Special Topics on Central European History:

The Nazi Dictatorship and the GDR

Room: York Hall, # 4050A
Time: Wednesday, 3 pm – 5.50 pm
Office Hours: Monday 2 – 3 pm and Wednesday 2 - 3 pm, H&SS, Room # 4070

Course Description
This seminar will survey the political structures of both the “Third Reich” (1933-1945) and the socialist dictatorship in the GDR (1949-1989). Of central concern is the attention historians have paid to the comparison of both systems.

Readings
The following required books are available in the UCSD Bookstore:
1. Tim Kirk, Nazi Germany (European History in Perspective), Houndmills et al. 2008.
General Course Requirements

For Undergraduates the course requirements include active class participation (25 %), an essay (10 page paper including bibliography 25 %), an oral presentation (20-30 minutes, 25 %) and a final exam (25 %).

For Graduates the course requirements include active class participation (20 %), an essay (20 page paper including bibliography 40 %) and an oral presentation (20-30 minutes, 40 %).

To pass this class you must reasonably satisfy all the course requirements.

Except where extensions are arranged in advance, late papers will be penalized one-third of a grade per day. A more detailed handout on the papers (including a list of suggestions) will follow.

Paper: February 25, 2009
Final Exam: Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 3 – 5.59 pm

UCSD has a university-wide Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, which is on the web at http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm. You are responsible for understanding and acting in accordance with UCSD guidelines on academic integrity.
Schedule Plan

Week 1 (January 7): Comparing Fascist and Communist Dictatorships: an Introduction


Week 2 (January 14): Structures of Power and the Personal Factor


Week 3 (January 21): Everyday Life in the “Third Reich” and in the GDR

Guest Lecture by Patrick H. Patterson


Week 4 (January 28): Political Violence I: The Persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany


Week 5 (January 4): Political Violence II: The Persecution of Political Opponents in the Soviet Zone of Occupation

Readings: Naimark, *The Russians in Germany*, pp. 353-397

Week 6 (February 11): Consensus, Complicity, Opposition and Resistance

Week 7 (February 18): Economy and Society in the “Third Reich” and in East Germany

Readings: Kirk, Nazi Germany, pp. 56-112; Kershaw, The Nazi Dictatorship, pp. 47-68 and 161-182; Naimark, The Russians in Germany, pp. 141-204

Week 8 (February 25): Foreign Policy of a Racial Empire and a Satellite State

Readings: Kirk, Nazi Germany, pp. 195-218; Kershaw, The Nazi Dictatorship, pp. 134-160; Naimark, The Russians in Germany, pp. 9-68

Week 9 (March 4): Apology, Nostalgia and Critique: The Aftermath of Two Dictatorships in Germany

Week 10 (March 11): Comparing Fascist and Communist Dictatorships: a Résumé

Final Exam: Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 3 - 5.59 pm