

History of Modern Germany

TTH 1.30- 2.45 pm

AS 100.233

Gilman 55

Instructor: Dr. Victoria Harms

Email: vharms1@jhu.edu

Zoom Class ID (just in case):

<https://zoom.us/j/92277464511?pwd=TFFuT1JBc0xVYkZYb2dieFhNNlhhdz09>

Passcode: ModGer

Office hours: Gilman 342 or <https://zoom.us/j/159835864> Passcode: OfficeHrs
Tuesdays, 11.00 am-12.30 pm, Thursdays, 3-4 pm (and by appointment)

Please sign up in advance:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/VictoriaHarms@live.johnshopkins.edu/bookings/>

Teaching Assistant: Ibanca Anand

Email: ianand1@jhu.edu

Office hours: Wednesdays, 2-4 pm, Gilman Atrium

Please sign up in advance: <https://calendly.com/i-anand/office-hours>

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 concerns or questions, 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 are more important than any 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 context of current affairs

Required Reading:

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

Optional: Penny, H. Glenn. *German History Unbound. From 1750 to the Present*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022.

Great resource for news from Germany (and beyond) often with some historical context is the youtube channels [DW News](#) and [DW Documentary](#).

Assignments:

Class Participation: 25%

Make sure you show up to class prepared and on time. This is an interactive lecture course with plenty of group work. You are expected to engage with the instructors, assigned material, and your fellow students. Common rules of courtesy apply. Please treat everyone kindly and respectfully.

Attendance is the most basic requirement for a college education. 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 canvas. The questions on the pop quizzes are identical to those. You are encouraged to prepare notes and **copy** them as your quiz response. You will have five minutes in class to submit and tweak them.

If you have to miss class for legitimate reasons (e.g. conflicting academic and athletic 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: Choice (25%)

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

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 12, 2022 EOD.** You will find the module "Primary Source Analysis" on canvas. Please enter your choice and any questions there. If you wish, you can add the literature and sources you plan to consult. The content of your entry is only accessible to you, the instructor, and the TA.

Deadline: OCTOBER 23, 2022, EOD. (canvas)

Qualified Reflection: “Diversity, Race, and Racism” (25%)

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. **(six pages max plus list of references/ bibliography)**

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 module on canvas by **NOVEMBER 19, 2022 (EOD)**.

Deadline: DECEMBER 4, 2022 (EOD). (canvas)

Written Assignments - Formal Requirements

- Margins: 1” all around, 12 pt. font size, standard font (e.g. Times New Roman, Calibri, Arial).
- Your choice of reference style (Chicago, APA, MLA, etc.) as long as you use it correctly and consistently
- Add your name and basic course information to the top of the first page or the cover page
- ALWAYS add your last name to the file name (no spaces in file names)
- Add page numbers
- List of references (bibliography) on a separate page
- Check the rules for [academic integrity](#)

Grading:

25% Class participation
25% Qualified Reflection Paper
25% Quizzes
25% Primary source analysis

Do not attempt to negotiate your final grade, please.

The official cut off between an A and an A- is 94.0. You have all semester to prove you are an “A student.” Do not try to make the case when all grades are in, and you realize you are “only” a few decimal points short. It is unfair to everyone else and disrespectful to the instructors.

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.

Please consult Hopkins' policies on [religious and spiritual holidays](#).

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.

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 Hall, (410) 516-4720, studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu.

Screen Policy

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

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. Communicate any concerns or challenges you are facing early.

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](#).

SCHEDULE

August 30: Introduction

September 1: 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.

September 6: "Vormärz" and the 1848 Revolution

William W. Hagen, "Freedom and Voice, 'Iron and Blood' (Eisen und Blut). Liberalism and Nationalism, 1815-1914," in *German History in Modern Times*, pp. 129-145 (only first half of the chapter, stop at the end of the top paragraph on p. 145 with "Germany's shadow").

- [German Federal Act](#) (June 8, 1815) in GHDI.
- [Carlsbad Decrees](#): Confederal Press Law (September 20, 1819) in GHDI.

In-class:

1. The Liberals: [Heppenheim Program](#) of the Southwest German Liberals (1847)
2. The Democrats: Gustav von Struve: [Motion in the German Pre-Parliament](#) (March 31, 1848)
3. The Conservatives: Friedrich Julius Stahl: "[What is the Revolution?](#)" (1852)

September 8: 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 module on canvas)

September 13: Empire & German Colonialism

William W. Hagen, "Freedom and Voice, 'Iron and Blood' (Eisen und Blut). Liberalism and Nationalism, 1815-1914," in *German History in Modern Times*, pp. 145-152.

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

- 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: "[Germany Returns Stolen Colonial Treasures](#) to Namibia as Reparations Continue," *Euronews* (May 25, 2022).

September 15: 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.

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

September 20: Patriotism, Pacifism, and the Question of Loyalty

All Quiet on the Western Front (1930), directed by Lewis Milestone, based on the novel by Erich Maria Remarque, 133 mins. (worksheet on canvas – take notes)

September 22: Weimar Republic (Rosh Hashana)

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

- Magnus Hirschfeld, "Sexual Catastrophes (1926)," in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*. (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp. 31-33.
- Elsbeth Zander, "Tasks Facing the German Woman," (January 23, 1926), in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*. (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp. 33-35.
- *Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung*: "[Enough is Enough!](#) Against the Masculinization of Women" (March 25, 1925) in GHDI.

September 27: The Rise of Fascism

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.

In-class:

- "Concordat between the Holy See and the German Reich, July 20, 1933," in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*. (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp. 61-63.

September 29: "The Third Reich"

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

- “Peter Gay. A Jewish Teenager Remembers the 1936 Berlin Olympics (1998),” R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*. (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp. 86-87.

In-class:

- “Heinrich Himmler. On the Question of Homosexuality,” in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*. (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp. 93-95.

October 4: World War II (Yom Kippur)

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

- Field Marshall von Reichenau, “Conduct of Troops in Eastern Territories (October 10, 1941),” in R. G. Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*. (Macmillan Learning, 2009), pp. 117-122.

In-class:

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

October 6: “Scientific Racism,” anti-Semitism, and 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 11: The Holocaust (page load)

Primo Levi. *Survival in Auschwitz* (selection on canvas, 48 letter size pages)

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

October 12: Choice of Primary Source

October 13: Postwar Germany

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

- Newsreels: “[Berlin Air Lift 1949](#),” and “[Attlee Inspects Air-Lift In Berlin 1949](#),” *British Pathé* (1949). (less than 5 minutes)

October 18: 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 20: Fall Break

October 23: DEADLINE FOR PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS

October 25: 1968 (the Long Sixties)

Ben Mercer, "'Question, Doubt and Criticise.' Free Speech at the Free University," in *ibid. Student Revolt in 1968. France, Italy and West Germany*, pp. 177-205. Cambridge University Press, 2020. (entire [e-book](#) available) (chapter in class module).

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

October 27: 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.

- "[Constitution of the GDR](#) (April 6, 1968)," in GHDI.

November 1: 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.

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

November 3: 1989

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

November 8: The Challenges of Unification

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

November 10: Germany United & Europe

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

November 15: 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 17: From “Sick Man” to Europe’s Leader

Philip Ther, “Cotransformation. The Case of Germany,” in *ibid.*, *Europe since 1989*, (Princeton University Press, 2016), pp. 259-287.

- “[The Sick Man of the Euro](#),” *The Economist*, Special, 3 June 1999.

November 19: Choice of Topic for “Diversity, Race, and Racism”

November 21-25: Fall Recess

November 29: (tentative) Public Talk with Shary Reeves, VENUE: Morgan State University – details TBA

Documentary: “[Black Eagles](#)” (2021), dir. by Torsten Körner. (101 minutes) **NOTE: Still negotiating access**

December 1: “Multikulti” – Germany & Diversity

Film: *Kebab Connection*, dir. Anno Saul, 2004. 92 mins. (worksheet – take notes)

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. (selection on canvas)

December 4: DEADLINE COMMENTARY DIVERSITY, RACE, AND RACISM

December 6: Rise of Populism. The Alternative for Germany

Bochum, Penny. *We Are the People: The Rise of the AfD in Germany*. Chicago: Haus Publishing, 2020. E-book. Chapters: Introduction to 5: The Rise of the Radicals.

- “Five Years Later: [How September 5th, 2015, became a Crossroad for the Migration Crisis](#),” *DW News* (4 September 2020).

December 8: Current Challenges

Andreas Umland, "[The Ruins of Ostpolitik](#)," *Eurozine* (23 February 2022).

Report: "[What Is the Legacy of the Angela Merkel Era?](#)" *DW English* (3 December 2021) (25 minutes).

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU DID IT. GOOD LUCK WITH FINALS!