

**HISTORY 105 – 05
20152**

Topics in History: Why Hitler?

Prof. Hatfield
Office: 309 Clough
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Spring Semester 2009-2010
300 Clough - TR 9:30-10:45

Staying in Touch

Generally I am on campus only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I will be available before class (8:45-9:15) and after class (10:45-11:15). Please feel free to contact me by E-mail (Hatfield@rhodes.edu). My home phone is 384-0556. (Please do not call after 10:30 P.M., unless it is an emergency.)

Course Objectives

- I. For each student to develop and write an original essay of historical interpretation that deals with the main issues of the question "Why Hitler?" (1) How and why was Hitler appointed to the office of Chancellor on 30 January 1933? (2) What were the subsequent events by which Hitler's constitutional position was transformed into a dictatorship, and why was this dictatorship accepted, even embraced, by the German nation? (3) Why did Hitler use his dictatorial power for the purposes of expansion, domination, and extermination, and how may historians assess responsibility for the Second World War and the Holocaust?
- II. For each student to develop further the skills necessary to accomplish the main objective:
 - A. in the critical assessment of a wide variety of secondary sources
 - B. in interpreting selected primary sources
 - C. in writing effectively, in employing proper forms of documentation, and in writing persuasively, crafting sound arguments for his/her interpretations

Course Requirements

- I. Attendance and participation
 - A. Students are expected to attend all 28 class sessions for the semester.
 - B. Students are expected to read the assignment before each class session and to come to class with questions and points of discussion.
 - C. Students are expected to submit all work on the dates indicated in this Syllabus.
 - D. Students are expected to participate
 1. in general class discussions of the assigned readings,
 2. and by presenting oral reports on their book reviews on the specified dates.
- II. Required class readings (to be purchased in the College bookstore)
 - A. Henry A. Turner, Jr., *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power: January 1933*.

- B. Joachim Remak, ed., *The Nazi Years: A Documentary History*.
- C. Ron Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler: The Search for the Origins of His Evil*.
- D. Course packet containing extracts from:
 - 1. Karl D. Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*.
 - 2. Ian Kershaw, *Hitler. 1889-1936: Hubris*.
 - 3. Ian Kershaw, *Hitler. 1936-1945: Nemesis*.

[For each class you need to bring your copy of the assigned reading for that day.]

III. Book Review Project

For this project, each student will select, from a list of approved titles, a book to read and review. These works of scholarly interpretation are available in Barret Library. The review project will be accomplished in the following stages:

- A. Book selection by lottery on Thursday 14 January.
- B. A preview of the book, submitted on the proper form on Tuesday 19 January.
- C. A formal **critical review** of the book, written in conformity with guidelines and instructions that will be distributed. The critical review will be due in class on Thursday 28 January.
- D. A **revised critical review** is due on Tuesday 9 February. (Hard copy and computer file, to be formatted for the book project)

IV. Interpretive Essay Project

Over the course of the semester each student will develop and write an original interpretive essay on the crucial issues encompassed in the question, "Why Hitler?" There will be three main phases in developing the essay:

Part One: How and why was Hitler appointed to the office of Chancellor on 30 January 1933?

Instructions distributed: Thursday 11 February.

Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Thursday 18 February.

Essay One Hard Copy due: Thursday 25 February.

Revised essay, as part of the final combined essay, due Friday 7 May.

Part Two: Why and how Hitler's office transformed into a personal dictatorship and why was his dictatorship accepted, even embraced, by the German nation?

Instructions distributed: Tuesday 23 March.

Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Tuesday 30 March.

Essay Two Hard Copy due: Thursday 8 April.

Revised essay, as part of the final combined essay, due Friday 7 May.

Part Three: Why did Hitler use the power of the German state for the purposes of expansion, domination, and extermination, and how may one assess responsibility for World War II and the Holocaust?

Instructions distributed: Thursday 22 April.

Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Thursday 29 April.

Essay Three, included as part of the final combined essay, due Friday 7 May.

Final Combined Essay, including General Introduction, Revised Part One, Revised Part Two, Part Three, and General Conclusion.

Instructions distributed: Tuesday 27 April.

Hard Copy Final Essay due on or before Friday 7 May at 8:00 P.M.

V. Elements of the course grade

A. Attendance 5%

The grade for attendance will be determined according to the following scale:

Number of absences	Numerical grade	Number of absences	Numerical grade
0	100	5	75
1	95	6	70
2	90	7	60
3	85	more than 7	0
4	80		

B. Participation 15%

General class discussion 10%
Class presentation 5%

C. Essay Project 60%

Part One 15%
Part Two 15%
Part Three 15%
Final, combined Essay 15%

D. Written Book Review 20%

VI. Grade values

A 93-100	B+ 88-89	C+ 78-79	D+ 68-69	F 0-59
A- 90 - 92	B 83-87	C 73-77	D 63-67	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Schedule of Classes and Assignments:

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS Why Hitler? Issues of Historical Interpretation

1. Th 14 Jan Introduction to the Course
Lottery for review project books
2. T 19 Jan Overview of Hitler's Career and Impact (1)

Film: The Fatal Attraction of Adolf Hitler (Beginning)
Produced by Bill Treharne Jones for the BBC
Narrated by Dr. Christopher Andrew.

Book preview due.

Reviewing works of historical literature

3. Th 21 Jan Overview of Hitler's Career and Impact (2)

Film: The Fatal Attraction of Adolf Hitler (Conclusion)
Produced by Bill Treharne Jones for the BBC
Narrated by Dr. Christopher Andrew.

Documentary film as a historical source

PART ONE: THE POLITICIAN

The issue: How and why was Hitler appointed to the office of Chancellor, 30 Jan. 1933?

4. T 26 Jant Weimar Germany: Problems of a New Beginning, 1919-1932

“A Look Ahead to 1933” Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, 45-49, in Course Packet, 23b-25;
Documents in Remak, *The Nazi Years*:
Versailles Treaty, Articles 51, 160, 428, on p.17; and Article 231, p. 20;
German Casualties in World War I, p. 19;
Reichstag electoral ballot (1930), pp. 21-22;
Unemployment and bankruptcies, 1928-1932, p. 24;
Resources in the Study Guide:
Map “Germany after the End of the First World War” 1921;
States (*Länder*) of the Weimar Republic (with votes in the Reichsrat);
Weimar Political Parties;
Reichstag Elections in the Weimar Republic, 1919-1933;
(Assignment continued on next page)

Governments (*Reichsregierungen*) in the Weimar Republic,
1919-1933 (with party groupings in the various coalitions);
Presidential Elections in the Weimar Republic.

5. Th 28 Jan Hitler and the National Socialist Movement, 1919-1932

“Reflections on Hitler” Kershaw, *Hitler 1889-1936: Hubris*, xix-xxx in
Course Packet, 37-43;

Documents in Remak, *The Nazi Years*:

“The Nazi Party Program (1920), 28-30;

“Lead Germany to Freedom”, 42;

Resources in the Study Guide:

Weimar Political Parties;

Reichstag Elections in the Weimar Republic;

Governments (*Reichsregierungen*) in the Weimar Republic;

Presidential elections in the Weimar Republic.

Book Review is due

6. T 2 Feb 1932 — The Decisive Year

Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 1-29.

7. Th 4 Feb Beginning of the Conspiracy Against Schleicher
and the Lippe Landtag Elections

Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 31-78.

8. T 9 Feb Schleicher Miscalculates

Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 79-108.

**Revised book review is due (hard copy and computer file, to be
formatted for the book project).**

9. Th 11 Feb Schleicher's Fall

Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 109-133.

Instructions for writing Essay One.

10. T `6 Feb Appointment of the Hitler/Papen Government

Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 135-183;

Kershaw, *Hitler, 1889-1936: Hubris*, 423-427, Course packet, 65-67.

11. Th 18 Feb Why Hitler? Part One

(Bring rough draft of Essay One to class.)
Historical Writing and Documentation.
Part One: Sharing Interpretive Approaches.

PART TWO: THE DICTATOR

The Issues: How was Hitler's change his constitutional office (Chancellor) changed into a personal dictatorship (Führer) and why was his dictatorship accepted, even embraced, by the German nation?

12. T 23 Feb Creating Dictatorship

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 49-55;
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 163-164.
13. Th 25 Feb Introduction to Rosenbaum's Project

Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, xi-xlvi.

Interpretive Essay One is due.
14. T 2 Mar The child is father to the man

Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, 57-67, Course packet, 27-32;
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 3-59.
15. Th 4 Mar *Gleichschaltung*: Imposing *völkisch* Solidarity

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 55-69.
16. T 9 Mar "Revolutionizing" Society: The Elusive Dream of *völkisch* Community

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 71-82.
17. Th 11 Mar Enforcing Solidarity and Community: The Roles of Propaganda and Police Terror

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 83-92.

[T 16 Mar and Th 18 Mar – No Class. Spring Break]

18. T 23 Mar Resistance to *Gleichschaltung*: The Churches

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 93-105.

Instructions for writing Essay Part Two.

19. Th 25 Mar Resistance to Dictatorship

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 161-176.

20. T 30 Mar Why Hitler? Part Two

(Bring rough draft of Essay Two to class.)

Effective writing.

Part Two: Sharing interpretive approaches.

[Th 1 Apr No class. Easter recess]

PART THREE: THE PROPHET

The issue: The war for living space and the war against the Jews: Assessing Responsibility.

21. T 6 Apr Hitler's Character: "The Dark Matter"

Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 63- 96, 135-152.

22. Th 8 Apr The Origins of Hitler's Anti-Semitism

Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 239-250;

Kershaw, *Hitler, 1889-1936: Hubris*, 97-125, Course pack, 49-63.

Interpretive Essay 2 is due.

23. T 13 Apr Living Space

Kershaw, *Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis*, xv-xviii, xxv-xlvi,

Course pack, 69-79;

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 107-128.

24. Th 15 Apr Functionalist or Intentionalist?

Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 221-236;

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 133-143.

25. T 20 Apr Blaming God and Blaming Victims
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 279-318.

26. Th 22 Apr Blaming the Germans
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 337-368.

Instructions for Essay 3 distributed.

27. T 27 Apr Assessing Historical Responsibility
Kershaw, *Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis*, 461- 495, course packet, 81-99;
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 145-160.

28. Th 29 Apr Assessing Moral Responsibility
[Bring to class rough draft of Essay Three.]
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 369-395.

Instructions for the final combined essay distributed
Part Three: Sharing Interpretive Insights.

[Sa 1 May and Th 6 May: **Reading Days.**]

F 7 May **Combined Interpretive Essay Due at 8:00 PM.**