

UCSB Hist 133B, Winter 2007
German History, 1900-1945
HSSB 4020, T-Th 11:00-12:15
www.history.ucsb.edu/faculty/marcuse/classes/133b

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Office hours: Tuesdays 12:30-2:30

GERMAN HISTORY, 1900-1945

Course Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for students with a general knowledge of European history in the 20th century.

We will investigate the main events in German history from the origins of World War I to the legacies of World War II. These include the revolution and counterrevolution that ended the First World War; the crisis, stable and depression phases of the Weimar Republic; Hitler's ascent to power; life in Nazi Germany, and key features of World War II and the Holocaust.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION (COURSE REQUIREMENTS):

1. I expect you to **attend** all classes. Why take a course if you don't make the effort to learn what it teaches? Lectures include images, discussion and information not available elsewhere. I will call roll until I learn your names. Participation counts for 5% of the course grade.
If you wish to have an excused absence, including undocumented medical absences, you must inform me by e-mail or phone message *before* the class in question begins.
2. There will NOT be a formal midterm examination. Instead, you will be asked to write a short text (300 words) on simple questions about the assigned readings, roughly once each week. These **eight questions** will be announced in advance. They are worth 30% of the final grade.
Make-up questions are only possible for absences excused prior to the start of class.
3. A list of several **essay topic ideas** for a book essay, the **essay itself** (1800 words, 5-6 pages), and a **revised version**. This essay is based primarily on one book, which I will recommend based on your topic ideas, or which you may select yourself. (A blue book essay handout will provide details.)
The list of ideas is due *Thursday, Feb. 8*; the essay itself *Thursday, March 1*; and the revised version *Tuesday, March 13*, always at the beginning of class. Together they count for 5+30+5=40% of your final grade. However, note the different deadlines for the no final exam option in #5.
4. A **take-home final examination** will have 3 IDs chosen from 9, and one essay question. It is worth 25%. A study guide may be distributed in advance.
5. **No-exam option**: Students who submit their topic ideas by *Feb. 1* and their book essay by *Feb. 22*, **if** they receive a B+ or better on that essay, may opt out of taking the final exam. If you qualify for and choose this option, you must submit, by *March 6*, a corrected and augmented version for publication on the course web site. This web version must include a short "about the author" paragraph, a 60-word abstract, and an *annotated bibliography-linkography*. The author blurb and abstract are worth 5% of your total grade, the annotated references 20% (!). Details will be available on a separate web option handout. Revised versions of the 3 supplements are due *Mar. 15*.
6. Students with outstanding book essays will may present their papers orally for extra credit.

Grading: Participation: 5%; 8 questions: 25%; ideas+essay+revised paper: 5+30+5=40%;
final exam or web option: 25%.
Work submitted after 11:00am on the due date will lose one point per day.

REQUIRED BOOKS

- **Textbook:** Martin Kitchen, *A History of Modern Germany, 1800-2000* (Blackwell, 2006). DD203.K58 2006
- **Essay Collection:** Richard Bessel (ed.), *Life in the Third Reich*, (Oxford, 1987, 2001), \$13.
- **Photocopied Reader:** available week of January 29.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

Week 1	Jan. 9	Introduction	
	Jan. 11	Kaiser Wilhelm's Germany, 1890-1914	Kitchen, chap. 9
Week 2	Jan. 16	World War I, 1914-1918	Kitchen, chap. 10
	Jan. 18	Revolution and Counterrevolution, 1918-1919	
Week 3	Jan. 23	The Weimar Republic, 1919-1923	Kitchen, chap. 11
	Jan. 25	The Weimar Republic, 1924-1929	
Week 4	Jan. 30	Hitler and the Nazi Ascent to Power, 1929-1933	Kitchen, chap. 12 Bessel (ed.), 1-56
	Feb. 1	The Nazi Takeover and Life in the Early 1930s	(web: topic ideas due)
Week 5	Feb. 6	Life Worthy and Unworthy of Living	Reader: Nazi doctors
	Feb. 8	The Concentration Camp System	topic idea lists due
Week 6	Feb. 13	Kristallnacht, November 1938	Bessel, 57-96; Kitchen, 284-298
	Feb. 15	Making War for <i>Lebensraum</i> , 1939-1941	Kitchen, 298-315
Week 7	Feb. 20	War of Genocide, 1941-1943	Reader: Battalion 101 Reader: Nazi ghettos in Poland
	Feb. 22	Responses to War and Genocide	(web: book essays due)
Week 8	Feb. 27	Auschwitz	Reader: Auschwitz
	Mar. 1	The Final Phase of World War II, 1944-45	book essays due
Week 9	Mar. 6	Human Behavior in Extreme Conditions	(web option supplements due)
	Mar. 8	Legacies of the Holocaust	Bessel (ed.), 97-110
Week 10	Mar.13	Student presentations	revised essays due (e-mail) final exam study guide
	Mar.15	Concluding lecture	(corrected web essays+supplements)
	Mar.22	Thurs., 3pm: FINAL EXAMINATION DUE, HSSB 4221	

Plagiarism—presenting someone else's work as your own, or failing to credit or attribute the work of others on whom you draw (including materials found on the web)—is a serious academic offense, punishable by dismissal from the university. It hurts the one who commits it most of all, by cheating them out of an education. I report offenses to the university authorities for disciplinary action.

Cell phones ringing in class are an annoyance and distraction for me and other students. If your phone rings during class, I will stop the lecture and answer your call myself.