Topics in History: Why Hitler?

Prof. Hatfield
Office: 210 Buckman
Phone: 3290

Spring Semester 2011-2012
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 (811:45-12:15) 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.*
D. Course packet containing extracts from:

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 12 January
B. A preview of the book, submitted on the proper form on Tuesday 17 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 26 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 9 February
Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Thursday 16 February
Essay One Hard Copy due: Thursday 23 February
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 20 March
Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Tuesday 27 March.
Essay Two Hard Copy due: Tuesday 3 April
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: Thursday 19 April
Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Thursday 26 April
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: Thursday 26 April.
Hard Copy Final Essay due on or before 3:30 P.M. on Saturday 5 May.

V. Elements of the course grade

A. Attendance 5%

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

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B. Participation 15%  C. Essay Project 60%

General class discussion 10%  Part One 15%
Class presentation 5%  Part Two 15%

Part Three 15%
Final, combined Essay 15%

D. Written Book Review 20%

VI. Grade values

<table>
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<tr>
<th>A 93-100</th>
<th>B+ 88-89</th>
<th>C+ 78-79</th>
<th>D+ 68-69</th>
<th>F 0-59</th>
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<tr>
<td>A- 90-92</td>
<td>B 83-87</td>
<td>C 73-77</td>
<td>D 63-67</td>
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<tr>
<td>B- 80-82</td>
<td>C- 70-72</td>
<td>D- 60-62</td>
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Schedule of Classes and Assignments

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

1. Th 12 Jan  Introduction to the Course
              Lottery for review project books

2. T 17 Jan  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 19 Jan  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 24 Jan  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 26 Jan  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 31 Jan  1932 — The Decisive Year
   Turner, Hitler’s Thirty Days to Power, 1-29.

7. Th 1 Feb  Beginning of the Conspiracy Against Schleicher
   and the Lippe Landtag Elections
   Turner, Hitler’s Thirty Days to Power, 31-78.

8. T 7 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 9 Feb  Schleicher's Fall
   Turner, Hitler’s Thirty Days to Power, 109-133.
   Instructions for writing Essay One.
10. T 14 Feb  Appointment of the Hitler/Papen Government

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

11. Th 16 Feb  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 21 Feb  Creating Dictatorship

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 49-55;

13. Th 23 Feb  Introduction to Rosenbaum's Project


**Interpretive Essay One is due.**

14. T 28 Feb  The child is father to the man

Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, 57-67, Course packet, 27-32;

15. Th 1 Mar  "Revolutionizing" Society: The Elusive Dream of völkisch Community

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 71-82.
16.  T 6 Mar  \textit{Gleichschaltung}: Imposing \textit{völkisch} Solidarity

Remak, \textit{The Hitler Years}, 55-69.

17.  Th 8 Mar  Enforcing Solidarity and Community: The Roles of Propaganda and Police Terror

Remak, \textit{The Hitler Years}, 83-92.

[T 13 Mar  \textbf{No class. Spring break.}]

[Th 15 Mar  \textbf{No class. Spring break}]

18.  T 20 Mar  Resistance to \textit{Gleichschaltung}: The Churches

Remak, \textit{The Hitler Years}, 93-105.

\textbf{Instructions for writing Essay Part Two.}

19.  Th 22 Mar  Resistance to Dictatorship

Remak, \textit{The Hitler Years}, 161-176.

20.  T 27 Mar  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.

\textbf{PART THREE: THE PROPHET}

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

21.  Th 29 Mar  Hitler's Character: "The Dark Matter"


22.  T 3 Apr  The Origins of Hitler's Anti-Semitism

Rosenbaum, \textit{Explaining Hitler}, 239-250;

\textbf{Interpretive Essay Two is due}
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Th 5 Apr</td>
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23. **T 10 Apr**
   - Living Space

   Kershaw, *Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis*, xv-xviii, xxv-xxvi,
   Course pack, 69-79;
   Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 107-128.

24. **Th 12 Apr**
   - Functionalist or Intentionalist?

   Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 221-236;
   Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 133-143.

25. **T 17 Apr**
   - Blaming God and Blaming Victims


26. **Th 19 Apr**
   - Blaming the Germans


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

27. **T 24 Apr**
   - Assessing Historical Responsibility


28. **Th 26 Apr**
   - Assessing Moral Responsibility

   [Bring to class rough draft of Essay Three.]

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

Sa 5 May  **Combined Interpretive Essay Due no later than 3:30 P.M.**