

History 2147A

Nazi Germany

Fall 2023

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This is a **draft** syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.

Course Description

From 1933 to 1945, the Nazi Party, led by Adolf Hitler, came to power in Germany. Nazi Germany remains a topic of notable interest today eighty years later. In this class, students will learn about how the Nazi Party developed and came to power. It will focus on its ideology to explore its aims. This course will also explain how a party which focused on hyper-nationalism, hyper-militarism, and anti-Semitism came to take control of Germany. It will then look at the features of the Nazi regime, the role of Adolf Hitler, and how it sought to transform society, culture, economics, and the European continent. Students will understand how the Holocaust developed and the key role that the Nazis played in bringing about the Second World War. The course will discuss how the Nazi regime collapsed and what happened after. Finally, today, as far-right ideas continue to have a hold on society, this class will end by reflecting on some of the legacies and echoes of the Nazi regime, including how and why, despite its hate-filled ideology and the atrocities committed in its name, some people in different parts of the world remain enamored with it, but also how we can compare the Nazi regime to other fascist regimes, both historically, and in the present day.

Antirequisite(s): History 1404E

Course Syllabus

In this course, students will:

- Understand how the Nazi movement developed and why it came to power in Germany
- Understand the role of personalized rule and ideology in developing the Nazi State
- Explore and analyze how the Nazi state sought to transform society, culture, and demographics to meet its ideological aims
- Understand how and why the Holocaust developed
- Examine the legacy of Nazi Germany and consider its continued impact on the world today
- Through a series of quizzes, show their knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and events of the Nazi regime
- Reflect on a notable historiographical contribution to the study of Nazi Germany and write a short essay containing that reflection
- Through a written exam, develop their own analysis and arguments on the themes and content in this course

Methods of Evaluation

Online Quizzes – 40% (Four quizzes, taking place on OWL, due September 28, October 20, November 10 and November 30)

Book Reflection – 20% (due November 17)

Final Exam – 40% (During Exam period)

Online Quizzes: There will be four **Online Quizzes** in this course. They will be due on September 28, October 20, November 10 and November 30. They are there to ensure students are keeping up with class content, while also helping ensure students are comprehending it. These quizzes will be a mix of 15 true/false and multiple choice questions based on lecture material and the assigned readings. These quizzes will take place on OWL and be open book. The quizzes will go live at midnight on Mondays after class and be available until the deadline at 11:55 p.m. ET. No late submissions will be accepted.

Book Reflection: Students will be expected to read Christopher Browning's *Ordinary Men* and reflect upon its contents in a 750-1000 word short essay. The reflection should be in full sentences and have citations (in Chicago style) to specific points in the reading, or, if relevant, the course textbook or other course readings. Students will also have a specific question or questions that they will need to respond to in their reflection. Further instructions will be provided on OWL. This assignment is due Friday, November 17, 2023 at 11:55 p.m. ET

Final Exam: There will be a final exam, taking place in-person, scheduled by the registrar's office during the December exam period. This exam will be roughly two hours in length and have a mix of identification and short essay questions that will reflect on important concepts and themes in this course.

Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling. Please see https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

All assignments should be submitted online via OWL at 11:55 p.m. ET on its due date. The timestamp on OWL will be considered final for any disputes regarding the punctuality of submissions. All written assignments will require citations (endnotes/footnotes and bibliography) in the most recent version of Chicago Style. Hardcopies are not required nor will be accepted.

Absences and Late Assignments: For all late assignments, a late penalty of **2% per day (weekends will count as one day)** will be applied. Should you require accommodation due to medical reasons or otherwise, please see the following section, contact Academic Counselling or consult the Undergraduate Policies and Statements on the History Department website.

Course Materials

The following books will be available for purchase at the UWO Bookstore:

Jane Caplan, *Nazi Germany: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2019)

Christopher R. Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (HarperCollins, 2017)*

*Older versions are acceptable.

Other readings will be made available on OWL.

Course Schedule

September 11: **Course Introduction**

September 18: **The Roots of National Socialism, the First World War and the Weimar Republic**

September 25: **The Nazi Seizure of Power and the First Year of Nazi Rule**

Online Quiz 1 due September 28 at 11:55 p.m. ET

October 2: **The Nazi State: How Did It Run?**

October 9: THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS

October 16: **The Volksgemeinschaft: Nazi Social, Gender and Racial Policies**

Online Quiz 2 due October 20 at 11:55 p.m. ET

October 23: **The Nazi Economy**

October 30 – READING WEEK – NO CLASS

November 6: **Nazi Foreign Policy and the Origins of the Second World War**

Online Quiz 3 due November 10 at 11:55 p.m. ET

November 13: **The Final Solution: How did the Holocaust happen?**

Book Reflection due November 17 at 11:55 p.m. ET

November 20: **Nazism and the Second World War**

November 27: **Denazification and the Aftermath of National Socialism**

Online Quiz 4 due November 30 at 11:55 p.m. ET

December 4: **Legacies of Nazi Germany and Review**

Additional Statements

Communication policies: Students are welcome to come to the professor's office hours or to arrange another time to meet the professor at his office if they have questions or concerns about the course. Additionally, they may contact the professor via email. The professor will aim to respond to students within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on weekends. Please use your UWO email address for any correspondence.

Use of electronic devices: Students are welcome to use electronic devices for the purposes of writing lecture notes. Recording tools are not allowed without written permission from the instructor. Students are expected to be paying attention to lectures not watching videos. playing video games or engaging in other distracting activities.

Use of generative AI tools: All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not make use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT for any assignments in this course.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.

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