

**Department of History, Western University**  
**HISTORY 2147A: NAZI GERMANY**  
**Fall, 2017**  
**Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30pm**  
**SEB 1200**

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

## Required Books:

Joseph W. Bendersky, *A Concise History of Nazi Germany*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2013). (*This book is available for free online through Weldon Library, though there is a limit on how many people can access it at one time.*)

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).

## Grade Breakdown:

Ten-Minute Assignments	10%
Midterm	30%
In-class essay on Hiltgunt Zassenhaus' <i>Walls</i>	15%
Final examination (covers entire course)	45%

## Ten-Minute Assignments:

At the beginning or end 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 last week?” or “What was the most confusing point from last week’s lecture?” THESE ARE NOT QUIZZES!) Students will be given 10 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 Ten-Minute Assignment is worth 2% of your final grade. Missing even one will therefore have a significant impact on your final grade. **Because this is an attendance-based assignment, there is no make-up. If you miss it, you miss it.**

## 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 and Midterm:

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 the day of the in-class essay on Walls may make up this assignment only if the counseling 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.*

### **Lecture Schedule (subject to change)**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Lecture Topic:</b>	<b>Readings:</b>
Week 1 Sept. 13	Introduction A Brief History of Germany	No Readings
Week 2 Sept. 20	The 1920s and Hitler's Rise to Power	Bendersky, Introduction, + Chs. 1, 2, 5, 6 Nazi Party Programme (OWL)
Week 3 Sept. 27	The Nazi Seizure of Power?	Bendersky, Chs. 7 & 8
Week 4 Oct. 4	The Consolidation of Power and the Police State	Bendersky, Ch. 10
<b>Oct. 11</b>	<b>Fall Reading Week – No Class</b>	
Week 5 Oct. 18	Insiders in Nazi Germany	Bendersky, Chs. 3 & 4
Week 6 Oct. 25	Midterm	
Week 7 Nov. 1	Outsiders in Nazi Germany	Persecution of the Jews (OWL) Nuremberg Blood and Honour (OWL) Nuremberg Citizenship Law (OWL)
Week 8 Nov. 8	The Coming of War and the Western Front	Bendersky, Chs. 11&12 +Hossbach Memorandum
Week 9 Nov. 15	Hitler's War: The Eastern Front and the Origins of Genocide	Bendersky, Ch. 13
Week 10 Nov. 22	<i>Walls</i> Essay + Resistance	Hiltgunt Zassenhaus, <i>Walls</i>
Week 11 Nov. 29	Genocide	Bendersky, Ch. 14 + Minutes of the Wannsee Conference (OWL)
Week 12 Dec. 5	The Homefront and Collapse + Exam Review	Bendersky, Ch. 15

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### **Prerequisites and Antirequisites:**

Unless you have either the requisites for this course, as described in the Academic Calendar description of the course, or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The Academic Calendar description of each course also indicates which classes are considered antirequisites, i.e., to cover such similar material that students are not permitted to receive academic credit for both courses.

### **Academic Offences:**

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **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 Issues:**

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. This site provides links the necessary forms. 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 should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

**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.

*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.*

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or [vangalen@uwo.ca](mailto:vangalen@uwo.ca)