HISTORY 36

Modern Germany

This course examines German politics, society and culture in the 19th and 20th centuries, starting with the Revolutions of 1848 and concluding with a consideration of the results of the 1990 reunification.

Course Requirements:

1) Regular attendance and participation. This class is not a lecture course, although I will combine occasional background lectures with daily discussions. It is essential to your success in the course that you come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading for each session. In addition, the History Department’s draconian policy on attendance states that unexcused absences will be penalized by a lower grade.

2) Two take-home exams, ca. 5-7 page (1250-1750 words), one each on the Imperial and Weimar periods, due respectively by 5:00 pm. on Wednesday October 8 and Friday November 12. Topics will be distributed a week in advance of the due dates. Students may submit electronic exams, but should do so to both email addresses.

3) A ten-page page (2500 word) interpretative essay on either the Nazi period, the post 1945 period, or on a larger cumulative question of German historiography. Please consult with me in November about possible paper topics. You should email your topic to me by Wednesday November 26. This paper will be due on Thursday December 18 at 5:00 pm. Students may submit electronically but they should also submit a hard copy to my Department Box.

Readings:

The following texts have been ordered for you at the College Bookstore and placed on General Reserve at McCabe Library:
W. S. Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power: The Experience of a Single German Town  
V. Berghahn, Modern Germany: Society, Economy and Politics in the 20th Century  
D. Blackbourn, The Long Nineteenth Century: A History of Germany, 1780-1918  
D. Peukert, Inside Nazi Germany: Conformity, Opposition and Racism in Everyday Life  
D. Peukert, The Weimar Republic  

Other syllabus readings are available on Blackboard.

For their final papers, students should be aware of the vast bibliographic resources at their disposal in McCabe Library and on the Honors Reserve shelves for History 125 Fascist Europe, and History 122 Revolutionary Europe.

Schedule of Meetings and Topics

Tue 9/2  Introduction to the Course

Thu 9/4  Legacies of the Revolutions of 1848
   Reading:  D. Blackbourn, The Long Nineteenth Century, pp. 138-173; 177-207; 214-241

Tue 9/9  Blood and Iron: The Unification of Germany
   Reading:  V. Berghahn, Modern Germany, pp. 1-28  
            Blackbourn, The Long Nineteenth Century, pp. 242-283

Thu 9/11  The Industrializing Society and its Critics
   Reading:  Blackbourn, The Long Nineteenth Century, pp. 313-336  

Tue 9/16  Different “Outsiders”: Catholics and Jews
   Reading:  Blackbourn, The Long Nineteenth Century, pp. 283-310  
            M. Kaplan, The Making of the Jewish Middle Class, pp. 3-15; 64-

Thu 9/18  Blood Libel in a Village

Tue 9/23  Blood Libel: Outsiders Intervene
Reading: Smith, The Butcher’s Tale, pp. 91-206.

Thu 9/25  Sexual Politics in Wilhelmine Germany

Tue 9/30  Political Pressure Groups and Nationalist Radicalism
Reading: Blackbourn, The Long Nineteenth Century, pp. 337-350; 400-440
G. Eley, “The German Right” in Eley, ed., From Unification to Nazism, pp. 231-253
Blackbourn, “Between Resignation and Volatility: The German Petty Bourgeoisie in the 19th Century” in Blackbourn, ed., Populists and Patricians, pp. 84-113

Thu 10/2  A Place in the Sun: Empire and Foreign Policy
Reading: Berghahn, Modern Germany, pp. 28-37
Blackbourn, The Long Nineteenth Century, pp. 441-459
L. Wildenthal, “Race, Gender and Citizenship in the German Colonial Empire” in F. Cooper & A. Stoler, eds., Tensions of Empire, pp. 263-286

Tue 10/7  Facing Total War
Thu 10/9  The Wartime Radicalization of German Society
V. Liulevicius, War Land on the Eastern Front, pp. 1-9; 12-47; 151-172

Fall Break

Tue 10/21  Revolution and Counterrevolution
Reading: Blackbourn, The Long Nineteenth Century, pp.489-497
Berghahn, Modern Germany, pp. 57-81
D. Peukert, The Weimar Republic, pp. 19-51
Liulevicius, War Land on the Eastern Front, pp. 227-243; 247-272; 278-281

Thu 10/23  The “Modern” Society and its Critics
Peukert, The Weimar Republic, pp. 79-190 (shift some to 10/28)
Berghahn, Modern Germany, pp. 82-95

Tue 10/28  Deceptive Stability?
Reading: Peukert, The Weimar Republic, pp. 191-246
Berghahn, Modern Germany, pp. 95-102

Th 10/30  The Rise of the Nazis Movement
Reading: W. Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power, pp. 4-106

Tue 11/4  Descent into Chaos: the Great Depression
Takeover and Gleichschaltung: Party against State against Society

Reading:
- Berghahn, Modern Germany, pp. 129-138
- D. Peukert, Inside Nazi Germany: Conformity and Opposition and Racism in Everyday Life, pp. 26-100

The Primacy of Politics: Economy, Labor, Foreign Policy

Reading:
- Berghahn, Modern Germany, pp. 138-161

Racism, Misogyny and Eugenics as Social Policy

Reading:
- Kaplan, Between Dignity and Despair. Jewish Life in Nazi Germany, pp. 3-49

Conformity and Opposition in Daily Life: Gangs, Jazz, Hitler Youth

Reading:
- Peukert, Inside Nazi Germany: Conformity and Opposition and Racism in Everyday Life, pp. 101-196
- Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power, pp. 184-216

Nazi Society at War
Reading: Berghahn, Modern Germany, pp. 161-176
Peukert, Inside Nazi Germany: Conformity and Opposition and Racism in Everyday Life, pp.197-249
L. Rupp, “I don’t call that Volksgemeinschaft! Women, Class and War in Nazi Germany” in Berkin & Lovett, eds., Women, War and Revolution
R. Koshar, “Savage Tourism” in German Travel Cultures, pp.148-56

Tue 11/25 Holocaust and Collapse
Reading: C. Browning, Ordinary Men, pp. 1-77

Thanksgiving

Tue 12/2 Cold War Constructions: the Federal Republic of Germany
Reading: Berghahn, Modern Germany, pp.177-192
U. Poiger, “Rock’n’Roll, Female Sexuality, and the Cold War Battle Over German Identities” in Moeller, West Germany Under Construction 373-410

Thu 12/4 Between Stalinist Socialism and Consumerism: The GDR
Reading: Berghahn, Modern Germany, pp. 192-197; 216-225; 230-235
Y. Hong, “Cigarette Butts and the Building of Socialism in East Germany” in Central European History, 35/3, 2003, pp. 327-344

Tue 12/9 Prelude to the Wende: The Return of the Repressed, or was this Holocaust Different?
Reading: C. Maier, The Unmasterable Past, pp.1-33; 66-99
Film “The Nasty Girl”