

HS 340

**GERMAN HISTORY FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE EMPIRE (1871)
up to the 21st CENTURY**

FOUNDATIONS, DEVELOPMENTS AND PROBLEMS

Fall & Spring

Course content / DESCRIPTION:

This seminar focuses on the history of Germany from 1871 to the present. The course will concentrate primarily on the fundamental elements of German history and, in particular, how they relate to each other. Thus, the course objective is to gain a comprehensive overview of the essential history of Germany, but also to understand the reciprocal effects connected to various major events, time periods and historical developments. In addition, it is important to understand German history within an international context; events such as World War I and World War II as well as German history during the Cold War up to reunification cannot be fully grasped without this perspective. Further, students will learn basic scientific methods of historical scholarship and how to apply them (i.e., critical assessment of original sources on the various topics). As the course is being taught in Freiburg, topics covered will also be put into a local context, meaning that original testimonies from witnesses of historical events as well as short- and long-term effects on historical developments in Freiburg and the region will be discussed. To supplement the classroom experience, local excursions within Freiburg and the region are also planned.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: German

PREREQUISITES: Show great interest in art and its diverse manifestations. Readiness to debate. Have an open mind.

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- The course is taught with a variety of methods including:
- Lectures
- Discussions of the topics and the readings in large and small groups
- Presentations (from the teacher as well from the students)
- Group work
- Field Trips in the local area / museums
- Brief minutes of previous content presented in the classroom
- Use of various media such as readings, podcasts, films

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

1. Presentation (oral presentation in class, approx. 10-15 minutes per person; 10%)
2. Report on one weekly meetings (1 page in German; 10%)
3. Midterm exam (20%; 10.05.)
4. Final exam (30%; 28.06.)
5. Term paper (6-8 pages in German; 20%)
6. Class participation (10%)

Course Participation

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|----------|---|
| A | Excellent participation The student's contributions reflect an active reading of the assigned bibliography. Skillfully synthesizes the main ideas of the readings and raises questions about the applications and implications of the material. Demonstrates, through questions and comments, that he or she has been capable of relating the main ideas in the readings to the other information discussed in the course, and with his or her own life experience. The student makes informed judgments about the readings and other ideas discussed in class, providing evidence and reasons. He/she respectfully states his/her reactions about other classmates' opinions and is capable of contributing to the inquiry spiral with other questions. The student gets fully involved in the completion of the class activities. |
| B | Very good participation The student's contributions show that the assigned materials are usually read. Most of the time the main ideas are identified, even though sometimes it seems that applications and implications of the information read were not properly reflected upon. The student is able to construct over others' contributions, but sometimes seems to interrupt the shared construction to go over tangents. He/she is respectful of others' ideas. Regularly involved in the activities but occasionally loses concentration or energy. |
| C | Regular participation The participant evidences a regular reading of the bibliography, but in a superficial way. He/she tries to construct over others' ideas, but commonly provides comments that indicate lack of preparation about the material. Frequently, contributions are shallow or unarticulated with the discussion in hand. |
| F | Insufficient participation Consistently, the participant reads in a shallow way or does not read at all. Does not participate in an informed way and shows lack of interest in constructing over others' ideas. |

Short report: Each week, a short recap (1 page) of the important topics of the meeting shall be recorded by one student. This short report, which summarizes the most important contents of the meeting, will be presented and discussed at the beginning of the next meeting. The goal is repetition of material that has already been discussed. Each student is required to write a short report for at least one meeting. After the presentation of the report, content will be proofed by the lecturer and then uploaded to Moodle.

Presentation: Each student should present a short summary of a text related to the topic of the class session. The presentation should last 10-15 minutes, or longer if desired. The presentation should be conducted using PowerPoint, and additional research material should also be included. The instructor will assist with research and finding material for the presentation.

Midterm exam: There will be 3-4 questions relating to topics covered in the first half of the semester, which are to be answered in the form of short essays. This material will be reviewed with the students in the session before the midterm to ensure that everyone is well-prepared for the exam.

Final exam: The format will be the same as on the midterm exam, but there will be 6-8 questions on topics covered in the second part of the semester.

Term paper: An essay (6-8 pages) to be written in German on a topic discussed in the seminar (e.g., collapse of the Weimar Republic, World War II). Textbooks from the course generally serve as a sufficient basis for literature. Additional literature can be requested from the professor. Internet sources are allowed, but students should check the source (Wikipedia is not a serious source).

A grade will be given for all course requirements. Students may contact the instructor with any questions or concerns. Reports and presentations for each session will be posted to Moodle during the semester and can be accessed there for individual review.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students gain a comprehensive overview of German history in the 19th and 20th centuries
- Students will be able to understand German history in an international and global context and to describe complex historical backgrounds; they will gain an understanding of both macro-history (international contexts) and micro-history (genuinely German developments or examples) and will be able to relate the two to each other
- The students learn to grasp different historical contexts themselves and to find concrete questions related to the respective topic. They learn to use appropriate tools (databases, literature, online tools)
- Students will learn to access a variety of media resources (books, journals, articles, online resources) for specific topics and questions and evaluate their scientific quality
- Students learn research methods to pursue their own interests in related topics
- Students will be able to work with historical research literature as well as with original sources and to use both in a meaningful way for their own research questions
- Students learn how to develop their own research question, how to research it and how to present their findings in the form of a written scientific paper (in German)
- The students improve their German language skills in a subject-specific context

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

All IES Abroad (Freiburg) courses require attendance and participation. Attendance is mandatory per IES Abroad policy. Any unexcused absence will incur a penalty on your final course grade (1 absence - 1%, 2nd absence -2%, 3rd absence – 3%). Any student who has more than three (3) unexcused absences will receive an “F” as the final grade in the course. Any student who misses more than 25% of a course, whether the absences are excused or are unexcused, will receive an “F” as the final grade in the course. Absences due to sickness, religious observances, and family emergencies may be excusable at the discretion of the Center Director. In the case of an excused absence, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the Academic Dean of the absence with an Official Excused Absence Form, as well as any other relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor’s note), and to keep a record thereof. The absence form must be turned in as soon as possible before the class, in the case of a planned absence, or immediately upon return to the Center, in the case of an unplanned absence, in order for the absence to be considered excused. It is also the student’s responsibility to inform the professor of the missed class. Students can collect and submit the Official Excused Absence Form from the office of the Academic Dean.

TESTS, QUIZZES, OR PRESENTATIONS MISSED DURING UNEXCUSED ABSENCES CANNOT BE MADE UP!

ASSIGNMENTS NOT HANDED IN ON THE DUE DATE WILL BE SUBJECT TO A 3% PENALTY PER DAY POST-DUE DATE (except of students who have an excused absence).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE:

Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism is punishable with a failing grade in the class. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as “copying of materials from sources, without acknowledging having done so, claiming other’s ideas as one’s own without proper reference to them, and buying materials such as essays/exams.

Updated information on your course and readings, including additional readings from journalistic articles, can be found on the Moodle platform at <https://moodle.iesabroad.org/login/index.php>

CONSENT TO RECORDING

Class discussions, both in the classroom and online, may be recorded to provide an educational resource for students in the class.

Your instructor will inform you before recording starts. Reasonable requests from students to deactivate their cameras during recording will be considered by instructors. Class recordings will be kept on the Moodle class site

and will only be available to students in the class. The recordings will no longer be available to students when the semester ends.

Students are prohibited from recording classes or from distributing class recordings. Any recordings made will be used only for educational purposes within the class, unless explicit, written permission has been granted by the students.

Content:

| # | Date /Time | Topic | Presentation / Required reading | Report |
|----|------------|--|---|--------|
| 1 | | General Introduction | – | |
| 2 | | The Belated Nation | ZuM, Vol. 2, P. 45-64 | |
| 3 | | The German Empire (1871-1918): Politics, Economy, Society | Group (1): ZuM, Vol. 2, P. 119-130 | No. 1 |
| 4 | | Europe in the Age of Imperialism | Group (2): Text "Die Welt im Zeichen des Imperialismus" | No. 2 |
| 5 | | German Foreign Policy (1890-1914): The Grip on World Power | Group (3): ZuM Vol. 2, P. 135-141 | No. 3 |
| 6 | | The First World War: I Course of the War | Group (4): ZuM, Vol. 2, P. 141-147 | No. 4 |
| 7 | | The First World War II: War Ideology & Mass Culture | Group (5): Text und „Kriegsideologie Massenkultur“ (BpB) | No. 5 |
| 8 | | End of the Empire: The November Revolution and the Emergence of the Weimar Republic | Group (6): ZuM, Vol. 2; P. 148-164 | No. 6 |
| 9 | | Problems of the Weimar Republic I: Difficult Early Years (1919-1923) | Group (7): ZuM, Vol. 2, P. 164- 176 | No. 7 |
| 10 | | Problems of the Weimar Republic II: Stabilization, Crisis and Decline (1924-1933) | Group (8): ZuM, Vol. 2, P. 176-194 | No. 8 |
| 11 | | MID-TERM EXAM | | |
| 12 | | The Rise of the National Socialism | Group (9): ZuM, Vol. 2, P. 200- 221 | No. 9 |
| 13 | | Germany under the Rule of National Socialism I: Politics, Economy, Society | Group (10): ZuM, Vol. 2, P. 221-224; 225-233 | No. 10 |
| 14 | | Germany under the Rule of National Socialism II: The Path to War | Group (11): Text „Der Weg in den Krieg“ & ZuM, Vol. 2, P. 234-239 | No. 11 |
| 15 | | World War II | Group (12): ZuM, Vol. 2, P. 240-245 | No. 12 |

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| X | | Guided Tour / Excursion in Freiburg related to German history | | |
| 16 | | The Early Post-war Years (1945-1949): Occupation, Denazification and the Nuremberg Trials. | Group (13): 1945-49: Besatzung und Entnazifizierung | No. 13 |
| 17 | | Germany after the War until the Building of the Berlin Wall in 1961 | Group (14): Text „Deutschland bis 1961“ | No. 14 |
| 18 | | The Two German States in the Tension of the Cold War (1949-1989) | Group (15): Wolfrum, P. 96-103, 129-143, 382-390 | No. 15 |
| 19 | | Awakening and Protest since the 1960s: Student Movement, Citizens' Initiatives and Green Movement | Group (16): Texte „68er Bewegung“ und „RAF“ | No. 16 |
| 20 | | Crisis of the Eastern Bloc, Collapse of the GDR and Reunification | Group (17): Wolfrum, P. 434-450 | No. 17 |
| 21 | | Germany after Reunification: Opportunities, Perspectives, Problems | Up-to-date material will be provided in the class | |
| 22 | | FINAL EXAM | | |
| 23 | | Discussion and Semester Review & (German) History Today - Remembrance Culture & Politics | Up-to-date material will be provided in the class | |

LITERATURE

Required Readings:

All texts on Moodle, i.e.:

Zeiten und Menschen, Vol. 2, Eds. W. Borth und E. Schanbacher, Paderborn 2009

Zeiten und Menschen, Vol. 3, Eds. W. Borth und E. Schanbacher, Paderborn 2012

Recommended Readings:

Aly, Götz, Hitlers Volksstaat. Raub, Rassenkrieg und nationaler Faschismus, Frankfurt a. M. 2005

Bartov, Omer, Hitlers Wehrmacht. Soldaten, Fanatismus und die Brutalisierung des Krieges, Reinbek bei Hamburg 2001

Bavaj, Riccardo, Der Nationalsozialismus. Entstehung, Aufstieg, Herrschaft, Berlin 2015

Bender, Peter, Deutschlands Wiederkehr. Eine ungeteilte Nachkriegsgeschichte 1945-1990, 2007

Berding, Helmut, Moderner Antisemitismus, Frankfurt 1998 Browning, Christopher, Ganz normale Männer, Reinbek 1996 Brunk, Tobias, Kolonialismus – Imperialismus, Heidelberg 2014

Fahrmeir, Andreas, Deutsche Geschichte, München 2017² [ab Kapitel 3-4]

Fischer, Fritz, Bündnis der Eliten. Zur Kontinuität der Machtstrukturen in Deutschland 1871- 1945, Düsseldorf 1985

Frey, Norbert (Hrsg.), Hitlers Eliten nach 1945, München 2003
 Gilcher-Holtey, Die 68er Bewegung, München 2008
 Gilbert, Martin, Endlösung. Die Vertreibung und Vernichtung der Juden, Reinbek 1995
 Grüttner, M., Brandstifter und Biedermänner. Deutschland 1933-1939, Berlin 2015
 Herbst, Ludolf, Das nationalsozialistische Deutschland 1933-1945, Frankfurt 2010
 Hilberg, Raul, Täter, Opfer, Zuschauer. Die Vernichtung der Juden 1933-1945, Frankfurt a. M. 2000
 Jasper, Gotthard, Die gescheiterte Zähmung. Wege zur Machtergreifung Hitlers 1930-1934, Frankfurt a. M. 2005
 Keegan, John, Der Erste Weltkrieg. Eine europäische Tragödie, Reinbek bei Hamburg 2001
 Kogon, Eugen, Der SS-Staat. Das System der Konzentrationslager, München 1997
 Kolb, Eberhardt, Schumann, Dirk, Die Weimarer Republik, München 2013
 Klußmann, Uwe/Berg, Stefan, Das kaiserliche Deutschland unter preußischer Herrschaft von Bismarck bis Wilhelm II., München 2014
 Landes, David S., Wohlstand und Armut der Nationen. Warum die einen reich und die anderen arm sind, Berlin 2002
 Levi, Primo, Ist das ein Mensch? Ein autobiographischer Bericht, München 1992
 Michalka, Wolfgang (Hrsg.), Der Zweite Weltkrieg. Analysen – Grundzüge – Forschungsbilanz, Weyarn 1997
 Müller, Claudia, Die Shoah in Geschichte und Erinnerung, Bielefeld 2015
 Lüdtke, Alf, Funktionseliten: Täter, Mit-Täter, Opfer? Zu den Bedingungen des deutschen Faschismus, in: ders. (Hrsg.), Herrschaft als soziale Praxis, Göttingen 1991
 Overy, Richard, Die Wurzeln des Sieges. Warum die Alliierten den Zweiten Weltkrieg gewannen, Reinbek 2002
 Plessner, Helmuth, Die verspätete Nation, Frankfurt a. M. 1993
 Sofsky, Wolfgang, Die Ordnung des Terrors: Das Konzentrationslager, Frankfurt 2006 Speitkamp, W., Deutsche Kolonialpolitik, Stuttgart 2014
 Vinke, Hermann, Das Dritte Reich, Ravensburg 2015
 Vollnhals, Clemens (Hrsg.), Entnazifizierung. Politische Säuberung und Rehabilitierung in den vier Besatzungszonen 1945-1949, München 1991
 Waite, Robert G. L., Vanguard of Nazism. The Free Corps Movement in Postwar Germany 1918-1923, Cambridge, Mass. 1952
 Welzer, Harald, Das kommunikative Gedächtnis: eine Theorie der Erinnerung, München 2008 Welzer, Harald, Täter. Wie aus ganz normalen Menschen Massenmörder werden, Frankfurt a. M. 2007
 Wette, Wolfram, Die Wehrmacht. Feindbilder, Vernichtungskrieg, Legenden, Frankfurt a. M. 2005
 Winkler, Heinrich August, Der lange Weg nach Westen, 2 Bde., München 2005
 Winkler, Heinrich August, Geschichte des Westens, Bd. 4 – Die Gegenwart, München 2015
 Wirsching, Andreas: Deutsche Geschichte im 20. Jahrhundert, München 2011³
 Wistrich, Robert, Wer war wer im Dritten Reich? Ein biographisches Lexikon, Frankfurt a. M. 2002
 Wolfrum, Edgar, Die geglückte Demokratie. Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland von ihren Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart, Stuttgart 2006
 Wolfrum, Edgar, Die Bundesrepublik Deutschland seit 1949 – eine geglückte Demokratie?, Heidelberg 2009

Online:

Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (Federal Agency for Civic Education) helpful for all topics with information, sources, and overview texts; citable, can be used in term paper):<https://www.bpb.de/>