History of Modern Germany
MW 6.00-7.15 pm, Gilman 132
AS 100.233 – Winter 2018

Instructor: Dr. Victoria Harms
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Teaching Assistant: Elliot Root
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Office hours: Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 pm

There is more to Germany than beer, BMWs, and Bayern Munich. In this class, we will explore the history of Germany since 1860. We will interrogate the relationship between politics, culture, economics and society to understand Germany’s position within Europe and the world throughout the last 160 years. The class focuses on the following periods: the German Empire and its collapse in World War I, the interwar period and the short-lived Weimar Republic, National Socialism and the Third Reich, World War II and the Holocaust, the two Germanies (East and West) during the Cold War, the Berlin Republic since 1989 and its role in shaping the affairs of the European Union today. We will not take a parochial national approach but investigate German history in relation to its European neighbors and its friends and foes around the world.

Apart from reading secondary literature, students are expected to engage in class discussions and work with primary sources, movies, and short documentary films and conduct their own online research.

General Reading:


Learning objectives:
✓ Assessing secondary literature
✓ Analyzing and interpreting primary sources
✓ Critical use of feature and documentary films
✓ Critical inquiries into the representation of history in museums & memorials
✓ Comparative and entangled histories
✓ Informed online research
This syllabus serves as a contract between you and me that explains what I expect of you, and what you may expect of me. By enrolling in this class, you accept the terms laid out below. Please read them carefully. If at any time I need to make changes to the syllabus, I will provide as much advanced notice as possible.

**Grading:**

25% Class Participation
25% Quizzes
25% Primary source analysis
25% Essay

**Assignments:**

**Class Participation:**
Make sure you come to class prepared and on time. You are expected to engage with the assigned material as well as with your fellow students during discussion sessions and group work. Common rules of courtesy apply.

**Quizzes:**
You will write at least six pop quizzes in the course of the term. The lowest grade will be dropped. The quizzes will contain one or two questions about the assigned reading for that week. You will find all reading questions for each class on blackboard. They are identical with the questions on the quizzes. You will be able to complete each quiz in 5-8 minutes.

**Primary Source Analysis:**
Pick a primary source from the list provided on blackboard and analyze it. Make sure to properly introduce the source and author. Pay attention to the potential target audience, the author’s intention, possible biases and message. Be very clear about the historical context in which the source has been produced. Carefully differentiate between the pre-history and the aftermath/consequence/the history that came after the source had been created the source.

Please inform the instructor and the TA about your choice of primary source by October 26, 2018.

Write three pages max., double-spaced.
**Deadline:** November 10, 2018, at 11.59 pm.

**Essay:**
Pick any one year between 1871 and 2018 and explain its relevance for German history. What does it stand for? Why is it relevant? What happened? What makes it special and/
or representative for German history at large? What do you learn from this one year about modern German history in general?

Compose a convincing, well-structured argument using references to material assigned and discussed in class.

Please inform the instructor and the TA about your choice by November 26. Do prepare a preliminary list of material (secondary literature and primary sources) you wish to use.

Write three to four pages, double-spaced (plus bibliography and (optional) cover page). Deadline: December 10, 2018, at 11.59 pm.

All Written Assignments:

- Margins 1” all around, 12 pt. font size, font: Times (New Roman), Arial, Calibri, Cambria or similar.
- Submit via blackboard.
- Add page numbers
- List of references (separate page)
- Add ONLY your university ID to enhance blind reviewing

Papers in this class will be graded blindly. This is a way for me and the TA to be as fair and transparent as possible in grading your work. Please mark all your papers with your ID number (not your JHED), rather than your name.


In addition to the formal requirements, the essays are graded based on the primary and secondary sources consulted, clarity of argument, style of writing, and organization.
SCHEDULE

Aug 30 (instead of Sept 3): Introduction

Sept 5: Out of Many One


• Carlsbad Decrees: Confederal Press Law (September 20, 1819) in GHDI.

• The Democrats: Gustav von Struve: Motion in the German Pre-Parliament (March 31, 1848) in GHDI.

• The Liberals: Founding Program of the German Progressive Party (June 9, 1861) in GHDI.

Sept 10: The Making of the German Empire


• “The Nightmare of Coalitions”: Bismarck on the Other Great Powers (1879/1898) in GHDI.

• Secret Reinsurance Treaty with Russia (June 18, 1887) in GHDI.

Sept 12: World War I


• Check the World War I collection at Europeana. (Instructions on blackboard)

Sept 17: Weimar Republic

• *Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung*: “Enough is Enough! Against the Masculinization of Women” (March 25, 1925) in GHDI.


### Sept 19: Patriotism, Pacifism, Defeatism

- *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930), directed by Lewis Milestone, based on the novel by Erich Maria Remarque, 133 mins.

### Sept 24: The Rise of Fascism in Germany


- Adolf Hitler, “Appeal to the German People” (February 1, 1933) in GHDI.
- *Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service* (April 7, 1933) in GHDI.

### Sept 26: Film screening


### Oct 1: The Third Reich


### Oct 3: World War II


• Martin Bormann’s Minutes of a Meeting at Hitler’s Headquarters (July 16, 1941) in GHDI.

Oct 8: The Holocaust (Columbus Day)


Oct 10: Post-War (Dis-) Order


• Anonymous, A Woman in Berlin. April 22-23, pp. 16-26; April 27 – May 1, pp. 44-71; May 2-4, pp. 94-124; May 13, pp. 172-191; May 21-25, pp. 201-212; May 28-31, pp. 224-232; June 16, pp. 257-261.

Oct 15: Two Germanies


• Neues Deutschland: “Bill Haley and NATO,” (October 31, 1958) in GHDI.


• Report by the SED Factory Party Organization at the VEB Bergmann-Borsig (December 1, 1955), in GHDI.

Oct 17: The Making of the Bundesrepublik

• DW Documentary: “The 50th Anniversary of the Turkish-German Guest Worker Treaty,” September 23, 2013, 6 mins. (watch in class)

Oct 22: 1968 or the Long Sixties


** October 26: Choice of Primary Source Due

Oct 29: Willy Brandt’s Eastern Policies


• Egon Bahr, “Change through Rapprochement,” speech delivered on July 15, 1963, at the Evangelical Academy in Tutzing, in GHDI.


Oct 31: Independent study (Halloween – class does not meet)

• Good Bye, Lenin! (2003), directed by Wolfgang Becker


Nov 5: Discussion Session

Nov 7: The GDR – Consolidated Socialism?

• Traude Ratsch, Interview with Roland Jahn: “Personally, I am not a Pacifist,” tageszeitung (July 21, 1983) in GHDI.


**November 10: Deadline Primary Source Analysis**

Nov 12: Neoconservative Revolution in the 1980s (Veterans Day)


Nov 14: 1989: Germany Unites

• DW Documentary: German Reunification - a Short History, January 13, 2017, 43 mins. (watch at home)


Nov 19 & 21: Thanksgiving Break

Nov 26: The Berlin Republic


• DW Documentary: “Twenty Years after the German Capital Moved from Bonn to Berlin,” June 17, 2011, 6 mins. (watch at home)
Nov 28: German Memory

- Check the official website of the Foundation Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin. (instructions on blackboard)

** Nov 30: Choice of Year (Essay) Due

Dec 3: Guestworkers, Ausländer and Migrants

- DW Documentary: “The Turkish-German Guest Worker Treaty: Integration Successes and Failures,” September 30, 2011, 6 mins. (watch at home)

Dec 5: Germany and Europe: New Challenges


*** December 12 at 11.59 pm: Deadline Essay

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General policies

Absences
Absences are excused for illness, religious observance, participation in certain university activities, and other circumstances described in the university’s policies and must be explained to your TA at least 48 hours before class.

Academic Integrity
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.

Accommodations
Accommodations will be made for those who need them. Please come talk with me in the first two weeks of the semester to discuss your needs. Any student with a disability who may need accommodations in this class must obtain an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services, 385 Garland, (410) 516-4720, studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu.

Communication
I read and respond to email during regular business hours, 9-5, Monday thru Friday. Please use proper formatting and address when writing your email. The best way to reach me is to come to my office hours.

Mental Health
The University is aware that many students experience anxiety, depression, and other emotional challenges. If you would like to speak to a professional counselor, please visit the campus Counseling Center. Information is available on the Counseling Center's website: https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/counselingcenter/

Screen Policy
Laptops, electronic readers, and cell phones are both a boon and a distraction to higher education. Current research suggests that most of us learn better through longhand note taking. Computers are not forbidden in this class, you will in fact need them for some in-class assignments. It is your choice how to make the best use of them. Social media, texting, chatting, email, and other non-class related activities are prohibited during class time. Make sure all of your devices are silenced.