

UCSB Int 184HM Honors Forum, Spring 2010
Representations of Hitler, 1900-1930s
 HSSB 4020, Wed 3:00-4:50
www.history.ucsb.edu/faculty/marcuse/classes/

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 Office hours: Wed. 1-2:30 & Thu. 12-12:30

Representations of Hitler, 1900 to the 1930s

Honors Forum Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) grew up in small towns in Austria, lived in Vienna from ages 18 to 24 (1907-1913), then lived in Munich until he became German chancellor in 1933, except for his World War I service from 1914-1918 and a spell in prison in 1924. How do we know what we know about Hitler?

After some sporadic press reports about his background in the early 1920s, he presented the world with some autobiographical information in his book *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) in 1925. As Hitler's political notoriety increased, more serious biographies began to appear. By the time World War II ended in 1945, many people who had crossed paths with him had published their memories of him, and researchers sought to find every conceivable documentary trace. Since then more and more documents have been unearthed, and reports and historical studies have appeared.

In this course we will attempt to discern fact and fiction by examining both the original sources and how they have been interpreted by historians. We will also examine the backgrounds of the authors of those sources to attempt to determine how their personal biases shaped their portrayals.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Book: Neil Gregor, *How to Read Hitler* (Norton, 2005);
Course reader, 264 pages, available at Alternative Copy on Pardall Rd. in IV, ca. \$30.
2. Attend class, do the assigned readings, participate in class discussion, and prepare reports.
3. Become an expert on one of the major sources/source groups about Hitler in the 1910s & 20s, including interpretations in major biographies (Heiden, Olden, Bullock, Toland, Fest, Kershaw).
4. Prepare an oral presentation and a web resource on an aspect of Hitler's pre-Chancellor life.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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|-----|----------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1. | Mar. 31: | Introduction: Survey & 3 Films (1940, 1977, 2008) | |
| 2. | Apr. 7: | Early Biographies | Reader 1-4 |
| 3. | Apr. 14: Apr. 15: | The Vienna Years & Hitler's Sexuality Thu. 5pm, UCen/Lobero Rm: presentation by J. Lothe, Oslo/Berlin: Narratives from Auschwitz & Sachsenhausen | Reader 5-8 Attend lecture |
| 4. | Apr. 21: | World War I and After; <i>formation of source groups</i> | Rdr 9-11, Gregor 45-56 |
| 5. | Apr. 28: | Hitler's Worldview | Gregor, entire |
| 6. | May 5: | Film show ing / group meetings? (prof. out of town) | |
| 7. | May 12: | Sources of the 1920s | Reader 12-16 |
| 8. | May 19: | War, Party, Putsch & Prison | |
| 9. | May 26: | Presentations | |
| 10. | June 2: | Presentations | |