

**The University of Western Ontario  
Department of History  
2012-13**

**HISTORY 2147A: NAZI GERMANY**

**SEEB 2202, Wednesdays 1:30-3:30**

**Instructor:** Prof. Julia Berest

**Office:** 2249, Lawson Hall

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course analyzes the ideological and political nature of the Nazi regime in Germany. We will examine the intellectual background of Nazism as well as the reasons for its appearance and appeal in Germany. The course includes a broad range of topics –from political and military history to the history of art, culture and sexuality under the Nazis. Our purpose is to understand how Hitler transformed Germany into a totalitarian state, and what life was like under the regime that claimed the totality of control over the German society. The course will conclude with the discussion of de-nazification policies and Germany's perception of its Nazi past after WWII.

**OBJECTIVES**

History as a discipline requires more than memorizing facts and names; it demands that students actively engage their minds with historical material. An important objective of this course is to help students develop critical reading and thinking skills related to history learning. This primarily means the ability 1) to understand historical facts in their context and in connection with previous events; 2) to use facts to develop and support an argument; 3) to read primary sources within their historical context and with a view to their possible historical bias.

**TEXTBOOKS**, available at the Western Bookstore

Joseph Bendersky, *A Concise History of Nazi Germany*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007)

A Coursepack for Hist 2147A. (The Coursepack includes all the weekly readings except for the chapters from Bendersky and Zassenhaus)

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

Hiltgunt Zassenhaus, *Walls. Resisting the Third Reich – One Woman Story*

## REQUIREMENTS

Participation/in-class response papers – 15%

In-class Reflection Paper, Nov 28 – 15%

Mid-term Examination, Oct 31 – 30%

Final Examination – 40%

**The class participation** grade will be based mostly on the response papers that students will write in class based on assigned readings. Each response paper will require students to provide short answers (about half page) to one or more questions posed by the instructor. You will have 5-7 minutes for this assignment. You will get your marked papers back in late October and on the day of the final examination. Students will earn extra points for participation if they also regularly and meaningfully contribute to our short in-class discussions that will take place in some of the lectures.

**The reflection paper** will be based on the memoirs by Hiltgunt Zassenhaus, *Walls. Resisting the Third Reich –One Woman Story*. On the day of the assignment you will receive a topic around which your paper should be structured. You will get 20 minutes to write the paper.

The **mid-term examination** will include two parts. Part One will require students to answer one essay question, to be chosen from a list of two questions. Part Two will include three IDs (Identifiers). You will have to identify and discuss the significance of quotations drawn from your weekly readings and/or the historical significance of particular individuals, institutions, or events. Both parts will be worth 50% of the examination grade.

In the **final examination**, Part One will be an essay question based on the material from the entire course. You will have a choice of one out of two questions. Part Two will include an essay question based on the memoirs by Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*. Both parts will be worth 50% of your examination mark.

### Sept 12. Introduction to the Course.

Recommended reading: Bendersky, *A Concise History of Nazi Germany*, 3-15.

**Sept 19. Historical Background of Nazism. Adolf Hitler's self-portrayal in Mein Kampf.**

Required:

- Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, 23-41.
- The Program of the Nazi Party, as adopted on February 24, 1920, in *Nazism 1919-1945. A Documentary Reader*, ed. by J. Noakes and G. Pridham, Vol. 1 (Exeter: A. Wheaton, 1983), 14-16.

Recommended: Bendersky, 16-58.

**Sept 26. Assumption of Power. IN-CLASS RESPONSE PAPER**

Required:

- Hitler, "Propaganda and Mass Rallies," in Marvin Perry, *Sources of the Western Tradition* (Boston: Mifflin Co., 2003), 362-64.
- Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, 52-61.
- Ernst Huber, "The Authority of the Fuhrer is ... All-inclusive and Unlimited," in Perry, 368.

Recommended: Bendersky, 61-117.

**Oct 3. Building Totalitarian State.**

Required:

- "Enabling Act of March 23d," in *German History in Documents and Images*
- Viktor Klemperer, *I Will Bear Witness. A Diary of the Nazi Years*, trans. by M. Chalmers (New York: Modern Library, 1999), 5-11.
- Norbert Frei, *National Socialist Rule in Germany. The Fuhrer State 1933-45*, trans. by S. Steyne (Oxford: Blackwell, 1993), 170-4.

Recommended: Bendersky, 61-117.

**Oct 10. Nazi Education & Social Policies. IN-CLASS RESPONSE PAPER**

Required:

- Alfons Heck, *A Child of Hitler. Germany in the Days when God wore a Swastika* (Frederick: Renaissance House, 1985), 8-23, 27-31, 94-8, 101-4, 112-14, 117-22. An Account of his experiences in the Nazi period by someone who was six in 1933

**Oct 17. Popular and Elite Responses to the Nazi Regime. IN-CLASS RESPONSE PAPER**

Required:

- Hiltgunt Zassenhaus, *Wall, Resisting the Third Reich*, 3-52.

Recommended: Bendersky, 118-38

**Oct. 24. Racial State in the Making: Eugenics and Anti-Semitism, 1933-39. IN-CLASS RESPONSE PAPER**

Required:

- “Law for Protection of German Blood and Honor of September 15, 1935,” in *Nazism 1919-1945. A Documentary Reader*, 535-6.
- “The Nuremberg Citizenship Law of September 15, 1935,” in *German History in Documents and Images*
- Hans Berger, “Remembrances of Kristallnacht,” in *Jewish Life in Germany*, 386-97.

Recommended: Bendersky, 139-47.

**Oct. 31. MID-TERM EXAMINATION**

**Nov 7. Art and Culture in Nazi Germany**

Required:

- Karen A. Fiss, “In Hitler’s Salon. The German Pavilion at the 1937 Paris Exposition Internationale,” in Richard Etlin, ed. *Art, Culture and Media Under the Third Reich* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2002), 316-42.

**Nov 14. Foreign Policy and Military Strategy.**

Required:

- Hitler, *Main Kampf*, 82-87, 353-67

**Nov 21. WWII & Holocaust. IN-CLASS RESPONSE PAPER**

Required:

- Herman Graebe, “Slaughter of Jews in Ukraine,” Rudolf Hoess, “Commandant of Auschwitz,” Pfeffer, “Concentration Camp in Life and Death,” Nerin Gun, “The Liberation of Dachau,” in Perry, ed. *Sources*, 421-27, 434-35.
- Anton Dragan, “A Soviet Veteran Recalls,” Joachim Wieder, “Memories and Assessments,” in Perry, ed. *Sources*, 413-20.

Recommended: Bendersky, 198-206.

**Nov 28. Resistance in Germany. IN-CLASS REFLECTION ESSAY**

Required:

- Hiltgunt Zassenhaus, *Walls*

**Dec 5. Retribution & Reconciliation. The Nazi Past in Post War Germany**

Required:

- Teflord Taylor, *The Anatomy of the Nuremberg Trials* (London: Bloomsbury, 1993), 350-67.

*If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.*

*Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.*

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

#### MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or [rdashfo@uwo.ca](mailto:rdashfo@uwo.ca)