

Department of History, Western University
HISTORY 2147B: NAZI GERMANY
Winter Term, 2016
MC 105B
Wednesday 1:30-3:30

Instructor: Dr. Karen Priestman
Office: Lawson Hall 2233
Office Hours: Mondays, 2:30-5:30pm, or by appointment
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(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 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 mass 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.

Grade Breakdown:

Mid-term examination	35%
Final examination (covers entire course)	50%
In-class essay on Hiltgunt Zassenhaus' <i>Walls</i>	15%

Both the mid-term and final examinations will consist of essay questions and identifications. The essay part of the examination will require students to analyze larger questions raised by the course. The identifications will require students to discuss the historical significance of key individuals and events. 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 travel plans for the April examination period until the Registrar has determined the date of the final exam.

Students will also be required to write an in-class essay on Hiltgunt Zassenhaus' *Walls*. *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. This exercise will be worth 15% of the class grade.

Students who miss class may write the in-class essay 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 with a new question.

Materials to be purchased at the Western Bookstore:

Jackson Spielvogel and David Redles, *Hitler and Nazi Germany: A History*, 7th ed. (New York: Pearson, 2014).

Hiltgunt Zassenhaus, *Walls. Resisting the Third Reich - One Woman's Story* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1993) (multiple copies of *Walls* are also available on seven day reserve at Weldon Library)

*These books can also be found on the used book website abebooks.com and on amazon.com.

***Please note: There are also various primary documents available on the Owl site. These are not mandatory, but if you are interested in reading some of the documents generated by the regime we are studying, they are available to you.

Lecture Schedule (subject to change)

Date:	Lecture Topic:	Readings:
Week 1 January 6	Introduction A Brief History of Germany	Spielvogel, Ch. 1
Week 2 January 13	Origins of Nazi Ideology	Ch. 2
Week 3 January 20	The NSDAP: 1919-1934	Ch. 3
Week 4 January 27	Hitler and the Nazi State	Ch. 5 and pp. 83-89; 107-114; 118.
Week 5 February 3	The Nazi State: Inclusion	Ch. 6 and pp. 114-117.
Week 6 February 10	The Nazi State: Exclusion	pp. 100-107; 119-120.
Reading Week February 17	NO CLASS	
Week 7 February 24	Midterm	No readings
Week 8 March 2	Gearing up for war: Foreign Policy and the Economy	pp. 89-100; 184-200.
Week 9 March 9	The Second World War: Battlefield	pp. 200-216.
Week 10 March 16	Occupation and Genocide	Ch. 9
Week 11 March 23	Resistance in the Third Reich + In-class essay	Hiltgunt Zassenhaus, <i>Walls</i>
Week 12 March 30	The Second World War: Homefront	Ch. 8
Week 13 April 6	Collapse and Postwar	Ch. 10