Fall 2014
HIGR 230: Research Seminar in European History

Instructor: Frank Biess
Place: HSS 5086
Time: Wed. 9-12

Office Hours: Wed 1-3 and by apt.
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Course Description:

This seminar is the first part of a formal two-quarter seminar. The second part will be taught in the Spring of 2015. However, I encourage all of you to sign up for an independent study course 298 with your respective advisors in Winter quarter and use that quarter for work on your research project. Your research paper will then become a three-quarter, all-year project.

The most important assignment for this course is the completion of a major research paper by the end of your first year. This research paper might lead to a published article. But it could also serve as a preliminary study of your potential dissertation project. So you can think of this paper also as the first version of a potential dissertation chapter, which then will lead to a dissertation, and then to a published monograph. The key point here is that the essay will be useful for your trajectory in our Ph.D. program.

The seminar in the fall serves two purposes. First, it is supposed to help you in developing a feasible, original, and interesting research project. This can be a daunting task (and it poses essentially the same challenges as choosing a dissertation topic). So we will brake down this job into several parts. How do you define an interesting and innovative research question? How can you determine that your topic is original, i.e. that there is room in the literature for you to write (one hint: one of my professors once said that "reading is the best protection against originality")? How do you find primary and secondary sources? How do you write a research proposal? By the end of the quarter, you all should be able to submit and discuss a 8-10 page proposal of your research project. The seminar in the spring will then be devoted to peer-review and discussion of various drafts of your paper.

Secondly, the seminar also seeks to introduce you to an important theme in the history and historiography of Europe: the history of violence. The topic for your research project can but does not have to be drawn from this general theme. We will
analyze the assigned readings also with an eye to the questions above, i.e. how do they approach issues of originality, sources, conceptual framing, evidence, and argument? Our discussions of the historiography are also supposed to help you in honing your critical skills in discussions with your peers. For some of you, the readings might also be useful in constructing a reading list for your major field exam.

**Course Requirements:**

All of you will receive a grade of IP for the first half of the seminar. You will receive a final grade for both parts of the seminar at the end of the spring quarter. For your final grade, the research paper will count for about half of your grade, the other half will be based on your classroom performance.

Attendance and active participation in our classroom discussions is essential. There will also be a series of smaller writing assignments, presentations, and peer-reviews throughout the quarter. For each week, I would like you to post short summaries of the readings (app 400 words) plus two questions for discussion to the Ted website. Please post you summaries no later than Tuesday, 4 pm. This will help me prepare for our classroom discussions.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** It is your responsibility to know and observe all university rules concerning academic integrity and plagiarism. Any student found to have committed a substantial violation of the university rules concerning academic integrity will fail the entire course. I view it as one of my chief responsibilities to help each of you produce first-rate professional work. If you have any questions whatsoever about what constitutes plagiarism, how to properly credit the work and ideas of others, how to evaluate sources for quality and reliability, and so forth, please feel free to talk to me.
Course Readings:

The course assumes a basic familiarity with Modern European History. If you need some more background in this area, I suggest the following works.

Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent. Europe’s Twentieth Century*
Jonathan Sperber, *Europe 1850-1914*

I did not order any books for this course. I suggest that you order some of the monographs we will discuss through amazon.com. Other readings will be made available through the Ted website, on e-reserve, or distributed one week in advance in class. It is essential that you complete all the reading assignments before class.

Course Schedule

**October 8: Theoretical Perspectives: What is violence? Why does it occur? How can we think about it historically?**

Max Weber, “The Types of Legitimate Domination” in *Economy and Society* (1922), 212-54
Sigmund Freud, “Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego” (1922) and “Why War? Letter to Albert Einstein” (1932)
Hannah Arendt, *On Violence* (1969) [available on Amazon Kindle]

**October 15: Violence in the Early Modern World**


*Defining a Research Question*

**October 22: The First Total War? War and Violence in the Napoleonic Age**

David Bell, *The First Total War: Napoleon’s Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It* (Boston, 2008), 1-51, 120-85, 223-317.
H-France Discussion Forum (http://www.h-france.net/forum/h-franceforumvol2.html)
Research Question Due/Assessing the State of the Field

October 29: Colonial Violence


Preliminary Literature Review Due
Finding More Primary and Secondary Sources: Meeting with Sam Dunlap

November 5: Combat

Joana Bourke, ”The Pleasures of War” and “Love and Hate” in idem., An Intimate History of Killing. Face to Face Killing in Twentieth Century Warfare, 1-32, 127-58
Omer Bartov, „The European Imagination in the Age of Total War,” in Murder in our Midst. The Holocaust, Industrial Killing, and Representation (New York, 1996), 33-52.

Discussion of Primary Sources/Refining the Research Question

November 12: Ethnic Cleansing and Genocide


Annotated Bibliography of Primary and Secondary Sources Due
Defining a Conceptual Framework

November 19: Civil Wars: Italy in World War II

John Foot, “Nazi Massacres and Divided Memory. Stories, Causes, Scapegoats, and Memoriscapes” in idem. Italy’s Divided Memory, 125-46.

Writing a Proposal
Theoretical Paragraph on Conceptual Framework Due

November 26: Sexual Violence

Anonyma, A Women in Berlin, Eight Weeks in the Conquered City, 1-61.

Discussion of Proposals

Taylor
Matthew
Yolanda

December 3: Violence and Decolonization

Frantz Fanon, “Preface by JP Sartre” and “Concerning Violence” in The Wretched of the Earth, xliii-62.

Discussion of Proposals

Maria
Sky
Ivana

December 10: Terrorism

Ulrike Maria Meinhof, “Counter-Violence” (1968), in Everybody Talks about the Weather... We don’t..... The Writings of Ulrike Meinhof, 234-38in 234-38

Discussion of Proposals
Jill
Amanda