

History of Modern Germany

TTH 1.30- 2.45 pm

AS 100.233

Gilman 50

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Instructor: Dr. Victoria Harms, Gilman 342

Email: vharms1@jhu.edu

Office hours: **Tuesdays, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm, Thursdays, 3.15 – 4.30 pm**

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Office hours: **Wednesdays, 4 – 7 pm**

[zoom details and more on blackboard]

Description

There is more to Germany than beer, BMWs, and Bayern Munich. In this class, we will explore the history of Germany since 1740. Our focus will be the 20th 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 in the European Union today. We will investigate German history in relation to its European neighbors and its friends and foes around the world.

Apart from reading secondary literature and primary sources, students are expected to engage in class discussions and group work, and analyze movies, documentary films, short video clips and conduct independent research online.

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 at least 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**.*

Your time at Hopkins can be stressful, and the various expectations that you are confronted with can feel overwhelming. Please make sure to stay healthy and protect your physical, emotional, and mental well-being. Take the necessary precautions, and seek professional support if necessary. Do not hesitate to reach out to the [Counseling Center](#) during regular working hours 410-516-8278. After hours: press 1. A trained, professional, and diverse staff is ready to assist you.

If you find yourself in a hostile or adverse environment, please take good care of yourself. Your personal safety and emotional and mental well-being is more important than this class. If you sense that something is not right, do not wait, trust your instinct, talk to friends, get assistance. Do not hesitate to reach out to the [Counseling Center](#) during regular working hours 410-516-8278. After hours: press 1.

Learning objectives:

- ✓ Assessing secondary literature
- ✓ Analyzing and interpreting primary sources
- ✓ Critical use of feature and documentary films
- ✓ Critical inquiries into the presentation of historical narratives (in museums, memorials, statues, national holidays, etc.)
- ✓ Understanding comparative, transnational, and entangled history
- ✓ Leading group discussions effectively
- ✓ Understanding the historical dimensions of current affairs

Required Reading:

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

Optional: Fulbrook, Mary. *A History of Germany, 1918-2014*. New York: Wiley Blackwell, 2015.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL

Please make sure to complete the prodensity health check before coming to class, honor testing and vaccination requirements and any other safety and public health regulation introduced on Homewood campus and the City of Baltimore as we continue

to navigate the pandemic. Please prepare for changes during the semester. Let's stay flexible and let's keep each other safe!

If you attend in-person, please have a mobile device, preferably your laptop, and headphones with you for all sessions. You will be asked to interact with your peers on zoom, including during group work sessions. So please have the necessary gadgets ready to make this as smooth of an interaction as possible.

Grading:

- 25% Class participation
- 25% Commentary
- 25% Quizzes
- 25% Primary source analysis

Assignments:

Class Participation: 25%

Make sure you show up to class prepared and on time. This is an interactive lecture course. You are expected to engage with the instructors, assigned material, and your fellow students in break out rooms. Common rules of courtesy apply. Treat everyone kindly and with respect.

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

Pop Quizzes: 25%

We will write six pop quizzes during the term. The lowest grade will be dropped. Each quiz is worth five points. There will be no make-up quizzes.

For each week, you will find reading questions on blackboard. The pop quiz will be one of those, and you are encouraged to **copy** the response from your notes to blackboard. You will have five minutes in class to submit and tweak them.

If you have taken hand-written notes, you may upload a **photo**.

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

Primary Source Analysis: 25%

Pick a primary source from the list provided on blackboard and write a proper primary source analysis. We will discuss the details and expectations in class and provide a checklist on blackboard.

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 1, 2021 EOD**. You will find the journal "Primary Source Analysis" 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: OCTOBER 13, 2021, EOD. (blackboard turnitin assignment)

Commentary/ Reflection "Diversity, Race, and Racism": 25%

On October 28, 2021, two speakers from Germany, Alice Hasters and Dr. Patrice Poutrus, will join us for a roundtable discussion on Morgan State Campus.

You are expected to write a paper loosely about the topics of race, racism, anti-racism, and diversity in Germany. The specific focus of the paper is your choice, but you are expected to present an academic argument. A comparative approach and an argument that includes your own experiences is more than acceptable. Consider this a well-argued reflection on the topic, in which you engage with the speakers' presentations, assignments you have done for his class (and others), and independent research.

Please respect the rules of academic writing, introduce, and organize your argument, and observe the formal requirements for any piece of academic writing you submit.

Please submit your topic and preliminary list of resources you wish to consult and any questions to the corresponding journal on blackboard by **NOVEMBER 6, 2021 EOD**.

Five pages max, double space (plus list of references/ bibliography)

Deadline: NOVEMBER 27, 2021 EOD. (blackboard Turnitin)

Written Assignments - Formal Requirements

- Margins: 1" all around, 12 pt. font size, standard fonts such as Times New Roman, Calibri, Arial, or similar.

- Add your name and basic course information to the top of the first page
- Add a title to any written assignment
- Add page numbers
- List of references (separate page)
- file names: ALWAYS add your last name (no spaces in file names)
- check the rules for academic integrity

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 before class.

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.** If you miss class for reasons other than illness, please make sure to complete the assigned reading and submit your reading note(s) for that week.

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 [Provost's](#) web site for more information.

Students with Disabilities - Accommodations and Accessibility

Johns Hopkins University values diversity and inclusion. We are committed to providing welcoming, equitable, and accessible educational experiences for all students. Students with disabilities (including those with psychological conditions, medical conditions and temporary disabilities) can request accommodations for this course by providing an Accommodation Letter issued by Student Disability Services (SDS). Please request accommodations for this course as early as possible to provide time for effective communication and arrangements. For more, see <https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/disabilities/about/accommodation-descriptions/>

Communication

Please use proper formatting and address when writing your email. The best way to reach me is to come to my office hours. Allow 24 hours for email responses.

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](#).

Screen Policy COVID

Please put all devices except the one you are using away. Turn off notifications and sounds on all other devices. Use your device only for class-related work.

SCHEDULE

August 31: Introduction

September 2: 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.

September 7: The Making of the German Empire (Rosh Hashana)

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.

- "[Dual Alliance with Austria](#), (October 7, 1879)," in GHDI.
- "[Three Emperors' Treaty with Austria and Russia](#), (June 18, 1881)," in GHDI.

September 9: Working Class

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

- Excerpts from Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels (1848), [The Communist Manifesto](#) (check class folder on blackboard)

September 14: German Colonialism

Christoph Hasselbach, "[Germany's colonial era brought to light amid global protest](#)," *DW* (June 22, 2020.)

- Friedrich Fabri, "[Does Germany Need Colonies?](#) (1879)," in GHDI. (7 pages)

- Friedrich Kapp, National Liberal Reichstag Deputy, Speaks out against "[Colonial Chauvinism](#)" (October 22, 1880), in GHDI.
- Bismarck on "[Pragmatic" Colonization](#)" (June 26, 1884), in GHDI.

Optional: Nora McGreevy, "Germany Acknowledges Genocide in Namibia but Stops Short of Reparations," *Smithsonian Magazine*, (June 4, 2021).

September 16: World War I—The Seminal Catastrophe

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.

- Bernhard von Brocke "Scholarship and Militarism: [The Appeal of the 93 to the Civilized World](#)," (October 4, 1914)," in GHDI.

September 21: Patriotism, Pacifism, Defeatism (Yom Kippur)

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

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

September 23: 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.

SEPTEMBER 26: GERMAN FEDERAL ELECTIONS

September 28: The Collapse of Parliamentary Democracy

William W. Hagen, "A People without a State? Middle-class discontent and populist utopia," in *German History in Modern Times*, pp. 261-283.

- 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.

September 30: “The Third Reich”

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

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

October 1: Choice of Primary Source

October 5: Lebensraum & War in 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.

October 7: 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.

October 10: LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES

October 12: The Holocaust (page load)

Primo Levi. *Survival in Auschwitz* (48 letter size pages)

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

October 13: DEADLINE FOR PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS

October 14: Occupied (page load)

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

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

October 19: 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.
- WATCH: "[Berlin Calls the World \(1948\)](#)," *British Pathé*, uploaded April 13, 2014. (turn on subtitles although they are even more off than the audio itself)

October 21: 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.

October 26: 1968 (the Long Sixties)

Do online research on your own and find out what "1968" stands for in (West) Germany. Who were the main actors? What were the main events? What happened in the areas of politics, society, and culture generally speaking?

- "[Rudi Dutschke Demands the Expropriation of the Springer Press Empire](#) (July 10, 1967)," orig. *Der Spiegel* (10 July 1967), in GHDI.

October 28: Diversity, Race, and Racism in Germany

Roundtable with Alice Hasters and Dr. Patrice Poutrus at Morgan State University. Details tba.

Please watch: "[Afro Germany - being black and German](#) | DW Documentary," March 29, 2017. 42 mins.

November 2: 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.

- "[An Expelled East German Dissident Explains the Peace Movement](#) (July 21, 1983)," in GHDI.

November 4: Life & Repression 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)

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

November 6: Choice of Topic for "Diversity, Race, and Racism"

November 9: 1989 (more time-consuming load)

(Diwali & anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall)

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.

November 11: The Challenges of Unification (Veterans Day)

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

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

November 16: 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.

November 18: From "Sick Man" To Europe's Growth Engine

- "[The Sick Man of the Euro](#)," *The Economist*, Special, 3 June 1999.
- Euronews: "[Germany: Europe's Growth Engine](#)," September 11, 2013, 12 mins.

November 22-26: Thanksgiving Break

November 27: DEADLINE COMMENTARY DIVERSITY, RACE, AND RACISM

November 30: "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 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.

- Uta Andresen, "Generation Hate," *tageszeitung* (March 27-28, 1999).
- CDU, "Working Principles for the Immigration Commission of the CDU Party of Germany," (November 6, 2000).
- Central Council for Muslims in Germany, "Statement of the Islamic Council on the Report of the Immigration Commission," (August 29, 2001).
- Pro Asyl, "Counterfeit Labels are Becoming Law," (June 18, 2004).

December 2: Current Challenges

To be decided – probably:

Morris, Loveday. "[Germany's rising Green Party echoes many U.S. policies](#). That could rattle pipeline plans from Russia," *Washington Post* (May 13, 2021).

Leonard, Mark, and Jana Puglierin. "[How to Prevent Germany from Becoming Eurosceptic](#)," *European Council of Foreign Affairs*. Published electronically June 9, 2021.