HISTORY 105 – 04
10217

Topics in History: Why Hitler?

Prof. Hatfield  Fall Semester 2009-2010
Office: 213 Palmer  300 Clough - TR 9:30-10:45
Phone: 3161

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 moves made by Hitler to convert his position 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.
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 27 August.
B. A preview of the book, submitted on the proper form on Tuesday 1 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 10 September.
D. A revised critical review is due on Tuesday 22 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 24 September.
Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Thursday 1 October.
Essay One Hard Copy due: Thursday 8 October.
Revised essay, as part of the final combined essay, due: Monday 14 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 29 October.
Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Thursday 5 November.
Essay Two Hard Copy due: Thursday 12 November.
Revised essay, as part of the final combined essay, due: Monday 14 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 1 December.
Rough draft brought to class for discussion: Tuesday 8 December.
Essay Three, included as part of the final combined essay, due: Monday 14 December.

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

Instructions distributed: Tuesday 8 December.
Hard Copy Final Essay due on or before Monday 14 December, 3:30 P.M.

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%

General class discussion 10%  Part One 15%
Class presentation 5%    Part Two 15%
Part Three 15%
Final, combined Essay 15%

C. Essay Project 60%

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 27 Aug**  
   Introduction to the Course  
   Lottery for review project books

2. **T 1 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 3 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 8 Sept**  
   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 10 Sept  
Hitler and the National Socialist Movement, 1919-1932


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 15 Sept  
1932 — The Decisive Year


7. Th 17 Sept  
Beginning of the Conspiracy Against Schleicher and the Lippe Landtag Elections


8. T 22 Sept  
Schleicher Miscalculates


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

9. Th 24 Sept  
Schleicher's Fall


Instructions for writing Essay One.

10. T 29 Sept  
Appointment of the Hitler/Papen Government

Turner, *Hitler’s Thirty Days to Power*, 135-183;  
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| Th 1 Oct | Why Hitler? Part One  
(Bring rough draft of Essay One to class.)  
Historical Writing and Documentation.  
Part One: Sharing Interpretive Approaches. |
| 11. | 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 nation? |
| T 6 Oct | Creating Dictatorship  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 49-55;  
| 12. | Th 8 Oct | Introduction to Rosenbaum's Project  
**Interpretive Essay One is due.** |
| 13. | T 13 Oct | The child is father to the man  
Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, 57-67, Course packet, 27-32;  
| 14. | Th 15 Oct | *Gleichschaltung*: Imposing völkisch Solidarity  
*[T 20 Oct No class. Fall break.]* |
| 15. | Th 22 Oct | "Revolutionizing" Society: The Elusive Dream of völkisch Community  
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 71-82. |
18. Th 29 Oct Resistance to *Gleichschaltung*: The Churches
   Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 93-105.
   Instructions for writing Essay Part Two.

19. T 3 Nov Resistance to Dictatorship

20. Th 5 Nov 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.

21. T 10 Nov Hitler's Character: "The Dark Matter"
   **Interpretive Essay Two is due.**

22. Th 12 Nov The Origins of Hitler's Anti-Semitism
   Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 239-250;

23. T 17 Nov Living Space
   Kershaw, *Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis*, xv-xviii, xxv-xlvi,
   Course pack, 69-79;
   Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 107-128.

24. Th 19 Nov Functionalist or Intentionalist?
   Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 221-236;
   Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 133-143.

25. T 24 Nov Blaming God and Blaming Victims
[Th 26 Nov]  **No class. Thanksgiving recess.**

26. T 1 Dec Blaming the Germans


   Instructions for Interpretive Essay, Part Three.

27. Th 3 Dec Assessing Historical Responsibility

   Kershaw, *Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis*, 461-495; course packet, 81-99;

28. T 8 Dec Assessing Moral Responsibility

   [Bring to class rough draft of Essay Three.]

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

[Th 10 Dec] **Reading Day.**

M 14 Dec **Combined Interpretive Essay Due at 3:30 PM.**