

**History of Modern Germany**  
**TTH 1.30- 2.45 pm, Gilman 55**  
**AS 100.233 – Fall 2019**

**Instructor: Dr. Victoria Harms**

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Office hours: Tuesdays, 10 am -12 pm, and by appointment, Gilman 342

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There is more to Germany than beer, BMWs, and Bayern Munich. In this class, we will explore the history of Germany since 1740, however, our focus will be the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We will interrogate the relationship between politics, culture, economics and society to understand Germany's position within Europe and the world throughout the last 150 years. The class pays special attention to: the making of 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 Germany's role 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, documentary films, short video clips and conduct their own 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. In the unlikely case that I need to make changes to the syllabus, I will provide as much advanced notice as possible. Please allow up to 24 hours for responses to email inquiries during the semester.*

*Whenever you have any procedural concerns or questions about rules and formalities, please let me know.*

*Please declare your preferred name and pronoun.*

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
- ✓ Understanding comparative, transnational and entangled history
- ✓ Informed online research

Required Reading:

William W. Hagen, *German History in Modern Times. Four Lives of the Nation*. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Optional:

R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society. A Brief History in Documents*. Macmillan Learning, 2009.

Primo Levi. *Survival in Auschwitz*.

- or any edition based on the 1958 original published by Giulio Einaudi.

Anonymous. *A Woman in Berlin. Eight Weeks in the Conquered City: a Diary*. New York: Metropolitan Books/Henry Holt, 2005.

- or any other edition based on the “Eine Frau in Berlin. Tagebuchaufzeichnungen” 1959 original or 2003 revised edition.

**Grading:**

- 20% Class participation
- 25% Quizzes
- 20% Primary source analysis
- 25% Essay
- 10% Response paper

**Assignments:**

**Class Participation: 20%**

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.

At the beginning of each class, we recap the main points of our previous session. If you hesitate to speak out in larger groups feeling unprepared or inadequate this as an excellent opportunity to contribute to the general discussion. Just revisit your notes from the last meeting before class. Whenever you have questions or need clarification, please speak up.

Attendance is the most basic requirement for a college education. If you miss more than four classes unexcused/ without legitimate reasons (such as conflicting athletic, ROTC, academic obligations) **you will not receive a passing grade.**

**Quizzes: 20%**

You will write at least five pop quizzes in the course of the term. The lowest grade will be dropped. For each week, you will find reading questions on blackboard. The quizzes will contain one or two questions from that list. In short, the quiz questions are identical with the reading questions. Quizzes

are open book: you are free to copy the response from your notes. You will be able to complete each quiz in 5-10 minutes.

If you miss class for legitimate reasons (e.g. conflicting athletic, ROTC, academic obligations) and inform the instructor in advance, you are free to submit your reading notes by email. In case of a pop quiz, they will count in lieu of the in-class quiz.

There will be no make up quizzes.

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**Note: Topics of the following three written assignments may relate but have to differ from one another significantly.**

In addition to the formal requirements, written assignments are graded based on the primary and secondary sources consulted (i.e. your research), clarity of argument, style of writing, and organization.

### **Primary Source Analysis: 20%**

Pick a primary source from the list provided on blackboard and write a proper primary source analysis. An explanation of what a primary source analysis has to address will be provided in class. You will find a checklist on blackboard. We will talk about this assignment in class.

Make sure to properly introduce the source and author. Identify the audience, the author's intention, possible biases and the author's message. Be very clear about the historical context in which the source has been produced. Carefully differentiate between the history that has informed author and source prior to its production and the aftermath and consequence following its production and reception. **(max. 6 pages plus bibliography)**

Please declare **your choice of primary source by October 18, 2019**. You will find the journal "Primary Source Analysis" on blackboard. Please enter your choice and any questions here. Please add the literature and sources you wish to consult to complete this assignment. The content of your journal entry is only accessible to you, the instructor and the TA.

**Deadline: October 26, 2019, 11.59 pm.** (blackboard turnitin assignment)

### **Response Paper: 10%**

On November 19, 2019, a public speaker and anti-racism activist from Germany by the name of Ali Çan will give a talk on Homewood campus. You are expected to write a response paper to that presentation and the following discussion. The precise focus of that paper is your choice. The goal is to make the argument relevant and meaningful. **(3 pages)**

**Deadline: November 25, 2019, 11.59 pm** (blackboard turnitin assignment)

### **Essay: 25%**

Pick any **one year** between 1870 and 2019 and explain its relevance for German history. What does it stand for? Why is it relevant? 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 comprehensive, convincing, well-structured argument using references to material assigned/ discussed in class in addition to sources and literature you have researched yourself. (**max. 6 pages plus bibliography**)

Please declare **your choice by December 2, 2019**. You will find the journal “Essay” on blackboard. Please enter your choice and any questions there. Please add the literature and sources you wish to consult to complete this assignment. The content of your journal entry is only accessible to you, the instructor and the TA.

**Deadline: December 15, 2019, at 11.59 pm.** (blackboard turnitin assignment)

### **All Written Assignments - Formal Requirements**

- Margins not smaller than 1” all around, 12 pt. font size, font: Times New Roman, or similar.
- Add a title to any written assignment (give it character)
- Submit via turnitin on blackboard.
- Add page numbers
- List of references (separate page)
- Add your name and basic course information
- file names: ALWAYS add your last name (no spaces in file names)
- check the rules for academic integrity

Grading Scale (JHU standard):

95-100: A,  
90-94: A-  
87-89: B+  
83-86: B  
80-82: B-

77-79: C+  
73-76: C  
70-72: C-  
67-69: D+  
63-66: D

60-62: D-  
59 or below: F

## **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 instructor at least 4 hours before class.

If you miss more than four classes unexcused/ without legitimate reason, you will not pass this 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.

**Make sure to check the rules for Academic Integrity.  
Violations will be reported.**

### **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](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu).

### **Communication**

I read and respond to email within 24 hours 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. Neither laptops nor smartphones are banned in this class, you might 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.**

## SCHEDULE

### Sept 3: Introduction

### Sept 5: Out of Many One

William W. Hagen, "Liberté? Facing the French Revolution, 1789-1815," in *German History in Modern Times. Four Lives of the Nation*, pp. 97-111.

- [Carlsbad Decrees](#): Confederal Press Law (September 20, 1819) in GHDI.

### Sept 10: The Making of the German Empire

William W. Hagen, "Freedom and Voice, 'Iron and Blood' (Eisen und Blut). Liberalism and Nationalism, 1815-1914," in *German History in Modern Times*, pp. 129-152.

- "[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: Working Class

William W. Hagen, "Sozialdemokratie: workers and politics in the age of industrialization," in *German History in Modern Times*, pp. 153-169.

### Sept 17: World War I

William W. Hagen, "*Krieg*: The Prussian-German Monarchy's Sudden Death in War and Revolution, 1914-1920," in *German History in Modern Times*, pp. 227-240.

- Check the World War I collection at [Europeana](#). (Worksheet on blackboard)

### 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.

\*\*Please take notes while watching (beyond the response to the reading question)\*\*

**Sept 24:**  
**Weimar Republic**

William W. Hagen, “Democracy’s Bitter Fruits, 1918-1933,” in *German History in Modern Times*, pp. 241-260.

- *Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung*: “[Enough is Enough!](#) Against the Masculinization of Women” (March 25, 1925) in GHDI.
- Elsbeth Zander, “Tasks Facing the German Woman,” (January 23, 1926), reprinted in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*. (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp. 33-35.
- Elsa Herrmann, “This is the New Woman,” (1929), reprinted in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*. (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp. 40-42.

**Sept 26:**  
**The Rise of Fascism in Germany**

William W. Hagen, “A People without a State? Middle-class discontent and populist utopia,” in *German History in Modern Times*, pp. 284-302.

- 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.

**Oct 1:**  
**The Third Reich**

- Leni Riefenstahl, *Triumph of the Will*, 1935. approx. 105 mins.

Video: <https://archive.org/details/TriumphOfTheWillgermanTriumphDesWillens>

**\*\*Please take notes while watching (beyond the response to the reading question)\*\***

**Oct 3:**  
**Lebensraum & Strife for the East**

William W. Hagen, “Lebensraum: War for Empire in Eastern Europe,” in *German History in Modern Times*, pp. 303-318.

- Adolf Hitler, “Speech before the Reichstag,” (September 1, 1939), reprinted in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*. (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp. 110-112.

- Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of the National Character of the German People, “On the Re-Germanization of Lost German Blood,” (December 1940), reprinted in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*, pp. 112-113.

**Oct 8:  
World War II**

William W. Hagen, “*Shoah*. Banned from Nation and Earth: German Jews after 1914, National Socialist ‘Jewish Policy,’ and the Holocaust,” in *German History in Modern Times*, pp. 319-350.

- [The Wannsee Protocol](#) (20 January 1942), in GHDI.

**Oct 10:  
The Holocaust**

Primo Levi. *Survival in Auschwitz* (excerpts, “Initiation,” “Ka-Be,” “Our Nights,” pp. 39-65, “This Side of Good and Evil,” and “The Drowned and the Saved,” pp. 77-100)

- **Trigger Warning. This book contains graphic descriptions of violence, inhumane treatment, and genocide.**

**Oct 15:  
Postwar Germany**

Mary Fulbrook, “Occupation and Division, 1945-1949,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 113-141.

“City Councilor Ernst Reuter Appeals to the ["People of the World"](#) (September 9, 1948),” in GDHI – photo and caption.

**Oct 17:  
Occupied**

Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin. Eight weeks in the conquered city: a diary*. New York: Metropolitan Books/Henry Holt, 2005.

- **Trigger Warning. This book contains graphic descriptions of violence and rape.**
- 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.

**October 18, 11.59 pm: choice of primary source**

**Oct 22:**

**The Making of the Bundesrepublik**

William H. Hagen, "Beyond 'zero hour': defeated Germany and the West German Federal Republic, 1949-1989," in *German History in Modern Times. Four Lives of the Nation*, pp. 353-383.

- [Report](#) by the SED Factory Party Organization at the VEB Bergmann-Borsig (December 1, 1955), in GHDI.
- Neues Deutschland: "[Bill Haley and NATO](#)," (October 31, 1958) in GHDI.

**Oct 24:**

**1968 (the Long Sixties)**

Klimke, Martin. "West Germany." In *1968 in Europe. A History of Protest and Activism, 1956-1977*, edited by Martin Klimke and Joachim Scharloth, pp. 97-110. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2008.

- Egon Bahr, "[Change through Rapprochement](#)," speech delivered on July 15, 1963, at the Evangelical Academy in Tutzing, in GHDI.
- "[Rudi Dutschke Demands the Expropriation of the Springer Press Empire](#) (July 10, 1967)," orig. *Der Spiegel* (10 July 1967), in GHDI.

**October 26, 11.59 pm: deadline primary source analysis**

**October 29:**

**The GDR – Consolidated Socialism?**

William W. Hagen, "Real existing socialism": Soviet-occupied Germany and the German Democratic Republic, 1949-1990," in *German History in Modern Times. Four Lives of the Nation*, pp. 384-398.

- Traude Ratsch, [Interview with Roland Jahn](#): "Personally, I am not a Pacifist," *tageszeitung* (July 21, 1983) in GHDI.

**Oct 31:**

**Life in the GDR**

Gary Bruce, "Participatory Repression? Reflections on Popular Involvement with the Stasi," *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute* 52, Supplement 9 (2014), pp. 47-58.

- *Barbara* (2012), directed by Christian Petzold (on Kanopy)

- Alternatively: *Sonnenallee* (2002), directed by Leander Haussmann (M-desk, PN1997.S6663 2002 c. 1)

\*\*Please take notes while watching (beyond the responses to the reading questions).\*\*

**Nov 5:**

**Neoconservative Revolution**

Moeller, Robert G. "War Stories: The Search for a Usable Past in the Federal Republic of Germany." *The American Historical Review* 101, no. 4 (October 1996): 1008-1048.

- Richard von Weizsäcker, [speech in the Bundestag](#) on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II, May 8, 1985.

**Nov 7:**

**1989: Germany Unites**

Mary Fulbrook, "The East German Revolution and the End of the Postwar Era," in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 259-280.

- DW Documentary: [German Reunification - a Short History](#), January 13, 2017, 43 mins.

\*\*Please take notes while watching\*\*

**Nov 12:**

**Berlin Republic**

Mary Fulbrook, "The Berlin Republic," in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 283-300.

- DW Documentary: "[20 Years After the Rostock Riots](#). Life After the Brutal Attacks," 22 August 2017. About 6 mins.

**Nov 14:**

**Multikulti – Germany & Diversity**

*Kebab Connection*, dir. Anno Saul, 2004. 92 mins. (on kanopy)

\*\*Please take notes while watching (beyond the responses to the reading questions)\*\*

Read (at least) two of the selected primary sources from Deniz Göktürk, David Gramling, and Anton Kaes, eds. *Germany in Transit. Nation and Migration, 1955–2005*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2007.

- Theo Sommer, “Breach of Contract or Breach of the Dam?”, *Die Zeit* (19 July 1985).
- Uta Andresen, “Generation Hate,” *tageszeitung* (27-28 March 1999).
- CDU, “Working Principles for the Immigration Commission of the CDU Party of Germany, “ (6 November 2000).
- Central Council for Muslims in Germany, “Statement of the Islamic Council on the Report of the Immigration Commission,” 29 August 2001).
- Pro Asyl, “Counterfeit Labels are Becoming Law,” (18 June 2004).

**Nov 19: class time & location change  
start 6.00 pm in Mudd Hall 26.**

Ali Çan, this talk is sponsored by JHU European Horizons, the German Embassy, the German and Romance Languages and Literatures Department, and the Max Kade Center.

Please read “Ali Can – the two-hearted man, Disruptor #6 – Turkey (Germany), *Politico*, published online 12 April 2018, URL: <https://www.politico.eu/list/politico-28-class-of-2019-the-ranking/ali-can/>

**Nov 21:  
German Memory**

- Check the official [website](#) of the Foundation Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin. (instructions on blackboard)
- DW Documentary: “[Berlin: Traces of the Former Wall](#),” November 23, 2013, 6 mins.

**November 25, 11.59 pm: deadline response paper**

Nov 26 & 28: Thanksgiving Break

**Nov 28:  
Unification and Its Challenges**

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

\*\*Please take notes while watching (beyond the responses to the reading questions).\*\*

**December 2, 11.59 pm: Choice of Essay**

**Dec 3:**

**The End of the German Dream? Guestworkers, *Ausländer* and Refugees**

“Alienating Immigrants. Is Germany lurching to the Right?” *Der Spiegel*, (orig. July 28, 2018), [English translation](#).

Petersen, Brent O. "Peter Schlemihl, the Chamisso Prize, and the Much Longer History of German Migration Narratives." *German Studies Review* 41, no. 1 (February 2018): 81-98.

**Dec 5:**

**Germany and Europe: New Challenges**

- Euronews: “[Germany: Europe’s Growth Engine](#),” September 11, 2013, 12 mins.
- DW Documentary: “[The EU and the Refugee Crisis](#),” January 9, 2018, 28 mins.

**December 15 at 11.59 pm: Deadline Essay**

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