

**German History since 1945:**  
***Building Democracies on Legacies of Dictatorship***  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Introduction and Goals**

Prior to 1945 Germany was the primary instigator of two world wars and the perpetrator of the most thoroughly organized genocide in world history. However, within a decade its western part was one of the Western alliance's most reliable allies, while its eastern part was an obedient element of the security buffer Stalin had created for the Soviet Union. NATO billed West Germany as a "bastion of democracy" buffering capitalist Western from communist Eastern Europe, while East Germany was a laboratory experiment in "real existing socialism" under the constraints of Cold War competition. By the late 1960s one of the largest grassroots movements in European history began to emerge in the West, entering mainstream politics as the West Germany Green party in the 1970s. In the East a highly effective state security apparatus stifled civic activism until the late 1980s, but then it emerged in a sudden, peaceful revolution that felled a seemingly unshakable government in less than a year.

**Your Contribution (Course Requirements):**

1. **Attendance.** I expect you to **attend** all classes and scheduled events. Why take a course if you don't put in the time and effort to learn what it teaches? Lectures include images, videos, discussion and information not available elsewhere. Participation makes up 5% of the course grade.  
Absences reported *by email in advance* will not require documentation in order to be excused.
2. **"Midterm:" 9-1=8 questions (Qs).** There will NOT be a formal in-class midterm examination. Instead, you will be asked to write short answers (100-400 words) to questions about assigned readings or events, roughly once each week. These nine questions will *usually* be announced in advance and submitted on Gauchospace, due by 10am before class. (5 pts each, 40 points total)  
\*\*Make-up questions are in general not possible, but the lowest score will be dropped.
3. **Source Exploration.** You will trace one of the sources on the [germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org) website (or in any course reading), back to its original context and research aspects of its creation, transmission over time, and interpretation by different authors.  
A separate handout explains this in detail. There will be a prospectus, the exploration itself, and a revision. The due dates are (see back): Thu. **May 2, 16 and 30.** (5+20+5=30 pts total)  
*Web option:* excellent source explorations may be expanded to a paper published on the web ([essay website](#)) or as part of a Wikipedia entry. This would replace the take-home essay portion of the final.
4. The **final examination** will have two parts: a take-home essay (1000-1200 words) in response to a prompt that will be distributed in the last class with a list of ID terms. The 30 min. in-class portion of the exam will consist of identifications of two terms or images on that list, drawn from lectures, films and readings. The final is worth 25 points: 15 points for the essay (or web option) and 5 points for each ID.

**Grading:** Is on a point system. You can accumulate up to 100 points, distributed as follows:

Participation: 5; eight questions: 40; source exploration: 30 (5+20+5); final exam: 25 (15 take-home + 10 in-class). Work submitted after its deadline time (e.g. 10am) will lose one point per day.

**Readings** (copies of books will be on 2-hour [reserve at the library](#) circulation desk)

- Bernhard Schlink, *The Reader* ([German 1995] Pantheon, 1997) ([\\$8-11 @ amazon](#))
- Bommi Baumann, *How It All Began* ([1975]; Arsenal, 2004). LA728.7 B3713 1979 ([\\$10-16 @ amazon](#))
- Victor Grossman, *From Harvard to Karl-Marx-Allee* (UMass, 2019). ([\\$22 @ amazon](#))
- Photocopied sources and articles, ca. 55 pages, possibly as a printed reader (*how many want one*)?
- Links to films, textbook, additional articles & sources will be posted on the [Hist 133C Gauchospace site](#).

**UCSB Hist 133c 2019**  
**Schedule of Lectures and Assignments**

Wk-L#	Date	Topic	Assignment
I-1	2 Apr.	Introduction: What is Germany? 3 Reichs, 3 Democracies	fill in intro survey (GS)
2	4 Apr.	Discussion with German guest professor Reichardt	Fulbrook chaps. 1 & 15 (GS)
II-3	9 Apr.	Dealing with the Nazi Past, 1945-1965	Q1 on Fulbrook Ch. 1 & 15 Schlink, <i>The Reader</i>
4	11 Apr.	Dealing with the Nazi Past, 1960s-present	Q2 on Schlink
III-5	16 Apr.	Life under Occupation; The "D"s and "R"s	Fulbrook chap. 6 (pp. 113-142)
6	18 Apr.	Three Turnarounds and the Berlin Blockade/Airlift	Byrnes & Marshall (R2+3): Q3
IV-7	23 Apr.	The 1953 East German Uprising	<b>meet w/ prof: source assignment</b> Fulbrook chap.7, R4
8	25 Apr.	Competition between 2 Germanies: 1950s East Germany	Grossman, pp. 7-149: Q4
V-9	28 Apr.	<b>Sunday, 3pm</b> , Carsey-Wolf: Lanzmann film <i>2 Sisters</i>	<b>EC afternoon film</b>
10	30 Apr.	The Berlin Wall Goes Up: Causes and Consequences	R 5,6,7 (1961-63): Q5 Film: <i>The Promise</i> (115 mins.)
	2 May	Diverging Societies	<b>Source proposal due Thu.</b>
VI-11	7 May	1968: Generations & Political Culture	Fulbrook ch. 8 & 9 or TBD (GS)
12	9 May	The West German "Green" movement	Kelly & Bahro readings (GS); Q6
VII-13	14 May	The Red Army Faction Film: <i>Baader-Meinhof Complex</i> (2 hr. 30 min.)	Baumann, <i>How it All Began</i> : Q7
14	16 May	<i>Ostpolitik</i> : From Brandt to Kohl	<b>Source exploration due Thu.</b>
VIII-15	21 May	Dissent and the Stasi State in the East	Grossman, 149-334
16	23 May	How the Berlin Wall fell: discussion of Grossman	R 8 & 9 ( <i>Voices</i> & Reagan): Q8
IX-17	28 May	Re"volution not Revolution Film: <i>Good-Bye Lenin</i>	R10 (Borneman): Q9
18	30 May	"Wrapping up" East Germany OR guest Prof. Kansteiner	<b>Source revision due Thu.</b>
X-19	4 June	Q & A with author Victor Grossman	R 11-13
20	6 June	Concluding lecture: Lessons of Post-1945 German History	
EXAM	12 June	Wed., noon-12:30pm: IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM	Bring 1-2 sheets of lined paper

**Policies**

- Students with disabilities: Please let me know, so that we can ensure appropriate accommodations.
- **Any use of cell- or web-connected devices in class** distracts me and other students.  
TURN YOUR DEVICES OFF. Please be considerate of others.  
Laptop use is restricted to the back row of the classroom unless explicitly allowed by the professor.

**Academic Dishonesty and 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. Supplying materials to someone to help them violate rules is an equally serious offense.  
I report offenses to the university authorities for disciplinary action; they become part of your record.