
History 323

German History

Instructor: Dr. Deborah Fleetham

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Office: UNIV 126

Office Hours: M 3:30-4:30 or by appt.

You can usually catch me after class.

Course Description

How could the Germans, a people of great historical and cultural accomplishments, produce the barbarity of Nazism and the Holocaust? This is the central question of modern German history. This survey introduces German history with brief coverage of the reformation, and then turns to a more detailed study Germany since Napoleon including German unification under Bismarck, the rise and fall of the Weimar Republic, and the victories and defeats of Hitler and the Nazis, the post-war division of Germany and German reunification with a brief glimpse at present-day Germany.

Course Requirements

Please refer to the course [Academic Honesty](#) and AI/LLM policies.

Attendance/Participation (20%) – Active student engagement and participation are key components of this course. Daily attendance is expected, and attendance will be taken. Participation will be figured separately as a part of this score. Please plan accordingly. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet. Points will be deducted per absence after four absences, with exceptions made in special circumstances and for excused absences. Please refer to the [Attendance/Participation Policy](#). For record-keeping purposes, please report excused absences through a link in the Contact Professor Fleetham folder on Brightspace.

Primary Document Assignment (10%) – We will be reading several short primary documents as part of this class. These readings are listed on the schedule as [Primary Document\(s\)](#). In order to prep understanding before class, you will have a short assignment to complete on these readings. These assignments are posted in the weekly folders on Brightspace. **Due date: 9 am on the morning of the discussion.**

Friday Reading and Summary (15%) – You will have an assigned reading and an assignment to complete each Friday. On the Fridays marked **DISCUSSION**, the class will be devoted to a discussion of those readings. On other Fridays, I have assigned a reading that I will expect you to have read that but that we may not discuss in depth. To prepare for these classes, your assignment is to complete the assignment on Brightspace about the reading. These assignments are due at **9 am on Friday morning** to give me the opportunity to look at them before class.

NOTE: Two of these assignments will fall on *MONDAY or *WEDNESDAY rather than Friday.

Wednesday, November 15

Monday, November 20

Textbooks

Konrad Jarausch, *Broken Lives: How Germans Experienced the 20th Century*. (Princeton, 2018)

- *Paper copies are available for purchase in the bookstores. You also have free access to the e-version through Purdue libraries. The link will be posted in Brightspace.*

All other required readings are listed on the schedule and are available (for free) on Brightspace.

Academic Honesty Policies

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 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 the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR), where university penalties, including removal from the university, may be considered. *See also academic honesty links in Purdue Resources tab on Brightspace.*

Cheating includes (but is not limited to): turning in someone else's work as your own or having someone complete assignments for you.

AI/LLM Policy: Submitting AI/LLM generated writing or research as your own is academic dishonesty and carries the same penalties as plagiarism. If any portion of your assignment was generated by a chatbot/AI/LLM application without expressed permission from the instructor, you are in violation of the academic integrity

Short Essays (30%) – Write two essays on topics we will discuss in class. Questions for each essay (based on lectures, readings, and discussions) will be handed out at least a week before the due date.

Multiple options will be offered throughout the semester. Dates and topics to be announced. I am not setting dates in advance to give us flexibility and be responsive to our class discussions. You will receive sufficient notice of deadlines. I am respectful of the fact you are busy people with other academic obligations, and I will not spring anything on you at the last minute.

Final Essay (25%) – The final essay will be a question based on Jarausch, *Broken Lives*. The format of this essay will be announced in October.

Class Etiquette

- Please be on time.
- Use electronic devices *only* for class purposes. As examples, it is rude to watch YouTube, sports highlights, text with friends, engage in social media, or do other homework during class. Even when I don't call it out, I notice.
- Remove earbuds/headphones during class.

Course Schedule

Friday Reading and Summary: Read assigned chapter/book and submit assignment to Brightspace by Friday at 9am. Reading links/PdFs are posted on Brightspace.

Primary Document/Assignment: Read assigned primary document(s) (posted on Brightspace); submit Document Assignment to Brightspace by 9am on day assigned.

DISCUSSION: this class will be devoted to student discussion in small and large groups.

Lecture outlines will be posted on Brightspace prior to class to aid you with notetaking.

Week 1: Introduction

August 21 – Introduction

August 23 – German Questions

August 25 – Martin Luther and the Reformation

Friday Reading and Summary: Neil MacGregor, “A Language for All Germans”

Week 2: Napoleon and Vormärz (pre-March) Germany

August 28 – In the beginning was Napoleon

Primary Document/Assignment: To My People

August 30 – Music and the German Nation

Primary Document/Assignment: German Anthems

Sept 1 – Germanies

Friday Reading and Summary: David Blackbourn, “Germany in Transition”

Week 3: Revolutions of 1848

September 4 – LABOR DAY

September 6 – Revolution: 1848-49

Primary Document/Assignment: The Heppenheim Program

September 8 – **DISCUSSION:** The Communist Manifesto

Friday Reading and Summary: Marx and Engels, The Communist Manifesto

Week 4: Bismarck and the German Empire (1862-1890)

September 11 – Bismarck and the Founding of the German state

expectations of this course and the university. It may result in a failure or rewrite of the assignment. Serious cases may result in failure of the course and will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further review of your status at this University.

The purpose of this policy is not to be punitive, but to make clear that in this class, **your** own reading, analysis, and writing are more valuable than AI. You are serving as *your own historian*, a task that AI cannot replace. If I want to know what Chat GPT thinks, I can feed it prompts and read its response. In this class, I am evaluating in **YOUR** responses and the maturing of your knowledge, ethics, values, and wisdom.

If you have concerns or questions about the AI/LLM policy, please come speak to me. This technology is new to all of us and quickly evolving. We all are figuring out its positive and negative implication for learning.

This policy may be updated in response to the rapid evolution of AI.

Announcements

Announcements will be posted in Brightspace. Time-sensitive announcements will also be emailed. Check both regularly and always before class. If I need to cancel or modify class, I will post an announcement and email you.

Attendance/Participation Policy

This course follows Purdue's academic regulations regarding attendance, which states that students are expected to be present for every meeting of the classes in which they are enrolled. Evidence suggests that regular class attendance improves your learning, academic performance, and social and emotional well-being.

Active participation and regular attendance in this course are expected. and attendance will be taken. It your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet.

At times, missing class in unavoidable; you are allowed 4 unexcused absences without penalty. Your attendance score will decrease for each absence after 4. Discussion and attendance grades will be tallied separately.

Discussion Policy: Attendance is required to receive credit for Friday discussion sessions (see syllabus for dates). *One Discussion grade will be dropped to accommodate illness/excused absences. In special,*

Primary Documents/Assignment: Germany's Unification and Iron and Blood

September 13 – Monuments to the Nation

September 15 – **DISCUSSION** – German unity and division

Friday Reading and Summary: Jaraush, *Broken Lives*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Week 5: German Imperial Society (1870-1914)

September 18 – Catholics and National Minorities

Primary Documents/Assignment: Pulpit Law

September 20 – Workers and Social Democrats

Primary Documents/Assignment: Anti-Socialist Law and Gotha Program

September 22 – **DISCUSSION: Working Class Life**

Friday Reading and Summary: Kelly, *German Workers* (See instructions on Brightspace)

Week 6: Wilhelmine Germany and the Road to War (1890-1914)

September 25 – German Jews and Anti-Semitism

Primary Documents/Assignment:

September 27 – Parties and Politics

September 29 – Wilhelmine Germany: Empire and Navy

Friday Reading and Summary: David Blackbourn, “Germany and the Coming of War”

Week 7: Germany and the First World War

October 2 – Spirit of 1914

Primary Documents/Assignment

October 4 – The Front

October 6 – The Defeat

Friday Reading and Summary: David Blackbourn, “Germany at War”

Week 8: The Weimar Republic

October 9 – FALL BREAK

October 11 – The Peace

October 13 – **DISCUSSION: Weimar Children**

Friday Reading and Summary: Jaraush, *Broken Lives*, Chapter 2

Week 9: The Weimar System and its Collapse

October 16 – Weimar Politics

October 18 – Weimar Culture

Primary Documents/Assignment

October 20 – Why Weimar Failed

Friday Reading and Summary: Matthew Stibbe, “The Weimar Republic and the Rise of National Socialism” in *The Oxford History of the Third Reich*

Week 10: The Rise of the Nazis

October 23 – Hitler and the Nazi Party

October 25 – Seizure of Power

October 27 – **DISCUSSION: Nazis in Power**

Friday Reading and Summary: Hermann Beck, “The Nazi ‘Seizure of Power’” in *The Oxford History of the Third Reich*

Week 11: The Nazi State

October 30 – The National Community (*Volksgemeinschaft*)

November 1 – Nazi Propaganda: The Olympics

Primary Documents/Assignment

November 3 – **DISCUSSION: Nazi Adolescents**

limited circumstances with my permission, you may be able to complete an alternate assignment for credit.

For excused absences: It is your responsibility to inform me any excused absences. For record-keeping purposes, please report your absence at the link in the “Contact Prof. Fleetham folder” in Brightspace to an absence due to illness or for anticipated absences such as for university-sponsored activities, religious observances, grief/bereavement, military service, jury duty, parental leave, or job interviews.

Boiler Cast Recordings

Boilercast class recordings will not be routinely available on Brightspace. Watching class from home is not the same as attending in person. Please contact me if you have an approved absence (see above), a documented disability, or a special consideration that requires you to have access to a Boilercast recording.

Late Assignment Policy

All assignments may be turned in before the assigned deadline. Late assignments will NOT be accepted, except for in cases of emergencies (death, hospitalization, etc.), as determined by the instructor. Please alert me to any problems as far in advance as possible. 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.*

Contingency Disclosure

Any changes to syllabus or course schedule due to unforeseen events will be communicated in class and on Brightspace announcements.

In the event of a major campus emergency (such as a natural disaster, epidemic, etc.) the requirements, deadlines, and grading policies/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 Brightspace or can be obtained by contacting the instructor.

University Information

The university provides several resources for student success and well-being. Links to up-to-date university policies and resources can be

Friday Reading and Summary: Jaraush, *Broken Lives*, Chapter 3

Week 12: World War II

November 6 - The Road to War and *Blitzkrieg*

November 8 - The Eastern Front

November 10 - **DISCUSSION:** The Experience of War

Friday Reading and Summary: Jaraush, *Broken Lives*, Chapters 4, 5, 6 (See Instructions)

Week 13: Beginning Again

November 13 - Year Zero (*Stunde Null*)

*November 15 - **DISCUSSION:** Defeat as New Beginning

Wednesday Reading and Summary: Jaraush, *Broken Lives*, Chapter 7

November 17 - German Federal Republic (BRD - West Germany)

Thanksgiving Week:

*November 20 - **DISCUSSION:** Democratic Maturity

Monday Reading and Summary: Jaraush, *Broken Lives*, Chapter 8

November 22 - THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 24 - THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14: Two Germanies

November 27 - German Democratic Republic (DDR - East Germany)

Primary Documents: [Thälmann Pioneers](#)

November 29 - Munich Olympics and the two Germanies

December 1 - **DISCUSSION:** Communist Disillusionment

Friday Reading and Summary: Jaraush, *Broken Lives*, Chapter 9

Week 15: Together Again

December 4 - 1989 and the Wende

*December 6 - **DISCUSSION:** Memories

Wednesday Reading: Jaraush, *Broken Lives*, Conclusion

December 8 - The German 20th Century

Exam Week (TBA)

found on Brightspace. Feel free to contact me, the Office of the Dean of Students, or your advisor with questions about any of these resources:

Student Help and Success

The University provides services and resources to students, links to which you can find in Student Help and Success: counselling and psychological services registrar, financial aid, academic advising, veterans success center, employment, and career services.

Accessibility Information

For information on disability resources and accessibility, see the enclosed link to the Disability Resource Center. Even if you have had the DRC send me your accommodation, please also meet with me so that we can work together to put in place the appropriate accommodations.

University Policies and Resources

Includes grief absences, academic integrity, nondiscrimination, student conduct code emergency preparedness, violent behavior, and freedom of expression.

Grading Scale

A 94-100 **A-** 90-93 **B+** 87-89 **B** 83-86 **B-** 80-82
C+ 77-79 **C** 73-76 **C-** 70-72 **D+** 67-69 **D** 63-68 **D-** 60-62 **F** 59 and below

Learning Outcomes

- Comprehend, recall, and compare key themes in German history
- Read, analyze, and discuss primary source and secondary sources
- Respond to complex questions with original and well-argued essays

