Topics in History: Why Hitler?

Prof. Hatfield
309 Clough - Ex. 3882

Fall Semester 2008-09
304 Clough - TR 11:00-12:15

Staying in Touch

Generally I am on campus only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. My office hours are TR 9:30-10:30 and 12:15-12:30. You may make appointments in advance for other times as well. Please feel free to contact me by E-mail at Hatfield@rhodes.edu. My home phone is 384-0556. (Please do not call after 10:30 P.M., unless it is an emergency.) You may also deposit items for me in my In-box in the History folder in the Academic Departments and Programs Volume on File Server1 at History/Hatfield/Inbox. (If you do deposit something there, please advise me by Email so that I will know to look for it.)

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 moves made by Hitler to convert his position into a dictatorship, why did he do this, 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 what were the consequences for his followers, for his victims, and for the world at large? In all of this, students will be looking at ways that 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*.
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. (In some cases, however, students will need to borrow copies of the books from Prof. Hatfield.) The review project will be accomplished in the following stages:

A. Book selection by lottery on Thursday 28 August.
B. A preview of the book, submitted on the proper form on Tuesday 2 September.
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 11 September.
D. A **revised critical review** is due on Tuesday 23 September. (Hard copy and computer file, 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 main 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 25 September.
Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Thursday 2 October.
Essay One due: Tuesday 7 October.
Revised essay, as part of the final combined essay, due: Friday 12 December.
Part Two: Why and how did Hitler convert his office into a personal dictatorship and why was his dictatorship accepted, even embraced, by the German nation?

Instructions distributed: Thursday 30 October.
Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Thursday 6 November.
Essay Two due: Tuesday 11 November
Revised essay, as part of the final combined essay, due: Friday 12 December.

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: Tuesday 2 December.
Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Tuesday 9 December.
Essay Three, included as part of the final combined essay, due: Saturday 13 December.

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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<td>60</td>
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B. Participation 15%

General class discussion 10%
Class presentation 5%

C. Written Book Review 20%

D. Essay project 60%

Part One 15%
Part Two 15%
Part Three 15%
Final, completed essay 15%
VI. Grade values

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Schedule of Classes and Assignments

GETTING STARTED:

1. Th 28 Aug
   Introduction to the Course
   Lottery for review project books

2. T 2 Sept
   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 4 Sept
   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 on 30 January 1933?

4. T 9 Sept
   The Collapse of the Liberal Democratic Experiment, 1929-1932

   Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, 3-45, Course packet, 1-23b

5. Th 11 Sept
   Hitler and the Rise of the Nazis, 1929-1932


   Book Review is due

6. T 16 Sept
   1932 — The Decisive Year

   Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 1-29
7. Th 18 Sept
   Beginning of the Conspiracy Against Schleicher and the Lippe Landtag Elections
   Turner, *Hitler’s Thirty Days to Power*, 31-78

8. T 23 Sept
   Schleicher Miscalculates
   Turner, *Hitler’s Thirty Days to Power*, 79-108
   Revised book review is due (hard copy and computer file, formatted for the book project)

9. Th 25 Sept
   Schleicher's Fall
   Turner, *Hitler’s Thirty Days to Power*, 109-133
   Instructions for writing Essay One

10. T 30 Sept
    Appointment of the Hitler/Papen Government
    Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, 45-49, Course packet, 23b-25;
    Turner, *Hitler’s Thirty Days to Power*, 135-183;

11. Th 2 Oct
    Why Hitler? Part One
    (Bring rough draft of essay one to class)
    Historical Writing and Documentation
    Sharing Interpretive Approaches

    **PART TWO: THE DICTATOR**
    The Issues: How and why does Hitler change his constitutional office (Chancellor) into a personal dictatorship (Führer) and why is his dictatorship accepted, even embraced, by the German nation?

12. T 7 Oct
    Introduction to Rosenbaum's Project
    Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, xi-xlvi
    Interpretive Essay One is due.

13. Th 9 Oct
    The child is father to the man
    Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, 57-67, Course packet, 27-32;
    Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 3-59
14. T 14 Oct  Creating Dictatorship

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 49-55
Turner, *Hitler’s Thirty Days to Power*, 163-164

15. Th 16 Oct  Institutional "Co-ordination" (*Gleichschaltung*)

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 55-69

[T 21 Oct  No class: fall break]

16. Th 23 Oct  "Revolutionizing" Society

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 71-82

17. T 28 Oct  The Roles of Propaganda and Police Terror

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 83-92

18. Th 30 Oct  Resistance to *Gleichschaltung*: The Churches

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 93-105

Instructions for writing Essay Part Two

19. T 4 Nov  Resistance to Dictatorship

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 161-176

20. Th 6 Nov  Why Hitler? Part Two

(Bring rough draft of essay two to class)
Effective writing
Sharing interpretive approaches
PART THREE: THE PROPHET
The issue: The war for living space and the war against the Jews: The Question of Responsibility

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

22. Th 13 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 18 Nov Living Space
Kershaw, Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis, xv-xviii, xxv-xlvi,
Course pack, 69-79
Remak, The Hitler Years, 107-128

24. Th 20 Nov Functionalist or Intentionalist?
Rosenbaum, Explaining Hitler, 221-236;
Remak, The Hitler Years, 133-143

25. T 25 Nov Blaming God and Blaming Victims
Rosenbaum, Explaining Hitler, 279-318
[Th 27 Nov No Class. Thanksgiving Recess]

26. T 2 Dec Blaming the Germans
Rosenbaum, Explaining Hitler, 337-368
Instructions for Interpretive Essay, Part III

27. Th 4 Dec Assessing Historical Responsibility
Kershaw, Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis, 461-495, course packet, 81-99
Remak, The Hitler Years, 145-160
Assessing Moral Responsibility

[Bring to class rough draft of Essay III]
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 369-395
Instructions for the final combined essay
Sharing Interpretive Insights for Part III

**Complete Interpretive Essay Due at 8:00 P.M.**