

**Department of History
Fall Term, 2013**

**HISTORY 2147A: NAZI GERMANY
Wednesday 1:30-3:30, TC-141**

Instructor: Eli Nathans
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Office Hours: Tuesday, 3:00-5:00, Wednesday, 4:00-5:00
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Course Description:

This course analyzes how the Nazi Party came to power; the Nazi regime's use of propaganda and terror within Germany after 1933; the role played by conservative elites in the Nazi government; popular responses to the regime; Hitler's foreign policy; Nazi methods of rule in the countries Germany conquered; anti-Semitic policies before and after 1939; the Holocaust and other programs of mass murder; resistance within Germany; and the reasons for German defeat.

Course Outcomes:

Students who pass this class will be able to:

explain the reasons for the Nazi Party's electoral successes in the early 1930s and for Hitler's appointment as Chancellor in January 1933;

explain the principal methods the Nazi regime used to govern Germany after January 1933, the responses to Nazi rule of different groups in German society, and why Hitler's foreign policy was initially so successful;

explain why German policies in the countries it conquered assumed such brutal forms, and in particular why Germany undertook organized campaigns of enslavement and murder;

explain the forms taken by resistance to Nazi rule, especially within Germany, and the reasons for the success or failure of particular kinds of resistance; and

analyze critically a range of primary and secondary sources.

Grade Breakdown:

Mid-term examination	30%
Final examination (covers entire course)	50%
In-class essay on Primo Levi's <i>Survival in Auschwitz</i>	5%
In-class essay on Hiltgunt Zassenhaus' <i>Walls</i>	5%
Class Participation	10%

Both the mid-term and final examinations will consist of essay questions and identifications. The identifications will require students to discuss the historical significance of key individuals and events, and/or of quotations taken from assigned original sources. The mid-term will be given in class, the final during the examination period. The final examination will cover all the material assigned for the course, including material covered in the first half of the semester. Please do not make irrevocable travel plans for the December examination period until the Registrar has determined the date of the final exam. The last date of the examination period is December 19th.

Students will also be required to write in-class essays on two primary sources, Primo Levi's *Survival in Auschwitz* and Hiltgunt Zassenhaus' *Walls*. *Survival in Auschwitz* is the memoir of an Italian Jew who was incarcerated in Auschwitz in 1944 and freed when the Red Army liberated the camp in January 1945. Levi seeks to draw general conclusions from the experience. *Walls* is the memoir of a German medical student who risked her life to help save thousands of Scandinavian POWs held in German prisons. *Walls* helps the reader understand how difficult it was to resist the regime, and what circumstances and personal qualities made resistance possible. Each of these exercises will be worth 5% of the class grade. They will be graded on a scale from zero to ten and will be returned to students.

The class participation grade will be based on the brief response papers that students will be asked to write in most classes, as noted in the syllabus. The response papers will consist of one or two questions regarding one or several primary or secondary sources assigned for the class. Each response paper will be graded on a scale from zero to ten. The response papers will not be returned, but each student may examine the response paper in the instructor's office and discuss the grade received. Grades for the response papers will be posted on the class website by the end of the following week.

Students who miss classes may write the in-class essays on the books by Primo Levi and Hiltgunt Zassenhaus, or make up a missed response paper, only if the counselling office in the student's home faculty advises the instructor within ten days of the missed assignment that the student was unable to attend the class in question due to an illness or other form of emergency. In this case the instructor will schedule a make-up response paper or essay, in both cases with a new question.

Materials to be purchased at the Western Bookstore:

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

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, translated by Stuart Woolf (New York: Touchstone Books, 1996).

Hilgunt Zassenhaus, *Walls. Resisting the Third Reich - One Woman's Story* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1993).

One goal of the class is to introduce students to the vast range of sources available to those who wish to study the Nazi period. The primary and secondary documents assigned in this class, other than those available for purchase at the Western Bookstore, are available on the course website, which can be accessed at owl.uwo.ca. These documents are found in the Resources section of the Website. Under the University's agreement with the Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency each student may print one copy of these documents for his or her own use. This copy may not be distributed to any person not in this class. Inprint Copy, which is located on the second floor of the UCC, has copy machines through which students may copy the assigned primary and secondary documents that are available on the secure class website. For an additional fee Inprint will also bind the printed documents.

The syllabus frequently notes optional readings from Alan Bullock's *Hitler. A Study in Tyranny*, a classic and in many respects unsurpassed biography of Hitler. Fifty copies have been placed on seven day reserve at Weldon Library. The book was published in numerous editions; the page numbers given in the syllabus are based on the unabridged 1964 edition. This edition has a total of 848 pages.

Classes:

September 11. Why study Nazi Germany?

Bendersky, *A Concise History of Nazi Germany* (2007), xi-xiv

September 18. Hitler's worldview: personal and national stories of victimization

In-class response paper

Bendersky, *A Concise History of Nazi Germany* (2007), 3-39

"The programme of the Nazi Party, as adopted on February 24, 1920," from *Nazism 1919-1945. A Documentary Reader*, ed. by J. Noakes and G. Pridham, Vol. 1, *The Rise to Power 1919-1934* (Exeter: A. Wheaton, 1983), 14-16.

Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, translated by Ralph Manheim, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1943), 37-65, 176-86.

Optional Reading: Alan Bullock, *Hitler, A Study in Tyranny* (New York: Harper & Row, 1962), 23-120. (on seven day reserve in Weldon Library)

September 25: Legal and extralegal methods in the Nazi pursuit of power, 1920-1933

In-class response paper

Bendersky, *A Concise History of Nazi Germany* (2007), 40-101

Jay Baird, *To Die for Germany. Heroes in the Nazi Pantheon* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990), 73-89, 102-7.

"Reichstag Fire Decree of February 28th, 1933," from German History in Documents and Images, http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=2325 (accessed July 25, 2013).

"Enabling Act of March 23rd, 1933," from German History in Documents and Images, http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1496 (accessed on July 25, 2013).

"Reichstag Debate on the Enabling Act, 23 March 1933," from Mitchell Allen and Michael Hughes, eds., *German Parliamentary Debates, 1848-1933* (New York: Peter Lang, 2003), 245-81.

Viktor Klemperer, *I will bear witness 1933-1941. A Diary of the Nazi Years*, trans. by Martin Chalmers (New York: Modern Library, 1999), 5-11. Klemperer was a teacher of French literature who kept a carefully diary of the events of the Nazi period. He was of Jewish ancestry, and survived the Nazi period due to his marriage to a non-Jewish woman.

Optional Reading: Alan Bullock, *Hitler, A Study in Tyranny* (New York: Harper & Row, 1962), 121-311. (on seven day reserve in Weldon Library)

October 2: Promoting Conformity and Enthusiasm: Nazi Domestic Policies, 1933-1939

In-class response paper

Bendersky, *A Concise History of Nazi Germany* (2007), 105-17.

Ingo Müller, *Hitler's Justice. The Courts of the Third Reich*, trans. by D. Schneider (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1991), 82-89.

Stephen Roberts, *The House that Hitler Built* (London: Methuen Publishers, 1937), 201-17.

Gregor Ziemer, *Education for Death. The Making of the Nazi* (London: Oxford University Press, 1941), 140-67.

Alfons Heck, *A Child of Hitler. Germany in the Days when God wore a Swastika* (Frederick: Renaissance House, 1985), 8-31.

Translations of Hitler's speeches found in Leni Riefenstahl's *Triumph of the Will*.

October 9 Creating a Racially Pure Society, 1933-1941

In-class response paper

Bendersky, *A Concise History of Nazi Germany* (2007), 118-55.

Michael Meyer and Michael Brenner, *German-Jewish History in Modern Times*, vol. 4, *Renewal and Destruction* (New York: Columbia, 1996), 197-230.

"Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honour," from *Nazism 1919-1945. A Documentary Reader*, ed. by J. Noakes and G. Pridham, Vol. 2, *State, Economy and Society 1933-39* (Exeter: A. Wheaton, 1984), 535-36.

"The Reich Citizenship Law of September 15, 1935," from *German History in Documents and Images*, http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1523 (accessed on July 25, 2013).

Ingo Müller, *Hitler's Justice. The Courts of the Third Reich*, trans. by D. Schneider (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1991), 90-111.

Marta Appel, *Memoirs*, in *Jewish Life in Germany. Memoirs from Three Centuries*, trans. by Stella Rosenfeld and Sidney Rosenfeld (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991), 351-3.

Hans Berger, "Remembrances of Kristallnacht," in *Jewish Life in Germany. Memoirs from Three Centuries*, trans. by Stella Rosenfeld and Sidney Rosenfeld (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991), 386-97.

Viktor Klemperer, *I will bear witness 1933-1941. A Diary of the Nazi Years*, trans. by Martin Chalmers (New York: Modern Library, 1999), 438-442.

October 16: Nazi Rule and the Churches

In-class response paper

Hermann Rauschnig, *The Voice of Destruction* (New York: Putnam, 1940), 47-57.

Guenter Lewy, *The Catholic Church and Nazi Germany* (Da Capo Press, 2000; original 1964), 3-15, 25-41, 115-33, 258-84.

"With Burning Concern," Papal Encyclical of April 1937, http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/pius_xi/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xi_enc_14031937_mit-brennender-sorge_en.html (accessed on January 16, 2002).

"Pastor Julius von Jan's Protest against the 9 November 1938 Pogrom," from Peter Hoffmann, *Behind Valkyrie. German Resistance to Hitler. Documents* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2011), 156-67.

October 23: Hitler's pre-war foreign policy

In-class response paper

Bendersky, *A Concise History of Nazi Germany* (2007), 159-72.

Despatch of April 26, 1933, from Sir Horace Rumbold to Sir John Simon, from Horace Rumbold, *The War Crisis in Berlin, July-August 1914* (London: Constable & Company, 1940), 344-58. Rumbold was the British ambassador to Germany. The dispatch summarizes his views of the likely future policies of the Nazi regime.

Gerhard Weinberg, *The Foreign Policy of Hitler's Germany; Diplomatic Revolution in Europe, 1933-36* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1970), 1-24, 87-107, 239-57, 282-99.

"Hossbach Memorandum of November 1937," from German History in Documents and Images, http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1540

(accessed on July 25, 2013).

Optional Reading: Alan Bullock, *Hitler, A Study in Tyranny* (New York: Harper & Row, 1962), 312-71, 411-89. (on seven day reserve in Weldon Library)

October 30 **Mid-term examination**

November 6: Nazi military strategies and occupation policies

In-class response paper

Bendersky, *A Concise History of Nazi Germany* (2007), 173-206

Sönke Neitzel and Harald Walzer, *Soldaten. On Fighting, Killing and Dying: The Secret World War II Transcripts of German POWs*, translated by Jefferson Chase (New York: Alfred Knopf, 2012), 44-9, 56-65, 345-51.

Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt, *Germany and the Second World War*, vol 4, *The Attack on the Soviet Union* (Clarendon Press, 1998), 481-5, 1140-1149, 1162-1163, 1172-1176.

“Directives for the Treatment of Political Commissars (‘Commissar Order’) (June 6, 1941), from German History in Documents and Images, http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1548 (accessed on July 25, 2013).

Optional Reading: Alan Bullock, *Hitler, A Study in Tyranny* (New York: Harper & Row, 1962), 490-650. (on seven day reserve in Weldon Library)

November 13: Mass Murder

In-class response paper

Michael Burleigh, *Death and Deliverance 'Euthanasia' in Germany 1900-1945* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), 130-73.

Saul Friedländer, *The Years of Extermination: Germany and the Jews, 1939-1945* (Harper Perennial, 2007), 197-215, 261-268, 479-483.

Field Marshal von Reichenau's orders to the German army of 10 October 1941, and minutes of Wannsee Conference of January 20, 1942, from Lucy Dawidowicz, *A Holocaust Reader* (Behrman House), 70-82.

Sönke Neitzel, *Tapping Hitler's Generals. Transcripts of Secret Conversations, 1942-1945* (Frontline Books, 2007), 167-71, 183-6, 198-206, 226-30.

Zygmunt Klukowski, *Diary from the Years of Occupation, 1939-44*, trans. by George Klukowski (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1993), 184-201.

Anatoly Podolsky, "The Tragic Fate of Ukrainian Jewish Women under Nazi Occupation, 1941-1944," in *Sexual Violence against Jewish Women during the Holocaust*, ed. by Sonja Hedgepeth and Rochelle Saidel (Waltham: Brandeis University Press, 2012), 94-107.

November 20: Resistance

In-class essay on Primo Levi's *Survival in Auschwitz*

Thomas Mann, *The Coming Victory of Democracy* (Alfred Knopf, 1938) 7-23.

Guenter Lewy, *The Catholic Church and Nazi Germany* (Da Capo Press, 2000; original 1964), 284-93.

John Michalczyk, *Confront: Resistance in Nazi Germany* (Peter Lang, 2004), 196-207.

Fliers of the White Rose group, from *Nazism 1919-1945. A Documentary Reader*, ed. by J. Noakes and G. Pridham, vol. 4, *The German Home Front in World War II* (Exeter: 1984), 457-9.

"Extracts from the Diary of Captain Wilm Hosenfeld," in Wladyslaw Szpilman, *The Pianist. The Extraordinary Story of One Man's Survival in Warsaw, 1939-1945*, translated by Anthea Bell (Toronto: McArthur and Co., 2003), 193-208; with a description of Hosenfeld's assistance to the Jewish author of the memoir, 176-83.

Friedrich Percival Reck-Malleczewen, *Diary of a Man in Despair* (Collier, 1970), 159-169, 182-185, 195-199.

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz* (New York: Touchstone, 1996).

Optional Reading: Alan Bullock, *Hitler, A Study in Tyranny*, 733-52.

November 27: Resistance (continued)

In-class essay on Hiltgunt Zassenhaus' *Walls*

Hiltgunt Zassenhaus, *Walls: Resisting the Third Reich - One Woman's Story* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1974).

December 5: Remembering Nazism

In-class response paper

Richard von Weizsäcker, May 8, 1985 speech to the West German Bundestag

Other materials to be distributed to students.

Final Examination to take place in the mid-year examination period (December 8-19), at a date to be set by the Registrar.

ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Please contact the Student Development Services staff. Information regarding requests for accommodation can be found on the web at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>. The Student Development Services office is located on the fourth floor of the Student Services Building. All documentation should be provided directly to Student Development Services staff, and not the instructors of the class.

ACCOMMODATION FOR ILLNESS: The University of Western Ontario's Medical Accommodation Policy is described at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. This section also contains a link to The University of Western Ontario Student Medical Certificate. You should ask the attending physician to fill out this form in the event you require an accommodation. Academic accommodation (including extensions and special examinations) representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course may be granted on medical grounds only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his or her academic responsibilities. This documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Academic Counseling Office of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a specific request for relief. Students must supply a

UWO Student Medical Certificate. Privacy policies prohibit the submission of medical documentation to tutors or faculty members. The Course Director will be contacted by the Home Faculty's Academic Counselling Office with recommendations based on the documentation submitted by the student. The only exception to this policy is that students may miss up to two tutorials during the year for illness or other reasons without penalty if they notify the tutorial leader. There is no need in this case to contact the Academic Counseling Office or to furnish a Student Medical Certificate. Accommodation for more than two absences from tutorials will require consultation with the Academic Counseling Office and the Course Director. A Student Medical Certificate and consultation with the Academic Counselling Office is required if a Text Analysis is submitted late, and accommodation is sought.

ACCOMMODATION FOR REASONS OTHER THAN DISABILITY OR ILLNESS: All requests for accommodation not due to disability or illness must be directed first to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty (with all necessary evidence), and then to Professor Nathans. This is to be done as early as possible. Professor Nathans will make a decision after having received a recommendation from your Academic Counselling Office. The only exception to this policy is that students may miss up to two tutorials during the year for illness or other reasons without penalty if they notify the tutorial leader. There is no need in this case to contact the Academic Counseling Office. Accommodation for more than two absences from tutorials will require consultation with the Academic Counselling Office and with the Course Director.

PLAGIARISM AND OTHER SCHOLASTIC OFFENSES: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf Please also see the exercise on citation in history essays, which can be found in the "Resources" section of the Course website.

APPEALS: Should you wish to appeal a grade, first draft a written statement outlining the reasons for your request. Direct your appeal to your TA first, then to Professor Nathans. An appealed mark may be raised, lowered, or left unchanged. Should you wish to appeal the decision of Professor Nathans you may do so, as provided in the Academic Calendar.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.