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=TFFuT1JBc0xFVkZYb2dieFhNlIhhdz09
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:


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

September 6: “Vormärz” and the 1848 Revolution

- 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

- Excerpts from Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels (1848), *The Communist Manifesto* (check class module on canvas)

September 13: Empire & German Colonialism

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**

- 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)

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

**September 27: The Rise of Fascism**

- 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:

**September 29: “The Third Reich”**
Leni Riefenstahl, Triumph of the Will, 1935. approx. 105 mins.

In-class:

**October 4: World War II**  (Yom Kippur)


In-class:

**October 6: “Scientific Racism,” anti-Semitism, and World War II**

• [The Wannsee Protocol](https://www.ghdi.org) (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**

• Newsreels: “[Berlin Air Lift 1949](https://www.gph-history.de/4386262.html)” and “[Attlee Inspects Air-Lift In Berlin 1949](https://www.gph-history.de/4386261.html),” *British Pathé* (1949). (less than 5 minutes)
October 18: The Making of the Bundesrepublik

October 20: Fall Break

October 23: DEADLINE FOR PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS

October 25: 1968 (the Long Sixties)


October 27: The GDR – Consolidated Socialism?

- “Constitution of the GDR (April 6, 1968),” in GHDI.

November 1: Life & Repression in the GDR

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

November 3: 1989

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

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

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


December 4: DEADLINE COMMENTARY DIVERSITY, RACE, AND RACISM

December 6: Rise of Populism. The Alternative for Germany
December 8: Current Challenges


CONGRATULATIONS! YOU DID IT. GOOD LUCK WITH FINALS!