

History 4026
Coates 225
MW 1:30 – 2:50 pm
Fall 2017

Dr. Brendan Karch
Himes 217F
Office Hours: Mon & Wed 11:30am – 1pm
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Germany Since 1890

Course Description

This survey of Germany's turbulent 20th century begins with the pre-1914 German Empire, assesses the revolutionary Weimar Republic, continues through the Third Reich and its annihilationist warfare, covers both the West and East German states of the Cold War, and considers the role of a reunified Germany in the European Union. Course material and readings will encompass political events, social and gender history, migration, and cultural-intellectual trends.

Course Grading:

- Attendance (10%): Attendance will be tallied. If you must miss a class for an excused reason (illness, family emergency, etc.) then please email me. You receive two 'free pass' unexcused absences. Starting with your third absence, your *attendance* grade will drop three points. (Ex. 1 absence = 97%, 2 = 94%, etc.)
- Discussion Participation (10%): We will have discussion *every class*. Quality counts over quantity. You should come to discussions prepared (i.e. having completed all readings), remain alert, follow discussion carefully, and speak when you have something valuable to contribute.
- Autobiography Blog (10%): Early in the semester each student will be assigned a fictional identity. You will all be born in 1900 somewhere in Germany. Throughout the semester you will narrate your character's life during the time period under study. You should be creative with your characters – but also integrate facts from reading and lectures. *You are allowed to skip four weeks of blogging. This means you must write at least eight blog posts.* At the end of the semester you will assemble a portfolio of all your blog posts.
- Primary Source Analysis (15%): 4-6 pages, due **Mon., Sept. 25**
- Take-home Midterm (15%): Essay questions, due **Mon., Oct. 16**
- Follow the Footnotes Paper (15%): 4-6 pages, due **Mon, Nov. 20.**
- Take-home Final Exam (25%): Essay questions, due **Wed, Dec. 6, 12 noon**

Graduate students will have extra reading and different assignments, culminating in a historiographical review paper.

Texts for purchase:

- Fullbrook, *A History of Germany 1918-2008* (3rd or 4th ed.)
- Roth, *What I Saw*
- Browning, *Ordinary Men*
- Schneider, *The Wall Jumper*

All other readings will be available on Moodle (marked with a *).

There will be two movies you will be responsible for watching. You will be asked to blog about the movies.

- M (Week 6)
- The Lives of Others (Week 14)

Week 1: Germany – A Special Path?

8/21: What's so special about Germany?

8/23: Making Germany

- * Fulbrook, *Concise History of Germany*, pp. 116-137
- * Primary Source: von Sybel on Structure of German Empire

Week 2: Wilhelmine Germany

8/28: Politics and the Social Question

- * Fulbrook, *Concise History of Germany*, pp. 137-148
- * Working-class memoirs in *The German Worker*
- * Primary Sources: "Erfurt Program," "Tivoli Program," "Daily Telegraph Affair"

8/30: Modernism Strikes

- * Kafka, "A Report to an Academy"
- * Primary Sources: "Shades of the Future?" "On The Terrace of Café Josty," "Vigor and Beauty"

Week 3: Germany's Place in the World

9/4: Labor Day – No Class

9/6: Imperialism & *Weltpolitik*

- * Zimmerer: "Annihilation in Africa" *GHI Bulletin No. 37 (Fall 2005)*
- * Isabel Hull, "Military Culture and the Production of 'Final Solutions' in the Colonies" in *The Specter of Genocide*

Begin blogging this Wednesday.

Week 4: World War I

9/11: Total War

- * Verhey, "War and revolution" in Retallack, *Imperial Germany*
- * Davis, "Homefront" in *Home/Front*

9/13: Eastern Horizons

- * Liulevicius, *War Land on the Eastern Front*, Introduction and Ch. 5
- * "A *Sonderweg* through Eastern Europe?" *German History* (pp. 318-330 only)

Week 5: Weimar Germany

9/18: Revolution, Disorder, Stability

- Fulbrook, *History of Germany*, Ch. 2 (up to p. 33)
- Roth, *What I Saw*, Chs. 2-5, 32-33

9/20: Modernism's Apogee and Crisis

- Fulbrook, *History of Germany*, Ch. 2 (Final section on culture and society)
- Roth, *What I Saw*, Chs. 6-10, 24-28

Week 6: The End of Weimar and Rise of Nazism

9/25: The Crisis of Weimar – First essay due

- Fulbrook, *History of Germany*, Ch. 3

* Anton Kaes, *M*, Ch. 3

* Film: Fritz Lang, *M*

9/27: The Rise of Nazism

- Allen, *Nazi Seizure of Power*, Introduction, Chs. 7-8

Week 7: The Nazi State and Economy

10/2: The Sources of Nazi Power

- Fulbrook, *History of Germany*, Ch. 4

* Kershaw, “Working Towards the Führer”

10/4: An Economy Tuned for War

* Tooze, “The economic history of the Nazi regime,” in Caplan, *Nazi Germany* (pp. 168-184 only)

* Primary Source: 1920 DAP Party Platform, Hitler on 4-Year Plan

Week 8: The Racial State

10/9: Women, Children, and the Environment in Nazi Germany

* Burleigh & Wippermann, *The Racial State*, Chs. 7-8

10/11: Jews and Other Victims of the Racial State

* Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, Introduction & Ch. 1

Week 9: World War II – The Early Years

10/16: The Road to Nazi Empire – Take-home midterm due

- Fulbrook, *History of Germany*, Ch. 5

10/18: Molotov-Ribbentrop Europe

- Browning, *Ordinary Men*, Chs. 1-7

Week 10: The Holocaust & Defeat

10/23: The Final Solution and Other Nazi Crimes

- Browning, *Ordinary Men*, Chs. 7-15

10/25: Nazi Defeat

- Browning, *Ordinary Men*, Chs. 16-end (including afterword)

Week 11: Occupation & Division

10/30: The Horrible Peace

* Naimark, *Fires of Hatred*, Ch. 4

11/1: The Path to Two Germanies

- Fulbrook, *A History of Germany*, Ch. 6

* Primary Sources: *Die Zeit* on Nuremberg Trials, Article on black GI children

Week 12: Diverging Societies, 1950s-1960s

11/6: West Germany Takes Off

- Fulbrook, *A History of Germany*, Ch. 7

* Poiger, “Rock ‘n’ Roll, Female Sexuality, and the Cold War Battle over German Identities”

11/8: East Germany Takes Shape

- Fulbrook, *A History of Germany*, Ch. 8

* Primary Source: “The Character of Leisure Time in Capitalism and Socialism”

Week 13: 1968 and After

11/13: 1968 and *Ostpolitik*

- Fulbrook, *A History of Germany*, Ch. 9

- Schneider, *Wall Jumper*, Ch. 1

11/15: Social, Gender and Environmental Movements

- Schneider, *Wall Jumper*, Finish

Week 14: Germany Reunited

11/20: 1989 and Reunification – **Follow the Footnotes Paper Due**

- Fulbrook, *A History of Germany*, Ch. 13

* Primary Sources: “Havemann’s ‘Ten Theses,’” “Liberal Western Journalist Praises GDR,” “Helmut Kohl’s 10-point Plan”

11/23: Thanksgiving Break – NO CLASS

- Film: *The Lives of Others*

Week 15: Germany’s Place in Europe, Past and Present

11/27: Germany in the new EU

- Fulbrook, *A History of Germany*, Ch. 14

* Garton Ash, “The New German Question,” NY Review of Books

Special Monday blog: *Lives of Others*

11/29: The 1900s: Germany’s Century?

- Fulbrook, *A History of Germany*, Ch. 15

* Die Zeit, “A Nation Divided” Oct. 29, 2014

Take-home final exam due Wed. Dec. 6 at 12 noon.