

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
HIS 3415E: Modern Germany, 1815 to the Present
SSC 3026
Monday, 6:00 – 9:00pm

Instructor: Dr. Karen Priestman

Office Hours: Monday, 2:30-4:30; Thursday, 12:30-2:30

Office: Lawson 2239

Phone: ext. 84922

Email: kpriest2@uwo.ca

(Email will be checked on weekdays, between 10:00am and 4:00pm. If you do not receive a reply from me within 48 hours, please resend the email.)

Course Description:

This course analyzes the cataclysmic history of modern Germany. Our examination will include the influence of Napoleon, the failed revolutions of 1848, the unification of Germany under the influence of Bismarck, and the outbreak of the First World War. Particular attention will be paid to the legacy of the First World War in Germany, the rise of Nazism, the Second World War, and the Holocaust. Moving beyond the Second World War, this course will explore the postwar division of Germany, its role in the Cold War, and the subsequent re-unification of Germany. Throughout this course we will also be addressing certain underlying themes of German history such as its supposed uniqueness, the failure of liberalism, the role of Bismarck, the political and psychological influence of the Holocaust, and Germany's position in the contemporary world.

Questions in class are always welcome!

Course Objectives:

- Students will be able to place Germany within its broader European historical context.
- Students will become familiar with historiographical issues common in German history.
- Students' analytical and writing skills will be improved through significant engagement with primary and secondary sources.
- Students' skills of oral expression will be enhanced through class discussions and participation in the group activity.

Required Books:

Main Textbooks:

- David Blackbourn, *History of Germany 1780-1918: The Long Nineteenth Century*. (2nd ed., Blackwell, 2003)
- Mary Fulbrook, *History of Germany, 1918-2000: A Divided Nation*. (3rd ed., Blackwell, 2008).

Required Supplemental:

- Helmut Walser Smith, *A Butcher's Tale: Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town*. (Norton, 2002).
- William Sheridan Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power: The Experience of a Single German Town, 1922-1945*. (Any edition, Franklin Watts).
- Course Package (Available at the Book Store)

Optional Book:

- Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. (6th ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010).

Evaluation:

Participation:		20%
Proposal and Bibliography:	Due 15 October	5%
Group Activity:	Oct. 29, Nov. 5,12,19	10%
Mid-term exam:	December exam period	15%
Summary paper (Allen book):	Due 28 January	10%
Research Essay:	Due 18 March	25%
Final exam:	April exam period	15%

Participation:

Participation in tutorial is a key component of the student's final mark. In order to participate effectively students must complete the readings for each tutorial. Simple attendance does not ensure a passing participation grade. In assigning a participation mark, I evaluate quality, rather than quantity. It is not necessarily the volume of remarks made that earns a high mark, but whether your comments and questions have stimulated discussion and led to a deeper understanding of the material and subject at hand. Like any other assignment, an 'A' in tutorial is earned through consistent outstanding performance. Participation in tutorial discussions is meant to enhance your ability to communicate orally. This requires you to become comfortable speaking in public as well as formulate an argument and articulate it convincingly.

Proposal and Bibliography: DUE 15 OCTOBER

Students are required to submit a 500-word proposal outlining your chosen essay topic, a working thesis, and possible arguments to support that thesis. It is understood that this thesis is likely to change as you complete more research and come to better understand your topic. This proposal must be accompanied by a bibliography listing at least eight (8) sources (2-3 articles count as one (1) source). This assignment is meant to make you choose a topic early and find sources for that topic. The earlier you begin thinking about your paper in a concrete way, the more likely it is that you will produce a paper you are proud of and will learn something from.

Group Activity: OCTOBER 29, NOVEMBER 5, 12, 19

Students are required to participate in a group activity based upon Helmut Walser Smith's *A Butcher's Tale: Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town*. The primary accused murderer in this book is Adolph Lewy. Students are required to summarize the evidence supporting and contradicting his guilt. This written summary should be 2 pages, single-spaced – 1 page summarizing the evidence for, and 1 page summarizing the evidence against, Adolph Lewy. Students must bring this summary with them to their tutorial (either October 29th or November 5th) and must also submit it to the instructor. Students will then be assigned to one side (guilty or innocent) and will then choose a role to play in the subsequent trial. The next week, in the November 12th and 19th tutorials, students will enact a mock trial of Adolph Lewy, *using the evidence provided in the book*. This group activity (including summary and participation in the trial) is worth 10% of your final mark.

Summary Paper: DUE 28 JANUARY

Students are required to read pages 1-200 of William Sheridan Allen's *The Nazi Seizure of Power: The Experience of a Single German Town, 1930-1935*. To reflect the high demand this places upon the student, the accompanying tutorial (Discussion #5) will carry twice the weight of a regular tutorial. In addition, students are required to write a summary paper of no more than ten pages double-spaced on *The Nazi Seizure of Power*. This summary must include the author's thesis and main arguments. It should also make some comment upon the validity or value of the thesis/book and its contribution to our understanding of Nazi Germany as a whole.

****Please Note: Late papers will be assessed a 10% penalty on the first day.****

Thereafter, the late penalty will be assessed as usual (2% per calendar day). This is because we will be having a discussion on the book on January 28th, so everyone must have the book read by then.

Research Essay: DUE 18 MARCH

Students are required to submit a 10-12 page research essay on a topic of their choosing pertaining to modern Germany. This essay should utilize no less than 8 monograph-length secondary sources (2-3 articles are considered the equivalent of one monograph). For ideas on possible topics, students should begin by perusing the lecture titles in this syllabus and looking through your textbooks. If you are having difficulty choosing a topic, formulating a research question, or are concerned about the suitability of your topic, please come and see me.

Students are required to submit their research essays to Turnitin.com (on WebCT).

Late Penalties:

Unless otherwise noted, all late assignments will be penalized **2% per calendar** day (this includes weekends).

***All assignments will be discussed in further detail in class.*

ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (located in the UCC) and the instructor as early as possible. All documentation should be provided directly to Services for Students with Disabilities.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
STATEMENT ON 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.

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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 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

Schedule of Lectures
(subject to change)

- Sept. 10** **Introduction**
- Blackbourn, “Prologue” and Ch.1.
- Snyder, ed. “Bourgeois Life in the Middle of the Eighteenth Century.” *Documents of German History*. Course Pack.
- Snyder, ed. “Social Life of the German Nobility at the end of the Eighteenth Century.” *Documents of German History*. Course Pack.
- Kant. “An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment.” Course Pack.
- Sept. 17** **Napoleon’s Europe, Vormärz, and 1848**
- Blackbourn, Chs. 1-3.
- Sept. 24** **Bismarck’s Germany – Unification, Realpolitik and Prussian Dominance**
- Blackbourn, Chs. 4&5
- Oct. 1** **Bismarck’s Germany – Kulturkampf, Industrialization, Reluctant Colonialism**
- Blackbourn, Ch. 6.
- Kelley, Alfred. “Adelheid Popp.” Course Pack.
- Kelley, Alfred. “Max Lotz.” Course Pack.
- Oct. 8** **THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS**
- Oct. 15** **Wilhelmine Germany – Kinder, Küche, Kirche**
- Blackbourn, Chs. 7&8.
- Frevert, Ute. “Women in German History.” Course Pack.
- Adams, Carole. “Women Clerks in Wilhelmine Germany.” Course Pack.
- Oct. 22** **Nationalism, Tirpitz and the Naval Race**
- Blackbourn, Ch. 9.
- Oct. 29** **On the Precipice: Escalating Tensions and the Coming War**
- Nov. 5** **The Outbreak of War**
- Blackbourn, “Epilogue.”
- Nov. 12** **The First World War: Battlefield**
- Nov. 19** **The First World War: Homefront**

Nov. 26 **The End of the First World War: Revolution and the New Republic**
- Fulbrook, Ch. 2.

Dec. 5 **Review**

****Read William Sheridan Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power: The Experience of a Single German Town, 1922-1945*, over Winter Break****

Jan. 7 **Recap and Weimar Republic**
- “The Roaring Twenties: Cabaret and Urban Entertainment.” Course Pack.
- “The Rise of the New Woman.” Course Pack.

Jan. 7 **Weimar and the Rise of Hitler**
- Fulbrook, Ch. 3.

Jan. 14 **1933: The ‘Seizure of Power’**

Jan. 21 **Nazi Ideas: Economics, Foreign Policy, Race**
- Fulbrook, Ch. 4.
- Hitler, Adolf. “Excerpts.” *Mein Kampf*. Course Pack.
- “The Four-Year Plan.” Course Pack.
- “Hossbach Memorandum” Course Pack.

Jan. 28 **Ideas Into Practice I: Domestic Policy**

Feb 4 **Ideas Into Practice II: Foreign Policy**

Feb. 11 **The Second World War (Phase I)**
- Fulbrook, Ch. 5.

****Feb. 18** **Reading Week****

Feb. 25 **The Second World War (Phase II)**

Mar. 4 **The Extermination of the European Jews**

Mar. 11 **The End of the War, the Division of Germany and the Beginning of the Cold War**
- Fulbrook, Ch. 6&7, 10.
- “Basic Law of West Germany.” Course Pack.

Mar. 18 **Two Germanies**
- Fulbrook, Ch. 8,9,11,12.

- Mar. 25** **The Reunification of Germany**
- Fulbrook, Ch.13
- Apr. 1** **Memory of WWII and Holocaust**
- Apr. 8** **Review and Conclusions: Germany Neutered?**

Schedule of Tutorial Discussions:

September 24/October 1

Discussion #1: A 'Special Path' for Germany?

- Kocka, Jurgen. "German History Before Hitler: The Debate About the German Sonderweg." Course Pack.
- Hachtmann, Rüdiger. "Success and Failure: The Revolution of 1848." Course Pack.

October 15/22

Discussion #2: Bismarck

- Hamerow, Theodore. "Excerpts." Age of Bismarck. Course Pack.
- Pflanze, Otto. "Bismarck's Realpolitik." Course Pack.

October 29/November 5

Discussion #3a: Group Activity

- Helmut Walser Smith, *A Butcher's Tale: Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town*

November 12/19

Discussion #3b: Group Activity

- Helmut Walser Smith, *A Butcher's Tale: Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town*

November 26/December 3

Discussion #4: Outbreak of War

- Geiss, Imanuel. "Excerpts." German Foreign Policy, pp. 66-105, 189-194. Course Pack.
- Retallack, James. "Rattling the Sabre: Weltpolitik and the Great War." Germany in the Age of Kaiser Wilhelm II. Course Pack.
- Martel, Gordon. "Excerpts." Origins of the First World War. Course Pack.

January 28/February 4

Discussion #5: The Nazi Seizure of Power (Weighted Double)

- William Sheridan Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power: The Experience of a Single German Town, 1922-1945*

February 25/March 4**Discussion #6: Holocaust and War**

- Bartov, Omer. "Soldiers, Nazis and War in the Third Reich." Course Pack.
- "Nuremberg Laws." Course Pack.
- "Reports on Kristallnacht." Course Pack.
- Kaplan, Marion. "Between Dignity and Despair." Course Pack.
- "Persecution of the Jews." Course Pack.
- "Speech by the Führer to the Reichstag, September 1, 1939." Course Pack.
- Browning, Christopher. "One Day in Josefov: Initiation to Mass Murder." Course Pack.
- "Protocol of the Wannsee Conference." Course Pack.

March 11/18**Discussion #7: Cold War, Denazification, and Refugees**

- Slatt, Vincent E. "Nowhere to Go." Course Pack.
- Herz, John H. "Fiasco of Denazification." Course Pack.

March 25/April 1**Discussion #8: Memory**

- Poiger, Uta. "Rock 'n' Roll, Female Sexuality, and the Cold War Battle Over German Identities." Course Pack.
- Von Weizacker, Richard. "May 8, 1985 Speech to the Reichstag." Course Pack.
- Herf, Jeffrey. "Conclusion." Course Pack.

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.

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