

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
Department of History

Prof. Pieter M. Judson
Office: Trotter 207
Office: x8136
Email: pjudson1@swarthmore.edu

fall 2012
T/Th 11:20-12:35
Office Hours: T/Th 1:30-3:00
Cell: (215) 868-6173

HISTORY 36

Modern Germanies

This course examines German politics, society and culture in the 19th and 20th centuries, starting with the unification of Germany in 1871 and concluding with the fall of the Berlin Wall. The course focuses in particular on the challenges and struggles of building national community, creating national values, and popularizing national forms of identification under several regimes, starting with Bismarck's creation of a new state in Central Europe called "Germany" in 1871, and ending with the post-Cold War annexation of the German Democratic Republic by the Federal Republic of Germany.

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 **massive** amounts of assigned reading for each session. To help you to prepare I will provide guides to the reading with questions for class discussion. 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 essay exams, ca. 5-7 pages (1250-1750 words), due respectively by 5:00 pm on Friday October 5 and Friday, November 9. Questions will be distributed at least a week in advance of the due dates.
- 3) A ten-page page (minimum) (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 no later than Friday, December 5. This paper will be due at the end of the Exam period.

Students should submit both a hard and an electronic version of each writing assignment.

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Leslie Hempling in the Office of Student Disability Services (Parrish 130) or e-mail lhempli1@swarthmore.edu to set up an appointment to discuss your needs.

Readings:

The following paperbacks have been ordered for you at the College Bookstore and placed on General Reserve at McCabe Library:

Anonymous, A Woman in Berlin. Eight Weeks in the Conquered City
Jane Caplan, ed., Nazi Germany (short Oxford History of Germany series)
Sebastian Conrad, German Colonialism A Short History
James Retallack, ed., Imperial Germany, 1871-1918 (short Oxford History of Germany series)
Edith Sheffer, Burned Bridge. How East and West Germans Made the Iron Curtain

In addition, the following useful background text has been placed on General Reserve:
Volker Berghahn, Modern Germany. Society, Economy and Politics in the Twentieth Century

Other readings for the class are available on Moodle.

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

Schedule of Meetings and Topics

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| Tue | 9/4 | Introduction to the Course: What did “Germany” mean? |
| | Reading: | von Fallersleben, “Das Lied der Deutschen” |
| Thu | 9/6 | Blood and Iron: Forging a New State and a New National Society |
| | Reading: | K. Lerman, “Bismarckian Germany” in J. Retallack ed, <u>Imperial Germany 1871-1918</u> , 18-39
E. Fink, “Symbolic Representations of the Nation: Baden, Bavaria, and Saxony, c.1860-80” in L. Cole, ed., <u>Different Paths to the Nation</u> , 200-216 |
| Tue | 9/11 | Economic Power, Political Authoritarianism, and Reform Debates |
| | Reading: | B. Fairbairn, “Economic and Social Developments” in Retallack ed, <u>Imperial Germany</u> , 61-81
M. Hewitson, “Wilhelmine Germany” in Retallack ed, <u>Imperial Germany</u> , 40-50
T. Kühne, “Political Culture and Democratization” in Retallack ed, <u>Imperial Germany</u> , 174-193 |
| Thu | 9/13 | Insiders and Outsiders: Religion and German Society |
| | Reading: | C. Clark, “Religion and Confessional Conflict” in Retallack ed, <u>Imperial Germany</u> , 83-105
David Blackbourn, “Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Bismarckian Germany” in G. Eley, ed., <u>Society, Culture, and the State in Germany, 1870-1930</u> , 189-219 |

- Tue 9/18 **Defining the Nation: Pressure Groups, Radicalism, and Brinksmanship**
- Reading: Hewitson, "Wilhelmine Germany" in Retallack ed, Imperial Germany, 50-55
P. Judson, "Nationalism in the Era of the Nation State" in H. Smith, ed., Oxford Handbook of Modern German History, 499-508
S. Conrad, "Between the Poles: Mobility and Nation in Germany's 'Real Colony' in Globalization and the Nation in Imperial Germany, 144-184
- Thu 9/20 **Colonial Empire Shapes Nationhood at Home**
- Reading: S. Conrad, A Short History of German Imperialism, 21-35; 136-152
L. Wildenthal, "Race, Gender, and Citizenship in the German Colonial Empire," in F. Cooper & A. Stoler, eds., Tensions of Empire, 263-281
- Tue 9/25 **A Place in the Sun**
- Reading: Conrad, A Short History of German Imperialism, 36-123
- Thu 9/27 **A German "Genocide"?**
- Reading: Conrad, A Short History of German Imperialism, 153-168
I. Hull, Absolute Destruction. Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany, 5-45; 98-109; 182-196;
- Tue 10/2 **Soldiers and Civilians Face Total War**
- Reading: J. Verhey, "War and Revolution," in Retallack ed, Imperial Germany 1871-1918, 242-259
B. Davis, Home Fires Burning. Food, Politics, and Everyday Life in World War I Berlin, 24-47; 190-218
- Thu 10/4 **Revolution and Counterrevolution**
- Reading: Davis, Home Fires Burning, 219-236
V. Berghahn, Modern Germany, 57-81
- Tue 10/9 **War, Defeat, and New Meanings for German Nationhood**
- Reading: Sammartino, The Impossible Border, 18-70; 96-119
Judson, "Nationalism in the Era of the Nation State", 508-513

Thu 10/11 **The “Modern” Society and its Critics**
Reading: Atina Grossman, “The New Woman and the Rationalization of Sexuality in Weimar Germany,” in A. Snitow, ed. Powers of Desire, 153-171

Fall Break

Tue 10/23 **Weimar’s Golden Years (With Rumbblings on the Right)**

Reading: Berghahn, Modern Germany, 82-115

Thu 10/25 **Descent into Chaos: the Depression and the Sudden Rise of Nazism**

Reading: Peter Fritzsche, “The NSDAP 1919-1934: From Fringe Politics to the Seizure of Power” in J. Caplan, ed., Nazi Germany, 48-72

Tue 10/30 ***Gleichschaltung*: Party against State against Society**

Reading: J. Noakes, Hitler and the Nazi State: Leadership, Hierarchy, and Power” in Caplan, ed., Nazi Germany, 73-98
R. Steigman-Gall, “Religion and the Churches” in Caplan, ed., Nazi Germany, 146-167

Thu 11/1 **The Primacy of Politics: Economy, Labor, Foreign Policy**

Reading: Adam Tooze, “The Economic History of the Nazi Regime” in Caplan, ed., Nazi Germany, 168-195
T. Mason, “The Primacy of Politics” in Nazism, Fascism, and the Working Class, 53-76

Tue 11/6 **Conformity and Opposition in Daily Life**

Reading: J. Stephenson, “Inclusion: Building the National Community in Propaganda and Practice” in in Caplan, ed., Nazi Germany, 99-121
D. Peukert, Inside Nazi Germany. Conformity, Opposition, and Racism in Everyday Life, 145-174

Thu 11/8 **The Racial State**

Reading: N. Wachsmann, “The Policy of Exclusion: Repression in the Nazi State, 1933-1939” in in Caplan, ed., Nazi Germany, 122-145
Judson, “Nationalism in the Era of the Nation State”, 513-521

Tue 11/13 **The Nazi War**
Reading: G. Weinberg, Foreign Policy in Peace and War" in in Caplan, ed., Nazi Germany, 196-218
D. Bergen, "Occupation, Imperialism, and Genocide, 1939-1945" in Caplan, ed., Nazi Germany, 219-245

Thu 11/15 **Perpetrators in the Nazi Race War**
Reading: Christopher Browning, Ordinary Men, 1-77
Elizabeth Harvey, Women and the Nazi East, 152-174

Tue 11/20 **Collapse**
Reading: Anonymous, A Woman in Berlin, at least 3-133

Thanksgiving

Tue 11/27 **Constructing the Cold War on the Ground**
Reading: E. Sheffer, Burned Bridge. How East and West Germans Made the Iron Curtain, 34-141

Thu 11/29 **Memory and the Reconstruction of Identity in West Germany**
Reading: R. Moeller, "The Third Reich in Postwar German Memory" in Caplan, ed., Nazi Germany, 246-266

Tue 12/4 **Socialism's Social Contract: Consumerism and Complaints**
Reading: Sheffer, Burned Bridge, 142-149; 157-177
P. Betts, Within Walls. Private Life in the German Democratic Republic, 21-35; 38-46; 173-193
Young-Sun Hong, "Cigarette Butts and the Building of Socialism in East Germany" in *Central European History*, 35/3, 2003, 327-344

Thu 12/6 **The 1960s: Sexual Evolution in the East versus Revolution in the West**
Reading: D. Herzog, "East Germany's Sexual Evolution," in K. Pence and P. Betts, eds., Socialist Modern, 71-95

Tue 12/11 **The End of the Cold War**
Reading: Sheffer, Burned Bridge, 191-257
Film: *The Lives of Others* (2006)