

## **HIEU 154: Modern Germany: From Unification to Nazism**

### **Course Description:**

Germany has been at the center of some of the 20th century's most crucial events. Conflicts and tensions inside Germany frequently spilled over Germany's borders and affected the lives of millions of non-Germans, thus shaping the course of 20th century European and world history. This course follows the extremely volatile and often violent course of German history from its emergence as a nation state in the 19th century to the total collapse of the Nazi dictatorship in 1945. In particular, the course will examine two major themes: first, we will examine continuities and contingencies in Modern German History. Was there, for example, a direct link between the unification of Germany through "iron and blood" under Bismarck in 1870/71 and the rise of Hitler in the 1930s? Why did the Weimar Republic (1918-1933) that was celebrated for its liberal constitution, progressive welfare system, and vanguard culture turn into one of the most destructive regimes in human history? What were the alternatives to this disastrous course of Modern German history and why did these alternatives ultimately not materialize? Secondly, the course will entail a detailed examination of the Nazi period. We will address such issues as the structure of the Nazi dictatorship, the nature of the Nazi "racial community," the peculiar mixture of popular consent and coercion, and the regime's policies of war and genocide.

### **Course Readings:**

Helmut Walser Smith, *The Butcher's Tale. Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town*  
Detlev Peukert, *The Weimar Republic. The Crisis of Classical Modernity*  
Doris Bergen, *War and Genocide. A Concise History of the Holocaust*  
(available at UCSD bookstore and on reserve at Geisel Library)  
Course reader with articles and documents (available on [e-reserve](#))

### **Calendar and Assignments:**

#### **Week 1: Introduction/German Unification**

##### **Jan.4: The Problem of German History**

##### **Jan.6: The Making of Unified Germany**

The Constitution of the German Empire  
Orlow, *Modern Germany*, 1-41  
Start Walser Smith, *A Butcher's Tale*

#### **Week 2: Wilhelmine Germany**

##### **Jan.11: Industrialization and Political Mobilization**

Berghahn, *Modern Germany*, 1-28  
Anti-Socialist Law of October 21, 1878

Erfurt Program of the Social Democratic Party, 1891  
Heinrich Claas, "If I Were Kaiser"

### **Jan.13: Society and Culture**

Walsler Smith, *A Butcher's Tale*

Response Paper on Walsler Smith Due

### **Week 3: The First World War**

#### **Jan. 18: German Imperialism/The Origins of the First World War**

Berghahn, *Modern Germany*, 29-37

Isabell Hull, "Military Culture and the Production of 'Final Solutions' in the Colonies: The Example of Wilhelmine Germany"

#### **Jan.20: Total War**

Berghahn, *Modern Germany*, 38-57

Rosa Luxemburg, "The War and the Workers" -- The Junius Pamphlet 1916

### **Week 4: From Monarchy to Republic**

#### **Jan.25: A German Revolution?**

Peukert, *Weimar Republic*, 1-41

The Constitution of the German Republic

Speech by Friedrich Ebert, Nov. 6, 1919

#### **Jan.27: Postwar: The Crisis Years of the Weimar Republic**

Peukert, *Weimar Republic*, 42-78

Richard Bessel, "The Legacies of the First World War and the Politics of the Weimar Republic"

Ernst Juenger, "Fire"

### **Week 5: Modernity and its Discontents: Weimar in the 1920s**

Jan. 31: Lecture by Prof. Margaret Anderson: "Down and Far Away in Turkey': Orientalism and Human Rights in Imperial Germany" (2-4pm, Room TBA)

#### **Feb.1: A Deceptive Stability? Politics and Economics**

Peukert, *Weimar Republic*, 107-63, 191-221

### **Feb.3: Weimar Culture**

Peukert, *Weimar Republic*, 86-106, 164-90

Elsa Herman, "This is the New Woman"

"Textile Workers: My Workday, My Weekend,"

Rudolf Kaiser, "Americanism"

Katharina Rathaus, "Charleston: Every Age Has the Dance It Deserves."

Ivan Goll, "The Negroes Are Conquering Europe"

### **Week 6: From Democracy to Dictatorship**

#### **Feb.8: The Great Depression**

Peukert, *Weimar Republic*, 222-83

Swett, "The Anatomy of Violence"

#### **Feb.10: The Rise of Nazism**

Bergen, *War and Genocide*, 1-51.

Adolf Hitler, "Nation and Race"

Take-Home Midterm Essay Due

### **Week 7: The Third Reich: Politics and Propaganda**

#### **Feb.15: The Nazi State and the Myth of the Fuehrer**

Bergen, *War and Genocide*, 53-80

Kershaw, "The Hitler Myth: Image and Reality in the Third Reich"

#### **Feb.17: The Politics of Culture**

FILM: TBA

### **Week 8: The Third Reich: The Racial Community**

#### **Feb.22: Gender and Class in the Volksgemeinschaft**

Adolf Hitler, "The Role of Women in the Volksgemeinschaft"

Principles and Organizational Guidelines of the National Socialist Women's League

Robert Ley, "Strength Through Joy"

Report of the Social Democratic Party in Exile, "The Realities of 'Strength Through Joy'"

Gisela Bock, "Antinatalism, Maternity, and Paternity in National Socialist Racism."

von Saldern, "Victims or Perpetrators? Controversies about the Role of Women in National Socialism"

## **Feb.24: Social Outsiders**

Anti-Jewish Legislation, "The Nuremberg Laws"

Protecting the Racial Stock of the Volksgemeinschaft

Sterilization of "Mentally Deficient" Children

Kaplan, "When the Ordinary Became Extraordinary: German Jews Reaction to Nazi Persecution"

Friedlaender, "The Exclusion of the Disabled"

## **Week 9: The Third Reich: Expansion and War**

### **Mar.1: Nazi Foreign Policy**

Bergen, *War and Genocide*, 81-100

The Hossbach Protocol

### **Mar.3: The Second World War and the Nazi 'New Order'**

Bergen, *War and Genocide*, 101-59

Heinrich Himmler, "Some Thoughts on the Treatment of the Alien Population in the East"

Directives for the Behavior of the Troops in Russia, May 1941

Order of Field Marshall von Reichenau, October 1941

## **Week 10: The Third Reich: Genocide and its Aftermath**

### **Mar.8: The Holocaust**

Bergen, *War and Genocide*, 161-203

Herrman Friedrich Graebe, Account of Holocaust Mass Shooting, 1942

Primo Levi, "Useless Violence"

### **Mar.10: The Collapse of Nazism/The Nazi Past in Postwar Germany**

Bergen, *War and Genocide*, 205-28