

Divided Germany and the Cold War, 1945-1990

History 423 / Spring 2022

Cleft in two by the Cold War, postwar Germany provides an outstanding vantage-point for studying the clash between capitalism and communism. The American occupation, with its mission to “de-Nazify, de-militarize, de-mocratize, and de-cartelize” the Germans, laid the groundwork for a dazzling economic recovery in the western zones of the country. The Soviet occupation of eastern Germany produced a mirror image of the Stalinist system, with a tightly controlled economy and constant surveillance of the citizenry. East and West Germany rose to become model members of their respective alliances, the Warsaw Pact and NATO; each advertised itself as “the *good* Germany.” The shadow of the Holocaust lingered over both states, however, and we’ll examine how each society sought to suppress or atone for the memory of Nazism.

Course Objectives (Learning Outcomes)

Aside from conveying an understanding of the course material, this reading seminar is designed to:

- improve students’ ability to communicate their ideas in a classroom setting
- enhance students’ skills in analyzing historical scholarship critically
- help students synthesize material into well-argued essays
- guide students in a scholarly evaluation of primary source material

Course requirements

Participation (10% of course grade). This is a reading-intensive course, with a substantial emphasis on classroom discussions. The occasional reading quiz may also factor into the participation grade.

First paper (20% of course grade). This five-page paper examines the nature of the Cold War competition in Germany. Due Friday, Feb. 11 at the end of the day.

Second paper (20% of course grade). This five-page paper will compare and contrast two approaches to studying history & memory. Due Friday, March 11 in class.

Third paper (20% of course grade). This five-page paper concerns West German social movements of the 1970s and 1980s. Due Friday, April 15 in class.

Primary source exercise (30% of course grade). You will choose a set of primary sources and work up an original analysis of 2,500 words (approximately 9-10 double-spaced pages). Due Friday, May 6 at 5 pm.

Course Readings

The following paperbacks are required for this course and available from Follett’s or the University Bookstore. In case you wish to search for these items from an on-line retailer, be sure to make use of the ISBN numbers below to ensure that you wind up with the right edition.

Peter C. Caldwell and Karrin Hanshew, *Germany since 1945: Politics, Culture, and Society* (London: Bloomsbury, 2018). ISBN-13 (paperback): 978-1-474-26241-5.

Astrid M. Eckert, *West Germany and the Iron Curtain: Environment, Economy, and Culture in the Borderlands* (New York: Oxford, 2021). ISBN-13 (paperback): 978-0-197-58231-2.

Nora Krug, *Belonging: A German Reckons with History and Home* (New York: Scribner, 2019). ISBN-13 (paperback): 978-1-476-79663-5.

Susan Neiman, *Learning from the Germans: Race and the Memory of Evil* (New York: Picador, 2020). ISBN-13: 978-1-250-75011-2.

In addition, individual articles and book chapters will be posted on Brightspace. Please note: all reading assignments should be considered required course material!

Course Policies

Attendance is essential. You are allowed six unexcused absences; after that, each absence will be counted against your participation grade. It is not my job to “approve” absences one way or another, but if you expect to be representing the university in an official capacity (sports, band, etc.), please let me know in advance.

Common courtesy suggests that you should arrive on time. If you must leave early, please inform us ahead of time and then raise your hand at the appropriate time. A classroom discussion is not the same thing as a television viewing! Your coming and going may represent a significant distraction.

Contemporary students are tempted by all kinds of electronic distractions that inhibit their ability to learn effectively in class. I am going to ask that you refrain from using any electronic devices during class: no laptops, no tablets, and no phones will be permitted during class. This is your opportunity to perfect the art of note-taking by hand!

Classroom safety: Students (and professor) must be remained masked at all times, with the mask covering mouth and nose securely.

Academic integrity: The assignments in this course require you to formulate complex thoughts in your own words. Attempts to pass off another’s words as your own – be it on an exam or in your primary source exercise – will carry harsh penalties. Plagiarized papers will earn a “zero” for the assignment and may lead to further consequences, including notification of the Dean of Students Office. The “University Regulations” handbook contains further information on dishonesty.

Disclaimer: In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted, once the course resumes, on the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructor via email or phone.

Contact Information

Prof. Gray (wggray@purdue.edu)
Office hours in University Hall 328:
Thursday 11:30 am - 1:30 pm or by Zoom appointment
Office phone (765) 496-2772

Discussion and Reading Schedule**Read for class**

Jan. 10	Introduction	
Jan. 12	Zero Hour	C & H, 1-14, 18-43
Jan. 14	Fraternization	Goedde article
Jan. 17	NO CLASS (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY)	
Jan. 19	“Rubble Women”	Heineman article (I)
Jan. 21	Two Germanys	C & H, 44-69
Jan. 24	The 1950s	C & H, 70-101
Jan. 26	Rock ’n Roll	Poiger article
Jan. 28	The New Border	Eckert, 1-51
Jan. 31	East-West Competition I: Diplomacy	Gray chapter; Paulmann article
Feb. 2	East-West Competition II: Sports	Dichter chapter
Feb. 4	The Economic Miracle	Heineman article (II)
Feb. 7	Outside the Miracle Zone	Eckert, 53-83
Feb. 9	The Border as Tourist Attraction	Eckert, 85-123
Feb. 11	The Berlin Wall [PAPER #1 DUE 11:59 PM]	
Feb. 14	The 1960s in West Germany	C & H, 102-124
Feb. 16	The 1960s in East Germany	C & H, 125-143; Neiman, 3-20
Feb. 18	Memory Politics in Germany (I)	Neiman, 23-80
Feb. 21	Memory Politics in Germany (II)	Neiman, 81-132
Feb. 23	Family Memories in Germany (I)	Krug, Parts 1-4
Feb. 25	Family Memories in Germany (II)	Krug, Parts 5-11
Feb. 28	Family Memories in Germany (III)	Krug, Parts 12-Epilogue
March 2	Memory Politics in Mississippi (I)	Neiman, 135-210
March 4	Memory Politics in Mississippi (II)	Neiman, 211-258

March 7	Comparing Monuments	Neiman, 261-307
March 9	Comparing Reparations	Neiman, 308-350
March 11	Closing Arguments [PAPER #2 DUE IN CLASS]	Neiman, 351-391
	- SPRING BREAK -	
March 21	The 1970s in West Germany	C & H, 170-195
March 23	The Sexual Revolution	Herzog chapter
March 25	West German Terror	TBA
March 28	The 1970s in East Germany	C & H, 196-216; Zatlin article
March 30	Cross-Border Pollution	Eckert, 126-158
April 1	The Border Environment	Eckert, 159-199
April 4	Nuclear Waste	Eckert, 203-252
April 6	The 1980s in West Germany	C & H, 217-240
April 8	Peace Movements	Becker-Schaum chapters
April 11	"Guest Workers"	Miller chapter
April 13	Black Germans	Florvil chapter
April 15	The Revolution of 1989 [PAPER #3 DUE IN CLASS]	C & H, 240-264
April 18	"Ossis" and "Wessis"	C & H, 267-292
April 20	Red-Green Reforms	C & H, 293-319
April 22	Merkel's Germany	C & H, 320-349
April 25	Film: <i>One, Two, Three</i>	
April 27	Film: <i>One, Two, Three</i>	
April 29	Film: <i>One, Two Three</i>	
May 6	PRIMARY SOURCE PAPER DUE, 5:00 PM	