

## **Representations of Hitler, 1900-1930s**

### **Course Syllabus**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS**

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) grew up in several smaller cities 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 this World War I service from 1914 to 1918 and a spell in prison in 1924. How do we know what we know about Hitler?

After some sporadic press reports about him in the early 1920s, Hitler presented the world with a short autobiography in his book *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) in 1925. As Hitler's political notoriety increased, journalists scoured the countryside for information about him, and more serious biographies began to appear. During and shortly after World War I 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 brought to light, with every more detailed biographies being written.

In this course we will attempt to discern fact from fiction by examining both the primary sources and how they have been verified and interpreted by historians. We will also examine the backgrounds of the authors and the contexts in which those documents were written to attempt to discern how various biases shaped the portrayals.

#### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Course Reader, 310 pages, available at GrafikArt on Pardall Rd. in IV, ca. \$26.
- Attend class & outside event(s), do the assigned readings, and especially: participate in discussion!
- Prepare, individually or in groups, an oral and written presentation on a topic from the list.

#### **GROUP TOPIC LIST**

1. World War I: An Analysis of Thomas Weber's *Hitler's First War* (2010)
2. Hitler Speeches of the 1920s: Quantitative, qualitative, chronological and geographic analysis
3. Newspaper and Periodical Articles of the 1920s
4. Early Firsthand Accounts: Dietrich Eckert, Gottfried Feder, Ernst Röhm, Ernst Hanfstaengl, ...,
5. The Making of an Image: Photographer Heinrich Hoffmann, Goebbels' Diaries, ...

#### **WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

1.	Mar. 28:	Introduction: Survey, 20 min. clip from <i>Hitler: A Career</i>	# pages
2.	Apr. 4:	Hitler's Biography According to <i>Mein Kampf</i> (chaps. 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9).	54
3.	Apr. 11:	Family, Vienna, Munich and World War I: Early Biographies	83
4.	Apr. 18:	Hitler's Boyhood Friend August Kubizek (note: 155 pages reading)	155
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6.	May 1 May 2	Sunday, 3pm, Campbell Hall, Deborah Lipstadt lecture on 1961 Eichmann Trial After the War: Revolution and Politics	86
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8.	May 16:	Student presentations	
9.	May 23:	Student presentations	
10.	??	Remaining presentations	

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• Werner Maser, <i>Hitler: Legend, Myth and Reality</i> . (New York: Harper & Row, <b>1973</b> ), 321-324. ....	303

## Int 184hm 2011 Final Projects

Basically, I expect that everyone will carefully search for and examine all of the primary source material that is available on their topic. This begins with **books and articles**, which you will find in several ways:

- by searching the "standard biographies" of Hitler (Kershaw, Bullock, Tolland, Fest) for keywords (in their indexes or on google books), and going to the corresponding footnotes, where those works are cited
- by searching the web, including the library's WorldCat and journal article databases

Once you find (and obtain) those books, you will find the relevant passages, and those footnotes should name the primary sources where that information originated. If possible, you should obtain those primary sources as well.

**In preparing your paper and presentation, this is what I envisage:**

You will compile the **information in chronological order**. Each "point" should begin with a citation of where that information comes from, will include a direct quotation of the relevant text (at times paraphrased when the original quotation is too long), and will **include your discussion of how that source/quotation is to be assessed and interpreted**. That discussion will weigh and compare that information against other information from other sources that may conflict, which will then be presented. And so on.

You will probably need a **general introductory paragraph** with some basic "factual" (non-disputed) background information and an overview of the sources you found, the problems in finding and obtaining them (include sources you could not get or could not read because they are in another language), and perhaps some of the central questions they address.

Finally, you should have a **concluding paragraph** in which you summarize the core results of your research.

As I've said, I think there are **3 types of presentations**, each with a slightly different emphases and "flow," namely:

- 1. Simple biographies of people** (Drexler, Eckert, Hanfstängl, Röhm, Strassers, Geli, etc.)
  - a. Name and excerpt/discuss the biographies of these people that there are (if some are in other languages and not translated, note that). Even if you could not obtain some, cite them and make whatever remarks about them that you can.
  - b. Those biographies will cite other sources, perhaps including writings by the person in question. If you could obtain those sources (e.g. Mein Kampf), cite them and include the relevant passage(s). If multiple biographies cite the same source, you might note that in your discussion, and say how the interpretations differ (if they do). If a biography quotes/translates an original source, you may include that quotation, and paraphrase the author's interpretation of it in your discussion.
- 2. Biographers of Hitler** (Heiden, Fest)
  - a. Give general biographical background on these people, from their books, the web, or wherever you can find it (summaries in the "standard biographies"). Try to use the most original source (unreferenced Wikipedia only as a last resort, for instance).
  - b. Include a discussion of all of that person's relevant publications, and how they differ (Fest: book vs. film perhaps).
  - c. Cite and quote passages that pertain to some of the central questions addressed in this seminar (by other presenters). Note: it may be better to bring this into the discussion of other presentations, than to try to include it in your limited time. In your written version, you may limit your analysis to whichever questions are most interesting to you, as space allows.
- 3. Topics about Hitler** (health, mental health, sexuality, relations with women, etc)
  - a. Cite and give a brief background and assessment of the major works on this topic, e.g. on Hitler's mental health: Walter Langer, Robert Waite, Fredrick Redlich, chapter in Rosenbaum, etc.
  - b. What are the major questions/points of contention/interpretations? For each one, create a thread about what the major works say about it, using their quotations and as much as possible the original primary source material they are drawing on.
  - c. Each member of a group might pursue a separate thread, and become an expert on one or more of the major works (in a way, a combination of presentation types 1 & 2).