AS 100.233 – Spring 2018
History of Modern Germany
Monday/Wednesday 1:30 – 2:45
Hanno Balz

General Reading:


Mon. 29 Jan: ** No Class**

Wed. 31 Jan: Course overview and introduction

Mon. 5 Feb: What is Germany?

Wed. 7 Feb: The German Nation

Required Reading:

Mon. 12 Feb: Bismarck’s shaping of Modern Germany

Required Reading:


Wed. 14 Feb: Conflicts in Imperial Germany: Anti-Socialist Laws and Kulturkampf
Required Reading:

Mon. 19 Feb: Discussion Session

Wed. 21 Feb: Discussion Session

Mon. 26 Feb: „Gründerzeit“ and „Jugendstil“: Cultural Modernity and Industrialization

Required Reading:

Wed. 28 Feb: „Our own place in the sun“: German Colonialism and Imperialism

Required Reading:

Mon. 5 Mar: From War Fever to Revolution: World War I

Required Reading:

Wed. 7 Mar: The Weimar Republic: A Contested Mass Society

*** First essay due at noon this day ***

Required Readings:

Mon. 12 Mar: Berlin’s Radical Aesthetics
Required Reading:

Wed. 15 Mar: From Nazi-Movement to Nazi-State

Required Reading:

Mon. 26 Mar: Between „Triumph of the Will“ and „Degenerate Art“

Required Reading:

Wed. 28 Mar: From Persecution to Genocide: The Holocaust

Required Reading:

Mon. 2 Apr: The Holocaust in German History

Required Reading:


Wed. 4 Apr: Discussion Session

Mon. 9 Apr: “Zero Hour”? The Emergence of Two Germanies

Required Reading:


Wed. 11 Apr: Young Rebels, Old Nazis

*** Second essay due at noon this day ***

Required Reading:


Mon. 16 Apr: Anti-Communism vs. the Berlin Wall

Required Reading:


Wed. 18 Apr: Discussion Session

Mon. 23 Apr: Cultural Revolution

Required Reading:


Wed. 25 Apr: 70’s Crisis: “The Irritated Federal Republic”

Required Readings:


Mon. 30 Apr: How the Wall Came Down
**Required Reading:**


**Wed. 2 May: A Tale of Two Germanies: Conclusion**

*** Third essay due at noon this day ***

**Required Reading:**


**Learning Goals:**

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- see the emergence of Hitler and the Nazi Regime as being rooted in earlier German history.
- understand German history being shaped by several breaks and turns.
- debate how the Holocaust has universal meaning for societies all over the world until today.
- analyze current German society and politics and how these have been influenced by history and memory.
- find a suitable topic for their third essay and conduct a literature/media/sources search.

Your final grade for the course will be determined by three 5-7-page (2000 to 2700 words, excluding bibliography) essays on assigned (essay one and two) and self-chosen (essay three) topics (25% each) and participation in class discussion (25%). No extensions or incompletes will be granted, except for medical reasons. All essays must be submitted in order to pass the course.

The general reading coursebook is available for purchase at the campus bookstore. Copies also have been placed on reserve at the library. Other articles, chapters, and primary sources will be accessible online.
The following statement is provided by JHU:
The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. See Ethics Board Web Site (http://ethics.jhu.edu) for more information.