

**History 2147A
Nazi Germany
Summer 2025**

Instructor: **Dr. A. Iarocci**

Email: **aiarocc@uwo.ca**

Office: **Department of History, Lawson Hall**

Office Hours: **by appointment**

This is a draft outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

Course Description

History 2147A explores the origins of the National Socialist (Nazi) movement; the goals and methods of the regime (in terms of domestic and foreign policy); the formulation of ideological platforms; the exercise of power in the regime; Nazi crimes at home and abroad (including the Holocaust and other programs of mass murder); the nature of resistance to Nazism; and the reasons for the collapse of the regime in 1945.

Antirequisite(s): History 1404E

Course Syllabus

History 2147B is a lecture course (online, asynchronous) that surveys the history of National Socialist (Nazi) Germany. The course takes a partly chronological and partly thematic approach. While some lectures focus explicitly on particular 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 in Germany and in German-occupied territories
- describe how governmental, military, paramilitary, professional, and other organizations functioned and exercised power inside the Nazi state
- identify and assess salient controversies and debates in the scholarship on Nazi Germany
- explain impact of the Nazi legacy on German (and international) public memory

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This course operates in a distance learning (online, asynchronous) format. There are no scheduled in-person classes or in-person tests/exams. It will be taught through the OWL course platform, which contains all course materials (except for the required textbook), including: weekly recorded (voice-over) PowerPoint lectures; the syllabus and test guidelines; announcements; mid-terms and final examination; and the gradebook.

The course is delivered in a six-week format, but it comprises the same volume of material that would normally be included in a fall or winter-term course. The instructor will post four (4) separate lectures (approximately 45 to 60 minutes per lecture) on each Monday throughout the course.

It is imperative to keep up with the weekly recorded lectures and course reading material. Doing so will reduce the workload when preparing for the exams. Effective time management is crucial.

In the **Course Schedule** (see below), the instructor has indicated which textbook chapters are best suited to each lecture topic. Keep in mind however, that some chapters are applicable to more than one lecture topic, and students will benefit from revisiting chapter content as the course progresses. The chapters are generally quite brief.

Methods of Evaluation

Tests and examinations in this course will be delivered online through the OWL platform, in take-home format. The tests/exams will typically be available to students for periods of approximately six to twelve hours, but once opened, they must be completed within a specified time frame (approximately 60 to 120 minutes, depending upon the number of questions involved). The tests/exams may include true/false, multiple choice, multiple selection, and/or short answer-type questions.

Mid-term Test #1: 25% (16 May)

Mid-term Test #2: 35% (30 May)

Final Examination: 40% (date TBD)

Mid-term test #1 covers material from Weeks 1 and 2.

Mid-term test #2 covers material from Weeks 3 and 4.

The final examination is cumulative; it covers material from the entire course.

Undocumented absences are not permitted for Mid-term Test #1.

Students must complete both mid-term tests and the final examination in order to pass the 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.

Course Materials

The **required** course text is:

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

Course Schedule and Readings

5 May, Week 1

Part A: Introduction to Modern Germany (**Evans, Preface, Ch 2**)

Part B: *Der Weltkrieg*: Germany's First World War (**Evans, Ch 3, 13**)

Part C: German Life in the 1920s (**Evans, Ch 4, 5**)

Part D: Origins of the National Socialist Movement

12 May, Week 2

Part A: Adolf Hitler in History and Memory (**Evans, Ch 9**)

Part B: Media, Arts, Culture, and Aesthetics (**Evans, Ch 27, 28**)

Part C: *Rassenpolitik*: Nazi Racial Ideology (**Evans, Ch 1, 6**)

Part D: Work and Play (**Evans, Ch 12**)

16 May – Mid-term Test #1

19 May, Week 3

Part A: Youth and Education

Part B: Gender Ideology (**Evans, Ch 10**)

Part C: Church and State

Part D: Foreign Policy and Economy (**Evans, Ch 11, 15, 16**)

26 May, Week 4

Part A: National Socialism and the Jews

Part B: Fighting the Second World War, 1939-40 (**Evans, Ch 18**)

Part C: Building a New World Order (**Evans, Ch 23**)

Part D: Fighting the Second World War, 1941-42 (**Evans, Ch 21**)

30 May – Mid-term Test #2

2 June, Week 5

Part A: Living under German Occupation (**Evans, Ch 20**)

Part B: Fighting the Second World War, 1943-45 (**Evans, Ch 19**)

Part C: Evolution of Mass Murder (**Evans, Ch 24, 25**)

Part D: Perpetrators

9 June, Week 6

Part A: Victims

Part B: Life and Death on the Homefront (**Evans, Chs 7, 8**)

Part C: *Götterdämmerung*: Twilight of the Gods (**Evans, Ch 22, 26**)

Part D: Facing the Past (**Evans, Ch 14, 17**)

Additional Statements

Students may reach the instructor at any time via e-mail (aiarocc@uwo.ca), and where helpful, we may also communicate over Zoom at mutually convenient times.

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.