

# **HISTORY 105 – 01 13623**

## **Topics in History: Why Hitler?**

**Prof. Hatfield  
Office: 210 Buckman  
Phone: 3290**

**Fall Semester 2012-13  
105 Buckman - TR 12:30-1:45**

### **Staying in Touch**

Generally I am on campus only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I will be available before class (11:45-12:15) and after class (1:45-2:15). 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 at the Reserve Desk in Barret Library. The review project will be accomplished in the following stages:

- A. Book selection by lottery on Thursday 23 August.**
- B. A preview of the book, submitted on the proper form on Tuesday 28 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 6 September.**
- D. A revised critical review is due on Tuesday 18 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 20 September**
- Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Thursday 27 September**
- Essay One Hard Copy due: Thursday 4 October**
- Revised essay, as part of the final combined essay.**

**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: Tuesday 23 October**
- Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Tuesday 30 October**
- Essay Two Hard Copy due: Tuesday 6 November**
- Revised essay, as part of the final combined essay.**

**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 27 November**

**Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Tuesday 4 December**

**Essay Three, included as part of the final combined essay,**

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

**Instructions distributed: Tuesday 4 December.**

**Hard Copy Final Essay due on or before 12:30 P.M. on Saturday 8 December.**

**V. Elements of the course grade**

**A. Attendance 5%**

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

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

**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**

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

## Schedule of Classes and Assignments

### PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

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

- 1. Th 23 Aug Introduction to the Course**  
Lottery for review project books
- 2. T 28 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 30 Aug 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 4 Sep 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 6 Sep 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 11 Sep 1932 — The Decisive Year**

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

**7. Th 13 Sep Beginning of the Conspiracy Against Schleicher and the Lippe Landtag Elections**

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

**8. T 18 Sep 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 20 Sep Schleicher's Fall**

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

**Instructions for writing Essay One.**

10. T 25 Sep 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 27 Sep 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 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 2 Oct Creating Dictatorship  
  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 49-55;  
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 163-164.  
  
Film: The Fatal Attraction of Adolf Hitler (Part II)  
Produced by Bill Treharne Jones for the BBC  
Narrated by Dr. Christopher Andrew.
13. Th 4 Oct Creating Dictatorship, 2  
  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 49-55;  
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 163-164.  
  
Interpretive Essay One is due.
14. T 9 Oct "Revolutionizing" Society: The Elusive Dream of *völkisch* Community  
  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 71-82.

15. Th 11 Oct *Gleichschaltung: Imposing völkisch Solidarity*  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 55-69.
- [T 16 Oct No class. Fall break.]
16. Th 18 Oct **Enforcing Solidarity and Community: The Roles of Propaganda and Police Terror**  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 83-92.
17. T 23 Oct **Resistance to *Gleichschaltung*: The Churches**  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 93-105.  
Instructions for writing Essay Part Two.
18. Th 25 Oct **Resistance to Dictatorship**  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 161-176.
19. T 30 Oct **Why Hitler? Part Two**  
(Bring rough draft of Essay Two to class.)  
Effective writing.  
Part Two: Sharing interpretive approaches.

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

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

20. Th 1 Nov **The child is father to the man**  
Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, 57-67, Course packet, 27-32;  
Hitler Family Tree, Resource Materials, Study Guide.  
**Film: The Fatal Attraction of Adolf Hitler (Part III)**  
Produced by Bill Treharne Jones for the BBC  
Narrated by Dr. Christopher Andrew.
21. T 6 Nov **Hitler's Character: "The Dark Matter"**  
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 63- 96, 135-152.  
Interpretive Essay Two is due

22. Th 8 Nov           **The Origins of Hitler's Anti-Semitism**  
  
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 239-250;  
Kershaw, *Hitler, 1889-1936: Hubris*, 97-125, Course pack, 49-63.
23. T 13 Nov           **Living Space**  
  
Kershaw, *Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis*, xv-xviii, xxv-xlvi,  
Course pack, 69-79;  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 107-128.
24. Th 15 Nov       **Functionalist or Intentionalist?**  
  
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 221-236;  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 133-143.
25. T 20 Nov       **Blaming God and Blaming Victims**  
  
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 279-318
- [Th 22 Nov       **No Class. Thanksgiving.]**
26. T 27 Nov       **Blaming the Germans**  
  
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 337-368.  
  
Instructions for Interpretive Essay, Part Three.
27. Th 29 Nov       **Assessing Historical Responsibility**  
  
Kershaw, *Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis*, 461- 495, course packet, 81-99;  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 145-160.
28. T 4 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.
- Sa 8 Dec           **Combined Interpretive Essay Due no later than 12:30 P.M.**