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HIST 105-02 and 05, Topics in history: Why Hitler?, Spring 2008

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HISTORY 105 – 02
28415

Topics in History: Why Hitler?

Prof. Hatfield
317 Clough - Ex. 3882

Spring Semester 2007-08
304 Clough - TR 11:00-12:15

Staying in Touch

My office hours are MWF 10:30-11:30 and TR 9:45-10:15, and 12:30-1:00. 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, 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, 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, we 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, employing proper forms of documentation, and in writing persuasively, crafting sound arguments for their 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.
 - C. Students are expected to submit all work on the assigned dates, as these are indicated in this Syllabus.
 - D. Students are expected to participate
 1. in general class discussions of the assigned readings
 2. 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. (In some cases, however, students will need to borrow copies of the books from Prof. Hatfield.) Students will select their books on the basis of an order determined by a random drawing, to be held in class on Thursday 10 January. The review project will be accomplished in the following stages:

- A. A preview of the book, submitted on the proper form on Tuesday 15 January
- B. 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 24 January.
- C. A **revised critical review** is due on Tuesday 5 February. (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? Part One is due on Thursday 14 February. The revised version is due on Tuesday 26 February.

Part Two: How did Hitler convert his office into a personal dictatorship and why was his dictatorship accepted, even embraced, by the German nation? Part Two will be due on Thursday 27 March. The revised version is due on Tuesday 8 April.

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? Part Three will be due, along with revised Parts One and Two, a general introduction, transitions between the parts and a general conclusion on Monday 28 April at 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:

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. Written Book Review 20%

D. Essay project 60%

Part One 15%
Part Two 15%
Part Three 15%
Final, completed essay 15%

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	

VII. Summary of due dates

1. Tuesday 15 January: Book Preview
2. Thursday 24 January: Book Review
3. Tuesday 5 February: Revised Book Review
4. Thursday 14 February: Interpretive Essay One
5. Tuesday 26 February: Interpretive Essay One Revised.
6. Thursday 27 March: Interpretive Essay Two
7. Tuesday 8 April: Interpretive Essay Two Revised
8. Monday 28 April, 3:30 P.M.: Complete Interpretive Essay (Part Three along with Revised Parts One and Two, and with a general introduction, transitions between parts and a conclusion)

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

GETTING STARTED:

1. Th 10 Jan Introduction to the Course
Assignment of review project books
2. T 15 Jan 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 17 Jan 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 22 Jan The Collapse of the Liberal Democratic Experiment, 1929-1932

Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, 1-45, Course packet, 1-23b
5. Th 24 Jan Hitler and the Rise of the Nazis, 1929-1932

Kershaw, *Hitler 1889-1936: Hubris*, xi-xiv, xviii-xxx, Course packet, 33-43

Book Review is due

6. T 29 Jan 1932 — The Decisive Year

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

7. Th 31 Jan Beginning of the Conspiracy Against Schleicher and the Lippe Landtag Elections
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 31-78
8. T 5 Feb 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 7 Feb Schleicher's Fall
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 109-133
Instructions for writing Essay One
10. T 12 Feb 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
11. Th 14 Feb Why Hitler? Part One: Comparing Interpretive Approaches
Interpretive Essay One is due.
Persuasive Writing

PART TWO: THE DICTATOR

The Issues: How 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 19 Feb Introduction to Rosenbaum's Project
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, xi-xlvi
13. Th 21 Feb The child is father to the man
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 3-59
14. T 26 Feb Creating Dictatorship
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 49-55
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 163-164
Revised Essay One is due

15. Th 28 Feb Institutional "Co-ordination" (*Gleichschaltung*)

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 55-69

[T 4 Mar and Th 6 Mar No class: spring break]

16. T 11 Mar "Revolutionizing" Society

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 71-82

17. Th 13 Mar The Roles of Propaganda and Police Terror

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 83-92

18. T 18 Mar Resistance to *Gleichschaltung*: The Churches

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 93-105

Instructions for writing Essay Part Two

[Th 20 Mar No class. Easter break]

19. T 25 Mar Resistance to Dictatorship

Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 161-176

20. Th 27 Mar Why Hitler? Part Two: Sharing Interpretations

Interpretive Essay Two is due.

Interpretation, Argumentation, Documentation

PART THREE: THE PROPHET

The issue: The war for living space and the war against the Jews: The Question of Responsibility

21. T 1 Apr Hitler's Character: "The Dark Matter"

Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 63- 96, 135-152

22. Th 3 Apr 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 8 Apr Living Space
Kershaw, *Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis*, xv-xviii, xxv-xlvi,
Course pack, 69-79
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 107-128
Revised Essay Two is due
24. Th 10 Apr Functionalist or Intentionalist?
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 221-236;
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 133-143
25. T 15 Apr Blaming God and Blaming Victims
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 279-318
26. Th 17 Apr Blaming the Germans
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 337-368
27. T 22 Apr Assessing Historical Responsibility
Kershaw, *Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis*, 461- 494, course packet, 81-99
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 145-160
28. Th 24 Apr Assessing Moral Responsibility
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 369-395
Instructions for Part Three and the final combined essay
- M 28 Apr **Complete Interpretive Essay (Part Three along with Revised Parts One and Two, and with a general introduction, transition between parts and a conclusion.) Due at 3:30 P.M.**