

# HISTORY 23005

## Hitler's Europe

PROF. DEBORAH FLEETHAM

Office: UNIV 126

Hours: Wednesday 10-11:30 or by appt.

Email: [dfleetham@purdue.edu](mailto:dfleetham@purdue.edu)

### COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will examine the rise to, seizure, and consolidation of power by the Nazi party. Our primary question will be how and why were the Nazis able to seize and exercise power in a modern, economically advanced, democratic society. For answers, we will both look at the person of Adolf Hitler from his early days in Vienna, through the trenches of World War I, the chaotic Weimar Republic, the Chancellor's office, to Führer as well as at the broader society that made his political appeal and dictatorship possible. We will trace the evolution of antisemitism and its tragic culmination in, what the Nazis called, the Final Solution to Jewish Question. We will view film, posters, and other popular culture from the period to investigate mass politics, popular opinion, propaganda, and ideology.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Exams** (2 Midterms @ 20% each and Final @ 25%) – We will have three in-class essay exams (on February 6, March 8, and during the final exam period). You will receive a study guide with questions and guidelines in advance but will write the essay in class.

**Quizzes** (17.5%) – Online quizzes on Blackboard. (in Quiz folder)

- There are 10 online quizzes over the course of the semester (see dates on course schedule).
- Quiz questions (multiple choice, matching, true/false, etc.) will focus on your comprehension of the weekly lectures and assigned Childers reading.
- Quizzes are worth 10 points.
- The time limit is 15 minutes.
- You may use your notes, study and readings guides, handouts, and readings.
- Quizzes are available between Friday @ 3 pm - Monday @ 12 pm (exception: Quiz 1 will be due on a Wednesday due to the MLK holiday)
- Your lowest quiz score will be dropped. **An additional quiz score can be dropped with your completion of the extra credit assignment on 1/9.** Because of this policy, no quiz extensions or re-takes will be granted.
- It is to your benefit to attempt all of the quizzes. Good comprehension of this material will help you to prepare for exams.
- Each quiz is constructed from randomized blocks of questions. While some questions may overlap, no two students should receive the same quiz.
- **Extra Credit:** Some quizzes (unannounced) will contain extra credit.

### TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks for Purchase:

- Thomas Childers, *The Third Reich*  
ISBN: 978-1451651140
- Julia Boyd, *Travelers in the Third Reich*  
ISBN: 978-1681777825

### BLACKBOARD MATERIAL

**Readings/Movies:** Links to other assigned readings/video can be found in the Readings and Movies Folder.

**Reading Guides:** Reading guides for the Childers readings are provided to help you identify the main themes and arguments of each chapter for your own use (not to be turned in or graded).

**Lecture Outlines:** Lecture outlines will be posted on Blackboard by the morning of class to help you take notes. Quizzes will include questions on material exclusively found on the outlines.

**Purdue Resources and Policies:** Links to university resources and policies on academic integrity, diversity and inclusion, emergency procedures, mental health resources, grief absences, and accessibility and accommodation are available in the Purdue Resources tab in the left-hand column.

**Discussion (17.5%)** – There are eight designated discussion sessions for the semester. Your discussion score will be based on a combination of participation, preparation, and attendance as follows:

- Classes devoted to discussion are marked as DISCUSSION on the course schedule. Read the assigned text or view the assigned video before class.
- For each scheduled discussion, complete and turn in the assigned readings questions (in Discussion Questions folder) to Blackboard by **8 am on the day of the discussion**. (Late submissions will not be accepted.)
- The purpose of the reading questions is to prepare for the discussion and participate in it; skipping the discussion defeats the purpose. **You will not receive credit for the Reading Questions if you do not attend the class discussion period.** Any exceptions to this policy require advance approval from me and are at my discretion.
- Unlike quizzes, NO discussion scores will be dropped.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule includes the lecture topic, assigned readings, and exam/discussion due dates (in **bold**). Childers reading assignments can be completed anytime during the assigned week; questions over the material will appear on the assigned week's quiz. Discussion readings must be completed *on the date assigned* (see above).

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January 7: Introduction

January 9: How to Study Hitler

**Extra Credit:** Read Kershaw Preface and Evans Introduction (on Blackboard) and turn in Discussion Questions before class on Blackboard.

January 11: Politics in Hitler's Youth

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January 14: Jews, Nationalism, and the new Anti-Semitism

January 16: August 1914

January 18: Total Industrial War

**Childers:** Chapter 1 (pp. 1-13)

**Quiz 1:** To be completed between Friday, January 18 @ 3 pm and Wednesday, January 23 @ 12 pm. (extended deadline due to MLK Jr. holiday)

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January 21: MLK Jr. Day – No Class

January 23: The Front

January 25: **DISCUSSION:** Ernst Jünger, excerpts (on BB)

**Childers:** Chapter 1 (pp. 13-23)

**No Quiz**

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January 28: The Home Front

January 30: War's End and Revolution

February 1: Terms of Peace

**Childers:** Chapter 2

**Quiz 2:** To be completed by Monday, February 4 @ noon

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## ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, hiring another to do your work, copying and other activities defined by the OSRR) is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in this course. Incidents of academic misconduct in this course will be addressed by the course instructor and referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) for review at the university level. Any violation of course policies as it relates to academic integrity will result minimally in a failing or zero grade for that particular assignment, and at the instructor's discretion may result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct will be forwarded to OSRR, where university penalties, including removal from the university, may be considered.

See the OSRR link on Blackboard.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Any changes to the syllabus (e.g. lecture theme, reduction of reading assignments, class cancellation etc.) will be announced in class and on Blackboard. Students are responsible for checking Blackboard announcements and email.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance in this course is required. Attending class is crucial for understanding the material and developing analytical skills. Because illnesses and extracurricular obligations do occur, absences will not count against your grade (one point per absence) until the sixth absence. You do not need to inform me of an absence unless:

- You will miss a Discussion class.
- You will be absent for an extended period.

Obtaining missed material is the responsibility of the student.

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February 4: Weimar Politics

February 6: **EXAM 1**

February 8: Hitler and the Birth of the Nazi Party

**Childers:** None

**No Quiz:** *due to exam*

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February 11: Public Health, Eugenics, and Antisemitism

February 13: Nazi Ideology

February 15: **DISCUSSION:** Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (excerpts, On BB)

**Childers:** Chapter 3

**Quiz 3** *covers material from February 4*

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February 18: Weimar Crises

February 20: Why did Weimar Fail?

February 22: **DISCUSSION:** Boyd, Introduction and Chapters 1-6 (book)

**Childers:** Chapter 4

**Quiz 4**

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February 25: Who Voted for Hitler?

February 27: Mass Politics and the Nazis

March 1: **DISCUSSION:** Nazi Propaganda (On Blackboard)

**Childers:** Chapters 5-7

**Quiz 5**

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March 4: 1930-1933: Electoral Success

March 6: January 1933: Nazi Seizure of Power

March 8: **EXAM #2**

**Childers:** None

**No Quiz**

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March 18:1933-34: Nazi Consolidation of Power

March 20: An Economic Miracle?

March 22: Nazi Domestic Policy

**Childers:** Chapters 8-9

**Quiz 6** *(covers material from March 6- March 20)*

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March 25: Nazi Jewish Policy in the 1930s

March 27: The T4 program

March 29: **DISCUSSION:** Marion Kaplan, "When the Ordinary Became Extraordinary: "German Jews Reacting to Nazi Persecution" (On BB)

**Childers:** Chapter 10-11

**Quiz 7** *(covers material from March 22)*

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## COMPUTER USE POLICY

Use of computers/tablets/cell phones for notetaking or other activities is **prohibited** in this class (except for a documented disability as detailed Letter of Accommodation from the DRC).

Why? Recent research (links on Blackboard) suggests that computer notetaking is a distraction and that it *decreases* learning and comprehension.

Exceptions: E-Readers/tablets/phones are permissible to access readings for discussion although paper copies are preferred and recommended.

## CONTINGENCY DISCLOSURE

In the event of a major campus emergency (such as a natural disaster, epidemic, campus shutdown etc.) the requirements, deadlines, and grading policies and percentages as detailed in this syllabus are subject to changes that may be required by an officially revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted, once the course resumes, on the course site on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the instructor.

## LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

All assignments may be turned in before the assigned deadline. Late assignments will NOT be accepted, except for in cases of *documented* emergencies (death, hospitalization, etc.), as determined by the instructor. Leaving assignments to the last minute and encountering unexpected problems does not constitute an emergency. *Late assignments will be treated as uncompleted and receive no points.*

Blackboard problems do occur. Please report Blackboard issues, missing links or outages to me by email ASAP.

April 1: The Nazi State

April 3: The Hitler Myth

April 5: **DISCUSSION:** *Triumph of the Will* and the *Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl* (videos – on BB)

**Childers:** Chapters 12-13 and Ian Kershaw, *Hitler* (excerpt on BB)

**Quiz 8**

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April 8: Nazi Foreign Policy

April 10: War Begins

April 12: **DISCUSSION:** Boyd, Chapters 7-19 (book)

**Childers:** none

**Quiz 9**

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April 15: Eastern Front

April 17: The Final Solution

April 19: **DISCUSSION:** *Mein Krieg* (video – on BB)

**Childers:** Chapters 15-16 (14 optional)

**Quiz 10**

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April 22: Total War

April 24: Resistance?

April 26: Collapse

**Childers:** Chapters 17

**No Quiz**

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**FINAL EXAM:** Time and Place TBA

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

During this course, you should achieve the following objectives:

- Explain how and why Adolf Hitler and the Nazis seized and exercised power, and the consequences for Germany and Europe
- Distinguish between secondary and primary sources, and critically read both types of sources.
- Synthesize information and arguments from both types of sources.
- Engage in independent historical interpretation with the use of primary and secondary sources.
- Compose analytical essays in fluid English prose with thesis statements, clear organization, and appeals to concrete evidence.

## GRADING SCALE

94-100 = A

90-93 = A-

87-89 = B+

83-86 = B

80-82 = B-

77-79 = C+

73-76 = C

70-73 = C-

67-69 = D+

63-66 = D

60-62 = D-

0-59 = F