

**Department of History, Western University**  
**HISTORY 2147B: NAZI GERMANY**  
**Intersession, 2016**  
**Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 9:30-11:30**  
**UCC 54A**

Instructor: Dr. Karen Priestman  
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Office Hours: Mondays, 11:30-12:30pm, 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:**

Five-Minute Assignments	10%
In-class quiz on <i>Night and Fog</i>	15%
In-class essay on Hiltgunt Zassenhaus' <i>Walls</i>	20%
Final examination (covers entire course)	55%

### **Five-Minute Assignments:**

At the beginning of class, the instructor will pose questions of a reflective nature. (Questions will vary but might ask things like, “What was the most important thing you learned in lecture yesterday?” or “What was the most confusing point from yesterday’s lecture?” THESE ARE NOT QUIZZES!) Students will be given 5 minutes in which to write their answers to these questions. These answers will then be submitted to the instructor to be assessed on a complete/incomplete basis. That is, students will not be given a grade for these assignments but rather must simply complete them. This will happen on five randomly chosen days throughout the semester. Students who complete all 5 will receive 10% of their final grade. This means each complete Five-Minute Assignment is worth 2% of your final grade. Missing even one will therefore have a significant impact on your final grade.

### **In-class Quiz on *Night and Fog*:**

On their own time, students will watch the documentary, *Night and Fog* (1955). At the beginning of class on May 30<sup>th</sup>, students will answer a short quiz on certain elements of the film. More detail about this quiz will be given in class.

*\*Warning: This documentary is graphic.*

### **In-Class Essay, *Walls*:**

Students will 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. Students will be given the question ahead of time and will be given one hour in class to write an essay which answers the question posed.

### **Final Exam:**

The final examination 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 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 examination period until the Registrar has determined the date of the final exam.

*\*NOTE: Students who miss class on either the day of the *Night and Fog* quiz or the in-class essay on *Walls* may make up these assignments only if the counselling office in the student's home faculty advises the instructor that the student was unable to attend the class in question due to an illness or*

*other form of emergency.*

**Materials to be purchased at the Western Bookstore:**

Joseph W. Bendersky, *A Concise History of Nazi Germany*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2013).

*\*Students may use an earlier version of the Bendersky book, or last year's textbook: Jackson Spielvogel and David Redles, Hitler and Nazi Germany: A History, 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://abebooks.com) and on [amazon.com](http://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)

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Lecture Topic:</b>	<b>Readings:</b>
Week 1 May 16	Introduction A Brief History of Germany	No Readings
Week 2 May 17	Hitler's Rise to Power	Bendersky, Introduction, + Chs. 1, 2, 5, 6 Nazi Party Programme (OWL)
Week 3 May 18	The Consolidation of Power: <i>Gleichschaltung</i>	Bendersky, Ch. 7
Week 4 May 19	Propaganda: Inclusion and Exclusion	Bendersky, Chs. 3 & 4
Week 5 May 24	The Police State and the Concentration Camp System	Bendersky, Ch. 10
Week 6 May 25	Racial Policies and Persecution	Persecution of the Jews (OWL) Nuremberg Blood and Honour (OWL) Nuremberg Citizenship Law (OWL)
Week 7 May 26	<i>Walls</i> Essay + Resistance	Hiltgunt Zassenhaus, <i>Walls</i> *Watch <i>Night &amp; Fog</i> for Mon.
Week 8 May 30	Hitler's War: The Western Front + Night and Fog Quiz	Bendersky, Chs. 11 & 12
Week 9 May 31	Hitler's War: The Eastern Front	Bendersky, Ch. 13
Week 10 June 1	Genocide	Bendersky, Ch. 14 Wannsee Conference Minutes (OWL)
Week 11 June 2	Collapse and Postwar	Bendersky, Ch. 15