

HISTORY 2147A
Nazi Germany
Fall 2021
Monday, 6:30-8:30, SH-3345
in-person

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This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

Course Description:

We analyze how the Nazi Party came to power; the regime's use of propaganda, intimidation and terror within Germany after 1933; Hitler's foreign policy; Nazi methods in occupied Europe; anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, and other programs of mass murder; resistance within Germany, and the reasons for the regime's defeat.

Antirequisite(s):

History 1404E; The former History 1403E.

Course Syllabus:

Course Objectives

History 2147A is a lecture course that surveys the history of National Socialist (Nazi) Germany. The course takes a partly chronological and partly thematic approach to the study of Nazi Germany. While some lectures focus explicitly on key themes by tracing them throughout the Nazi period (economics, religion, or gender, for examples), others situate a broad selection of themes within a chronological framework (for examples, the lectures that focus on Germany at war between 1939 and 1945).

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- explain the origins of National Socialism and the Nazi state
- assess the impact of Nazism on various facets of life in Germany and in German-occupied territories
- describe how governmental, military, para-military, professional, and other organizations functioned inside the Nazi state
- identify and assess salient controversies and debates in the scholarship on Nazi Germany
- explain the post-1945 impact of the Nazi legacy on German (and international) public memory

Lectures and Readings

We will meet for lectures each Monday evening. The first part of the lecture will run for approximately 45 to 50 minutes, followed by a short break for conversation and refreshment. The second part of the lecture will continue for another 45 minutes or so. It is crucially important that students attend every class, as we will explore many issues and themes which are not fully assessed in the textbook or other course reading materials.

Students who truly wish to succeed in this course must be prepared to invest sufficient time in reading and analyzing the course material outside of the classroom – two to three hours per lecture, on average, would be a reasonable amount of time to budget. Students can take best advantage of the textbook and other reading materials by reading each day's selections and actively drawing connections with themes and questions raised in the corresponding lecture.

Examinations in this course function beyond the knowledge of true/false facts. Do not become tangled up in trivial details. Instead, ask broad interpretational questions of the textual and lecture materials. For example, rather than simply trying to memorize various departments in the hierarchical structure of the SS, ask larger questions, such as 'how did officials in each department work toward larger ideological objectives?'; or 'to what extent did departments exercise their own initiative in pursuit of directives from higher levels?'

Course Materials:

The **required** course text is:

Richard J. Evans, *The Third Reich in History and Memory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Various supplemental readings, including some primary source documents, are listed on the reading schedule (below) and available online at the History 2147A Owl page.

Approaching History through Film

Although we will not have time to watch films together in class, there are numerous titles dealing with the Nazi period that are worth viewing during this course, or when time permits later on. While we cannot exactly 'learn' history simply by going to the movies, we can get a sense of how people (or film-makers at least) have, since 1945, understood and interpreted National Socialism. Of course, we can also compare interpretations on film with what scholars have to say about many different elements of the history of Nazi Germany.

Below is a list of selected titles – by no means exhaustive – as well as some of the key themes or topics that are featured in each film. In cases of foreign-language films, the original (foreign) title is listed; all of the foreign-language films are available with English translation.

Army of Crime (2009): youth, occupation policies, human agency
The Book Thief (2013): youth, gender roles, culture and society
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (2008): youth, race, occupation policies, human agency
Conspiracy (2001): race, bureaucracy and administration
Diplomatie (2014): occupation policies, armed forces and society
Er ist wieder da (2015): culture and society, public memory
Europa Europa (1990): race, identity, youth, culture and society
Flammen & Citronen (2008): occupation policies, resistance
Jojo Rabbit (2019): gender, youth, family
Mein Bester Feind (2011): race, youth, family, class
The Reader (2008): occupation policies, race, genocide,
Schindler's List (1993): occupation policies, race, genocide, bureaucracy and administration
Sophie's Choice (1982): occupation policies, public memory
Der Untergang (2004): home front at war, youth, armed forces and society, gender roles
Valkyrie (2008): home front at war, armed forces and society

Documentary Films and Series:

Der Anständige (2014)
Auschwitz: The Nazis and the 'Final Solution' (2005)
Le chagrin et la pitié (1969)
Dolly, Lotte und Maria (1987)
Harlan – In the Shadow of Jew Süß (2008)
Hôtel Terminus: Klaus Barbie, sa vie et son temps (1988)
The Restless Conscience: Resistance to Hitler Within Germany 1933-1945 (1992)
Triumph des Willens (1935)

Methods of Evaluation:

Reflection Essay (in-class): 35%
Mid-term Examination: 35%
Final Examination: 30%

Students must complete the reflection essay and both exams in order to achieve a passing grade.

Reflection Essay

Early in the course students will write a short essay based on the documentary *What Our Fathers Did: A Nazi Legacy* (2015). This is a film about Niklas Frank (b. 1939) and Horst von Wächter (b. 1939), the sons of two important Nazi functionaries, Hans Frank (1900-46) and Otto von Wächter (1901-49).

Students will view the documentary on their own time. On **18 October**, students will respond to a question (or series of questions) about the documentary during normal class hours. No aids or books are allowed, but the questions and further instructions will be available ahead of time. There will 45 minutes allotted to the in-class reflection essay. It is worth 20% of the final course grade.

Examinations

There will be one mid-term examination and a cumulative final examination in this course:

mid-term (35%): 8 November, during normal class hours, in SH-3345

final examination (30%): Date TBD by registrar, during December exam period

On each of the examinations students will choose from a selection of essay and short-answer questions. The essay questions will test analytical skills, while the short-answers will test the ability to contextualize key persons, concepts, and events. There are no multiple choice, true/false, or fill-in-the-blank questions in this course. The exams are not designed simply to test mastery of factual details or memory of trivia, but rather to encourage students to engage analytically with controversial historical questions that do not have straightforward answers.

Students are encouraged to discuss any questions or concerns about examination format and design with Dr. Iarocci before the first test.

Accommodation for missed tests/midterms, including Self Reported Absences (SRA):

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a makeup test.

Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Online courses will have online makeup tests.

In person classes have scheduled makeup tests scheduled at the following times:

Fall Term

- Tests scheduled before November 1 – the makeup will take place November 8 at 9:30am.
- Tests scheduled between November 2 and December 7 – the makeup will take place December 8 at 9:30pm.

Winter Term

- Tests scheduled before February 19 – the makeup will take place February 28 at 9:30am.
- Tests scheduled between February 20 and March 31 – the makeup will take place April 1 at 12:30pm

No other make-up opportunities will be provided. Students who fail to write a makeup test in the designated time slots will receive a grade of zero.

Course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup test slots.

Students should be aware that when they have submitted an SRA for one test, they are not permitted to write a test or complete an assignment for another course during the period covered by the SRA. Failure to observe this regulation will result in the cancellation of the SRA and the possible application of late penalties.

Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self Reported Absence:

If a student reports a SRA for an assignment (i.e. an essay) the new due date will be 48 hours after the SRA was submitted.

Use of Electronic Devices:

No electronic devices are permitted during examinations.

Additional Statements:

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document,

<https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>,

for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness