

**HISTORY 105 – 05  
11221**

**Topics in History: Why Hitler?**

Prof. Hatfield  
Office: 317 Clough  
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Fall Semester 2010-2011  
304 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) By what means was Hitler's constitutional position as Chancellor transformed into a position of dictatorial power as Führer? Why was this done? Why did the German people come to accept, even embrace, this transformation? (3) Why was the power of the German state used for the purposes of expansion, domination, and extermination? On what basis, if at all, may the historian assign to Hitler 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*.

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 26 August.
- B. A preview of the book, submitted on the proper form on Tuesday 31 August.
- 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 9 September.
- D. A **revised critical review** is due on Tuesday 21 September. (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 23 September.

Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Thursday 30 September.

Essay One Hard Copy due: Thursday 7 October.

Revised essay, as part of the final combined essay, due: Wednesday 15 December.

Part Two: By what means was Hitler's constitutional office (Chancellor) transformed into personal dictatorial power (Führer)? Why was this done? Why did the German people accept (even embrace) this change?

Instructions distributed: Thursday 28 October.

Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Thursday 4 November.

Essay Two Hard Copy due: Thursday 11 November.

Revised essay, as part of the final combined essay, due: Wednesday 15 December.

Part Three: Why was the power of the German state used for the purposes of expansion, domination, and extermination? On what basis, if at all, may the historian assign to Hitler responsibility for World War II and the Holocaust?

Instructions distributed: Tuesday 30 November.

Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Tuesday 7 December.

Essay Three, included as part of the final combined essay, due: Wednesday December.

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

Instructions distributed: Tuesday 7 December.

Hard Copy Final Essay due on or before Wednesday 15 December, 11:00 A.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

#### Germany Between Authoritarian Empire and Dictatorial Third Reich: The Weimar Republic, 1918-1932

1. Th 26 Aug Introduction to the Course  
Lottery for review project books
  
2. T 31 Aug Shattered World: Germany after the First World War  
  
Assignment: Complete book preview and bring it to class to turn in.  
Start reading your book.  
  
Bring to class: Resource Materials from the Study Guide.  
Remak, *The Nazi Years*.  
  
Topics: Reviewing works of historical literature.  
The Situation in Germany after World War I  
The Creation of the Weimar Republic
  
3. Th 2 Sept The Troubles of the Young Republic, 1920-1924  
  
Assignment: Work on book review project.  
  
Bring to class: Remak, *The Nazi Years*;  
Resource materials from the Study Guide  
  
Topics: The Versailles Treaty  
The Reichstag Election of 1920: Weimar Coalition Loses Its Majority  
The Frustrations of Minority Government  
1923: The Low Point of the Republic
  
4. T 7 Sept Stabilization Under Stresemann and Renewed Disorder, 1924-1932  
  
Assignment: Work on book review project.  
  
Bring to Class: Remak, *The Nazi Years*;  
Resource materials from the Study Guide  
  
Topics: The Stresemann Era and the Revival of the Republic  
The Presidential Elections of 1925  
The Reichstag Election of 1928 and the Great Coalition  
The Twin Disasters of October 1929  
Stalemate and the Origins of Presidential Government

## PART ONE: THE POLITICIAN

**The issue: How and why was Hitler appointed to the office of Chancellor on 30 January 1933?**

5. Th 9 Sept Hitler and the National Socialist Movement, 1919-1932

Assignment: Complete your book review and bring it with you to class to turn in.

Bring to class: Remak, *The Nazi Years*;  
The Resource Materials from the Study Guide

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

Discussion of the Film's Interpretation of Hitler's Appointment to Office.  
A look at the National Socialist Program  
Tracing the Course of the Development of Nazi Policy and Influence,  
1919-1932.

6. T 14 Sept 1932 — The Decisive Year

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

7. Th 16 Sept Beginning of the Conspiracy Against Schleicher  
and the Lippe Landtag Elections

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

8. T 21 Sept 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 23 Sept Schleicher's Fall

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

**Instructions for writing Essay One.**

10. T 28 Sept 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  
Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, 45-49; Course packet 23b-25..

11. Th 30 Sept Why Hitler? Part One  
  
(Bring rough draft of Essay One to class.)  
Historical Writing and Documentation.  
Part One: Sharing Interpretive Approaches.  
Film: The Fatal Attraction of Adolf Hitler (Part II)  
Produced by Bill Treharne Jones for the BBC  
Narrated by Dr. Christopher Andrew.

### **PART TWO: THE DICTATOR**

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

12. T 5 Oct Creating Dictatorship  
  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 49-55;  
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 163-164.

13. Th 7 Oct Introduction to Rosenbaum's Project  
  
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, xi-xlvi.

**Interpretive Essay One is due.**

14. T 12 Oct The child is father to the man  
  
Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, 57-67, Course packet, 27-32;  
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 3-59.

15. Th 14 Oct "Revolutionizing" Society: The Elusive Dream of *völkisch* Community  
  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 71-82.

[T 19 Oct **No class. Fall break.**]

16. Th 21 Oct *Gleichschaltung: Imposing völkisch Solidarity*  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 55-69.
17. T 26 Oct Enforcing Solidarity and Community: The Roles of Propaganda and Police Terror  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 83-92.
18. Th 28 Oct Resistance to *Gleichschaltung*: The Churches  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 93-105.
- Instructions for writing Essay Part Two.**
19. T 2 Nov Resistance to Dictatorship  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 161-176.
20. Th 4 Nov Why Hitler? Part Two  
(Bring rough draft of Essay Two to class.)  
Effective writing.  
Part Two: Sharing interpretive approaches.  
Film: The Fatal Attraction of Adolf Hitler (Part III)  
Produced by Bill Treharne Jones for the BBC  
Narrated by Dr. Christopher Andrew.

### **PART THREE: THE PROPHET**

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

21. T 9 Nov Hitler's Character: "The Dark Matter"  
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 63- 96, 135-152.  
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22. Th 11 Nov 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 Two is due**

23. T 16 Nov Living Space  
Kershaw, *Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis*, xv-xviii, xxv-xlvi,  
Course pack, 69-79;  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 107-128.

24. Th 18 Nov Functionalist or Intentionalist?  
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 221-236;  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 133-143.

25. T 23 Nov Blaming God and Blaming Victims  
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 279-318.

[Th 25 Nov **No class. Thanksgiving recess.**]

26. T 30 Nov Blaming the Germans  
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 337-368.

### **Instructions for Interpretive Essay, Part Three.**

27. Th 2 Dec Assessing Historical Responsibility  
Kershaw, *Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis*, 461- 495, course packet, 81-99;  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 145-160.

28. T 7 Dec Assessing Moral Responsibility  
[Bring to class rough draft of Essay Three.]  
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 369-395.

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

[Th 9 Dec **Reading Day.**]

W 15 Dec **Combined Interpretive Essay Due at 11:00 A.M.**