revolutions of 1848-49" (pp. 104-131)
- Carl Schurz, excerpt from *Reminiscences* (1907)
 - Opening of German National Assembly, Frankfurt am Main, May 18, 1848
 - Frankfurt Constitution of 1849, excerpts
 - Anonymous articles [Richard Wagner] published in *Volksblätter*: "Man and Established Society" and "The Revolution" Dresden, 1849
 - Frederick William IV's rejection speech, May 15, 1849
 - Prussian constitution of 1850, excerpts
- W 13 Feb Discussion: Representing the Revolution: Festivals and Imagery
- Jonathan Sperber, "Festivals of National Unity in the German Revolution of 1848-1849" *Past + Present* 136 (Aug 1992): 114-138
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/650903>
 - Peter Paret, "The German Revolution of 1848 and Rethel's *Dance of Death*" *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 17/1, The Evidence of Art: Images and Meaning in History (Summer, 1986): 233-255
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/204132>

THE AGE OF THE NATION, 1849-1914

- F 15 Feb Discussion: Creating the Nation I: Diplomacy, War, and *Realpolitik*
Textbook: Blackbourn, Chapter V: "From Reaction to Unification" (pp. 171-203)
- Bismarck, Iron and Blood speech (1862)
 - Constitution of 1871
- M 18 Feb Discussion: Creating the Nation II: *Kulturkampf*I
Textbook: Blackbourn Chapter VI: "Religion" section (pp. 214-227)
- Helmut Walser Smith, "The *Kulturkampf* and German National Identity" in *German Nationalism and Religious Conflict* (1995), pp. 19-49
- W 20 Feb Discussion: Creating the Nation III: *Kulturkampf*II
Blackbourn Chapter VII: "Organized Interests, Politics and the State" section (pp. 254-264)
- Anti-Socialist Law (1878)
 - Bismarck, speech on Workplace Accident Insurance Bill Draft (1881)
- F 22 Feb Individual Consultations re: Historiography Project
FORMAL PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE
This assignment consists of 1) two or three paragraphs of prose describing your topic and the research question you seek to answer, and 2) an annotated bibliography of the texts you have chosen to work with to get there.

- M 25 Feb Discussion: Imperial Culture and Society I: The Domestic World
Textbook: Blackbourn, Chap. IV: "Economy + Society Transformed" (pp. 135-70)
 - Nancy R. Reagin, "The *Habitus* of Domesticity" in *Sweeping the German Nation: Domesticity and National Identity in Germany, 1870-1945* (2007): 16-48
 - Doris Viersbeck, cook and house maid, autobiographical excerpts (1889-90)
- W 27 Feb Imperial Culture and Society II: The Dominance of the Bourgeoisie
Textbook: Blackbourn, Chapter VI: "Culture of Progress" section (pp. 204-214)
 - Carl Schorske, "The *Ringstrasse*, Its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism" in *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture* (1981): 24-115
- F 1 March Discussion: Imperial Culture and Society III: Entertainment and Transgression
Textbook: Blackbourn, Chapter VIII: "Society and Culture" pp. 265-303
 - Peter Jelavich, "Cabaret as Metro Montage" in *Berlin Cabaret* (1993): 10-35
- M 4 Mar Discussion: Imperial Outsiders, Imperial Critics I: Social/Intellectual Backlash
Textbook: Blackbourn, Chapter VI: "Doubts and Anxieties" section (pp. 227-233)
 - Wilhelm Busch, excerpts from *The Knopp Trilogy* (1875-77)
 - Friedrich Nietzsche, excerpts from *Beyond Good and Evil* (1886)
- W 6 Mar Discussion: Imperial Outsiders, Imperial Critics II: Social Democracy
Textbook: Blackbourn, Chapter VII: "Germany and the International Economy" section (pp. 249-254) and Chap. IX: "Elites, Parties, and Popular Politics" section (pp. 304-321)
 - Nikolaus Osterroth, clay miner, autobiographical excerpts (1890s)
 - Excerpts from the Erfurt Program of the SDP (1891)
- F 8 Mar Discussion: Imperial Outsiders, Imperial Critics III: The Case of Africa
Textbook: Blackbourn, Chapter IX: "Nationalism, Imperialism, Racism" section (pp. 321-334)
 - Andrew Zimmerman, "Race and World Politics: Germany in the Age of Imperialism, 1878-1914" in *The Oxford Handbook of Modern German History* (2011): 359-377
 - Excerpts from a German 1) settler, 2) officer, 3) missionary in Africa, 1904-07
- M 11 Mar MIDTERM REVIEW
- W 13 Mar MIDTERM EXAM
- F 15 Mar Individual Consultations re: Historiography Project
DRAFT THESIS STATEMENT AND OUTLINE DUE

SPRING BREAK

THE AGE OF EXTREMES, 1914-1945

- M 1 April Lecture: Understanding the Drive to War
Textbook: Blackbourn, Chapter IX: "Germany and the Coming of War" section (pp. 334-347)
- Heinrich von Treitschke, excerpt from *Politics* (1899-1900)
 - Friedrich von Bernhardi, excerpt from *Germany and the Next War* (1911)
 - Manifesto of German University Professors (1914)
 - Social Democrat speech in favor of the war (1914)
- W 3 Apr Discussion: World War I and the Domestic Front
Textbook: Blackbourn, Epilogue: "Germany at War, 1914-1918" (pp. 348-368)
- Magda Trott, essay on women's war work (1915)
 - Käthe Kollwitz, diary excerpts (1914-1916)
- F 5 Apr World War I at the Front I
FILM: *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Lewis Milestone, 1930) IN-CLASS VIEWING
- M 8 Apr IN-CLASS VIEWING and DISCUSSION
All Quiet on the Western Front Part II
- W 10 Apr Russia, Revolution and Collapse
GUEST LECTURE – Professor Ed Cohn
Textbook: Fulbrook, "The 'Last Revolution from Above'" and "The Incomplete Revolution of November 1918" (pp. 21-25)
- Demands of the Strike Directorate in Berlin, January 29, 1918
 - Spartacus Manifesto, November 26, 1918
- F 12 Apr NO CLASS – I WILL BE AWAY AT A CONFERENCE
- M 15 Apr Discussion: The Weimar Republic I: Chaos and Stability
Textbook: Fulbrook, "The Weimar Constitution + Treaty of Versailles," "Political Unrest/Economic Chaos" "Apparent Stabilization, 1924-29" (25-33)
- Käthe Kollwitz, social commentary in prints, woodcuts, sketches (early 1920s)
 - Friedrich Kroner, "Overwrought Nerves," 26 Aug 1923
- W 17 Apr Discussion: The Weimar Republic II: Culture and Entertainment
Textbook: Fulbrook, "The Golden 20s? Society and Culture in the Weimar Republic" (25-37)
- Alice Gerstl, "Jazz Band" (1922)
 - Ivan Goll, "The Negroes are Conquering Europe" (1926)
 - Friedrich Hollaender, "Cabaret" (1932)
 - Günter Berghaus, "Girllkultur: Feminism, Americanism, and Popular Entertainment in Weimar Germany" *Journal of Design History* 1, no. 3/4 (1988): 193-219 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1315711>

- F 19 Apr Discussion: The Weimar Republic III: Crisis and Collapse
- B. Traven, "Bank Failures" (1929)
 - Hans Ostwald, "A Moral History of the Inflation" (1931)
 - FILM: *Cabaret* (Bob Fosse, 1972) IN CLASS VIEWING
- HISTORIOGRAPHY PAPER DRAFT DUE
electronic submission by 5:00 p.m.
- M 22 Apr Discussion: Weimar Collapse, NSDAP Rise
Textbook: Fulbrook, Chapter III: "The Collapse of Democracy and the Rise of Hitler" (pp. 38-55)
- Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (excerpts) (1925-26)
 - Kurt Ludecke, "The Demagogic Orator" (c. 1930)
 - The Horst Wessel Song, (1930)
 - Ludwig Bauer, "The Middle Ages" (1932)
 - Heinrich Hauser, "The Unemployed" (1933)
- W 24 Apr Discussion: Life Under National Socialism
Textbook: Fulbrook, Chapter IV: "A 'National Community'?: State, Economy, and Society, 1933-1939" (pp. 56-72)
- George Mosse, "Bookburning and the Betrayal of the German Intellectuals" in *New German Critique* 31 (1984): 143-155 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/487893>
 - The Enabling Act (March 24, 1933)
 - Ernst Huber, "Constitutional Law of the Greater German Reich" excerpt (1939)
 - Nuremberg Laws: Citizenship Law, Law for Protection of Blood/Honor (1935)
 - Jakob Graf, "Heredity and Racial Biology for Students" (1935)
 - Hertha Nathorff, diary excerpts (1933-1938)
- F 26 Apr Discussion: Nazi Propaganda and the Buildup to War
Textbook: Fulbrook, Chapter IV: "The Radicalization of the Regime" (pp. 72-79)
- Joshua Hagen, "Parades, Public Space, and Propaganda: The Nazi Culture Parades in Munich" *Geografiska Annaler* 90, no. 4 (2008): 349-367 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40205064> (then click Go To Article)
 - FILM: *Triumph of the Will* (Leni Riefenstahl, 1935) IN CLASS VIEWING
 - David Buffum, *Kristallnacht* in Leipzig (1938)
 - Hitler's speech to his generals on Poland, August 1939
- M 29 Apr Discussion: World War II and the Collapse of the Third Reich
Textbook: Fulbrook, Chapter V: "War, Extermination, and Defeat" (pp. 80-109)
- Alfred Mierzejewski, "A Public Enterprise in the Service of Mass Murder: The Deutsche Reichsbahn and the Holocaust" *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 15/1 (Spring 2001): 33-46
 - Anton Dragan, memoir excerpt on Battle of Stalingrad (1942)
 - Joachim Wieder, excerpt from *Stalingrad: Memories and Reassessments* (1962)
 - Hermann Graebe, eyewitness account of Jewish slaughter in Ukraine (1942)
 - Marie Neumann, memoir excerpt from *A Terrible Revenge* (1948/1994)

- W 1 May Discussion: The Doing of the Holocaust
• Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men*
- F 3 May Discussion: Undoing the Reich: Recovery and Cold War
Textbook: Fulbrook Chapter VI: "Occupation/Division, 1945-1949" (pp. 113-142)
• The Potsdam Declaration, 1945
• The Nuremberg Verdicts (excerpts), 1946
- HISTORIOGRAPHY FINAL PAPER DUE
electronic submission by 5:00 p.m.

EPILOGUE: AFTER THE APOCALYPSE, 1945-

- M 6 May Discussion: East Germany: Politics, Culture, and Contestation
Textbook: Fulbrook, Chapter X: "Politics and the State" (pp. 206-222)
Chapter XI: "Dissent and Opposition" (pp. 223-243)
• FILM: *The Lives of Others* (Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, 2007)
IN-CLASS VIEWING
- W 8 May Discussion: West Germany: Memory and Forgetting
• Alf Lüdtke, "Coming to Terms with the Past": Illusions of Remembering, Ways of Forgetting Nazism in West Germany" in *Journal of Modern History* 65, no. 3 (Sep., 1993): 542-572 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2124850>
- F 10 May Course Wrap-Up and Final Review
- THURSDAY FINAL EXAM
16 May 2:00 p.m.