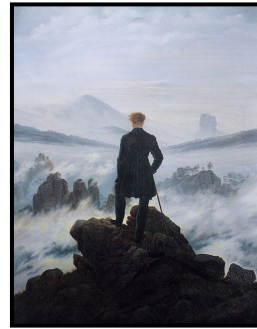


HIS 238-01  
**The Making of Modern Germany**  
Spring Semester 2020  
MWF 8:00 - 8:50 a.m.  
Mears 205



### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Dr. Kelly J. Maynard, Grinnell College Department of History  
Office: Mears #215  
Office Phone: (641) 269-4465  
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00-12:00, Wednesday 9:00-11:00 in Mears 215 and by appointment  
Email: [maynardk@grinnell.edu](mailto:maynardk@grinnell.edu)

### **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. Loosely speaking, 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. But we also interrupt this chronological narrative, dictated by the realm of high politics, by considering the lived experiences and perspectives of those who were not privy to the elite spheres of power and supposedly did not participate, by chance or by design, in the "making" of Modern Germany.

## **COURSE GOALS**

At the end of the semester, students will be familiar with the principal developments of the modern German nation from the mid-eighteenth century through the mid-twentieth from a range of perspectives. We will emphasize oral communication skills as well as active listening and response during discussions. Students will cultivate analytical thinking with both primary and secondary sources, paying particular attention to the methods and arguments employed in historical scholarship. This course will strengthen your abilities to develop clear and concise written work, emphasizing the crafting of precise theses statements, the use of carefully-chosen supporting evidence, and the importance of revision in the writing process. Finally, you will develop your intellectual powers of synthesis in the two course exams, working with a range of materials to craft thematic, coherent, and compelling arguments.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

***The following texts are required for this course:***

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Elective Affinities*. trans. David Constantine. Paper. Oxford University Press, 2008 [ISBN: 978-0199555369]

Isabel V. Hull, *Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany*. Paper. Cornell University Press, 2006 [ISBN: 978-0801472930]

Irmgard Keun, *Gilgi*. trans. Geoff Wilkes. Paper. Melville House, 2013 [ISBN: 978-1612192772]

Frank Uekoetter, *The Green and the Brown: A History of Conservation in Nazi Germany*. Paper. Cambridge University Press, 2006 [ISBN: 978-0521848190]

***The following texts are OPTIONAL and available online (DB) or on PWeb (MF):***

David Blackbourn, *History of Germany, 1780-1918: The Long Nineteenth Century* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Paper. Blackwell Publishing, 2003

Mary Fulbrook, *A History of Modern Germany, 1918, 2008: The Divided Nation* 3rd ed. Paper. Wiley Blackwell, 2009

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**

For the most part, our course 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. Occasional lectures will frame the political and economic background provided by the textbook readings. 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. Please note that I place considerable emphasis on the *quality* of your contributions. Finally, because it can be difficult for everyone to participate equally in classes as large as ours, I will adjudicate your overall participation grade through a variety of mechanisms in addition to regular course discussions.

There will be one in-class mid-term and one take home final exam in this class, based entirely on the synthesis of class materials with no additional research. Additionally, there will be three short response papers asking you to reflect upon and analyze different kinds of "texts", and ONE of these must be revised.

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

Participation	30%
In-Class Mid-Term Exam	15%
Short Response Papers (10% each)	30%
Response Paper Revision	5%
Take Home Final Exam	20%

I want every person in this classroom to succeed and am deeply committed to creating an environment that helps make that possible. I encourage students with documented disabilities in any form to discuss reasonable accommodations with me. If you have not already done so, please have a conversation about and provide documentation of your disability to the Coordinator for Student Disability Resources, John Hirschman, located on the 3rd floor of Goodnow Hall (x3089).

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

W 22 January Introduction

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### **PROLOGUE**

F 24 Jan Discussion: Enlightenment Perspectives on Reason, Religion, and Politics  
 Optional Textbook Reading: Blackbourn, Prologue: Germany in the Eighteenth Century (pp. 1-33)

- 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)

## I THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS, 1789-1849

- M 27 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)
- W 29 Jan 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)
- F 31 Jan Discussion: Love, Chemistry, and Social Relations I  
• Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Elective Affinities* (1809) Part I, pp. 3-116
- M 3 Feb Discussion: Love, Chemistry, and Social Relations II  
• Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Elective Affinities* (1809) Part II, pp. 117-240
- W 5 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)  
• *Burschenschaft* meeting (1820)
- F 7 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>
- M 10 Feb Discussion: Triumph and Collapse of Liberalism, 1848-1849  
Textbook: Blackbourn, CIII: "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 12 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>

**II THE AGE OF THE NATION, 1849-1914**

- F 14 Feb Discussion: Creating the Nation: *Realpolitik* and *Kulturkampf*  
Textbook: Blackbourn CV: "From Reaction to Unification" (pp. 171-203)  
CVI: "Culture of Progress" (pp. 204-214), "Religion" (pp. 214-227)
- Bismarck, Iron and Blood speech (1862)
  - Constitution of 1871
  - Anti-Socialist Law (1878)
  - Bismarck, speech on Workplace Accident Insurance Bill Draft (1881)
- Short Response Paper #1 – prompt distributed in class**
- M 17 Feb Discussion: Imperial Culture and Society I: The Culture Wars  
Textbook: Blackbourn CVII: "Organized Interests, Politics + State" (pp. 254-264)
- Helmut Walser Smith, "The *Kulturkampf* and German National Identity" in *German Nationalism and Religious Conflict* (1995), pp. 19-49
- W 19 Feb Discussion: Imperial Culture and Society II: Military Practices
- Isabel Hull, Military Culture in *Absolute Destruction*, pp. 91-196
- F 21 Feb Discussion: Imperial Culture and Society III: The Domestic World  
Textbook: Blackbourn, CIV: "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)
- Short Response Paper #1 due – 9:00 p.m.**
- M 24 Feb Discussion: Imperial Outsiders, Imperial Critics I: Social/Intellectual Backlash  
Textbook: Blackbourn, CVI: "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 26 Feb Discussion: Imperial Outsiders, Imperial Critics II: Social Democracy  
Textbook: Blackbourn, CVII: "Germany and the International Economy" (pp. 249-254), CIX: "Elites, Parties, and Popular Politics" (pp. 304-321)
- Nikolaus Osterroth, clay miner, autobiographical excerpts (1890s)
  - Excerpts from the Erfurt Program of the SDP (1891)
- F 28 Feb Discussion: Imperial Outsiders, Imperial Critics III: The Case of Africa  
Textbook: Blackbourn, CIX: "Nationalism, Imperialism, Racism" (pp. 321-334)
- Isabel Hull, Introduction & Part I, "Suppression Becomes Annihilation: Southwest Africa, 1904-1907" in *Absolute Destruction*, pp. 1-90
  - Excerpts from a German 1) settler, 2) officer, 3) missionary in Africa, 1904-07
- M 2 Mar MIDTERM REVIEW

Monday            Dr. Laura Prieto  
6:30 p.m.        "The Art of Protest: American Women Artists and the Suffrage Movement"  
location TBA

W 4 Mar            IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM

### **III                    THE AGE OF EXTREMES, 1914-1945**

F 6 Mar            Discussion: Understanding the Drive to War  
Textbook: Blackbourn, CIX: "G + the Coming of War" (pp. 334-47)  
• 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)

M 9 Mar            Discussion: Engineering World War I  
• Hull, Part III "The First World War" & "Conclusions and Implications" in  
*Absolute Destruction*, pp. 197-291 & pp. 324-344

W 11 Mar           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)  
• Scientific Humanitarian Committee Quarterly Report, excerpts 4/1916

F 13 Mar           Discussion: Russia, Revolution and Collapse  
Textbook: Fulbrook, "The 'Last Revolution from Above'" and  
                  "The Incomplete Revolution of November 1918" (pp. 21-25) in  
                  *A History of Modern Germany, 1918-2008: The Divided Nation*  
• Demands of the Strike Directorate in Berlin, January 29, 1918  
• Spartacus Manifesto, November 26, 1918

### SPRING BREAK

M 30 Mar           Reading TBA

W 1 Apr            Discussion: Käthe Kollwitz and Social Commentary  
Burling Basement: Prints & Drawings Room  
Käthe Kollwitz prints, woodcuts, sketches (early 1920s)

F 3 Apr            Discussion: Chaos and Stability in the Weimar Republic  
Textbook: Fulbrook, "The Weimar Constitution + Treaty of Versailles," "Political  
Unrest/Economic Chaos" "Apparent Stabilization, 1924-29" (25-33)

- Friedrich Kroner, "Overwrought Nerves," 26 Aug 1923
- Beth Irwin Lewis, "Lustmord: Inside the Windows of the Metropolis" in von Ankum, ed., *Women in the Metropolis: Gender and Modernity in Weimar Culture* (1997), 202-226

**Short Response Paper #2 – prompt distributed in class**

- M 6 Apr Discussion: Gender in the Republic part I
- Irmgard Keun, *Gilgi*, pp. 1-116
- W 8 Apr Discussion: Gender in the Republic part II
- Irmgard Keun, *Gilgi*, pp.117-210 & Afterword by Geoff Wilkes, pp. 211-229
- F 10 Apr Discussion: Entertainment in the Weimar Republic  
Textbook: Fulbrook, "The Golden 20s? Society + Culture in the WR" (25-37)
- Alice Gerstl, "Jazz Band" (1922)
  - Ivan Goll, "The Negroes are Conquering Europe" (1926)
  - Friedrich Hollaender, "Cabaret" (1932)
- Short Response Paper #2 due – 9:00 p.m.**
- M 13 Apr Discussion: Crises and Collapse of the Weimar Republic  
Textbook: Fulbrook, CIII: "The Collapse of Democracy/Rise of Hitler" (pp. 38-55)
- B. Traven, "Bank Failures" (1929)
  - Hans Ostwald, "A Moral History of the Inflation" (1931)
  - Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (excerpts) (1925-26)
  - Kurt Ludecke, "The Demagogic Orator" (c. 1930)
  - Heinrich Hauser, "The Unemployed" (1933)
- W 15 Apr Discussion: Life Under National Socialism I  
Textbook: Fulbrook, CIV: "A 'National Community'?: State, Economy, and Society, 1933-1939" (pp. 56-72)
- 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 17 Apr Discussion: Conservation Under the Nazis I
- Frank Uekoetter, *The Green and the Brown: A History of Conservation in Nazi Germany* (2011), Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-82.
- M 20 Apr Discussion: Conservation Under the Nazis II
- Uekoetter, C4: "Conservation at Work: Four Case Studies" pp. 83-136
- W 22 Apr Discussion: Conservation Under the Nazis III
- Uekoetter, C5-8 in *The Green and the Brown*, pp. 137-210
- Short Response Paper #3 – prompt distributed in class**

- F 24 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)
  - David Buffum, *Kristallnacht* in Leipzig (1938)
  - Hitler's speech to his generals on Poland, August 1939
- M 27 Apr Discussion: Nazi Propaganda and the Buildup to War II
- FILM: *Triumph of the Will* (Leni Riefenstahl, 1935) IN CLASS VIEWING
- W 29 Apr Discussion: The Infrastructures of World War II
- 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
- Short Response Paper #3 due – 9:00 p.m.**
- F 1 May Discussion: World War II and the Collapse of the Third Reich  
Textbook: Fulbrook, Chapter V: "War, Extermination, and Defeat" (pp. 80-109)
- 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)

#### **IV EPILOGUE: AFTER THE APOCALYPSE, 1945-**

- M 4 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
- W 6 May Discussion: East Germany: Politics, Culture, and Contestation  
Textbook: Fulbrook, CX: "Politics and the State" (pp. 206-222)  
CXI: "Dissent and Opposition" (pp. 223-243)
- FILM: *The Lives of Others* (Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, 2007)  
IN-CLASS VIEWING
- F 8 May Discussion: Closing Thoughts, Course Wrap-Up and Final Review
- Uta Poiger, "Imperialism and Empire in Twentieth-Century Germany" in *History and Memory* 17, nos. 1-2 (2005): 117-143  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/his.2005.17.1-2.117>
- THURSDAY TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM DUE  
14 May 5:00 p.m.