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

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Authors	Hatfield, Douglas W.
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**HISTORY 105 – 05
28626**

Topics in History: Why Hitler?

Prof. Hatfield
317 Clough - Ex. 3882

Spring Semester 2007-08
300 Clough – MWF 12:00-12:50

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 41 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 Wednesday 9 January. The review project will be accomplished in the following stages:

- A. A preview of the book, submitted on the proper form on Monday 14 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 Friday 25 January.
- C. A **revised critical review** is due on Wednesday 6 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 Friday 15 February. The revised version is due on Monday 25 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 Friday 28 March. The revised version is due on Monday 7 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 11:00 A.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. Monday 14 January: Book Preview
2. Friday 25 January: Book Review
3. Wednesday 6 February: Revised Book Review
4. Friday 15 February: Interpretive Essay One
5. Monday 25 February: Interpretive Essay One Revised.
6. Friday 28 March: Interpretive Essay Two
7. Monday 7 April: Interpretive Essay Two Revised
8. Monday 28 April, 11:00 A.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. W 9 Jan Introduction to the Course
Assignment of review project books
2. F 11 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
3. M 14 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

Book preview due.

4. W 16 Jan Documentary film as a historical source

Reviewing works of historical literature

PART ONE: THE POLITICIAN

The issue: How and why was Hitler appointed to the office of Chancellor on 30 January 1933?

5. F 18 Jan Karl D. Bracher and the Historical Background of the National Socialist Era

Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, 4-45, Course packet, 1-23

[M 21 Jan No class meeting. MLK Day.]
6. W 23 Jan The Troubles of the Weimar Republic

Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, 45-49; Course packet, 23-25.
7. F 25 Jan The National Socialist Movement

Book Review is due.

8. M 28 Jan Hitler
Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, 57-67; Course packet, 27-32;
Kershaw, *Hitler 1889-1936: Hubris*, xi-xiv, xviii-xxx, Course packet,
33-43
9. W 30 Jan 1932 — The Decisive Year
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 1-29
10. F 1 Feb Beginning of the Conspiracy Against Schleicher
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 31-52
11. M 4 Feb The Lippe Landtag Elections: “Triumph” and “Crisis”
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 53-78.
**Revised book review is due (hard copy and computer file, formatted
for the book project)**
12. W 6 Feb Schleicher Miscalculates
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 79-108
13. F 8 Feb Schleicher's Fall
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 109-133
Instructions for writing Essay One
14. M 11 Feb Appointment of the Hitler/Papen Government
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 135-161.
15. W 13 Feb Historical Interpretation: A Question of Responsibility
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 163-183;
Kershaw, *Hitler, 1889-1936: Hubris*, 423-427, Course packet, 65-67
16. F 15 Feb Persuasive Writing
Interpretive Essay One is due.
17. M 18 Feb Sharing Interpretive Insights

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?

18. W 20 Feb Introduction to Rosenbaum's Project
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, xi-xxviii
19. F 22 Feb Explanation as Exculpation or Accusation
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, xxviii-xlvi
20. M 25 Feb The child is father to the man
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 3-36
Revised Essay One is due.
21. W 27 Feb The Fate of the Early Explainers
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 37-59
22. F 29 Feb Creating Dictatorship (1)
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 49-53
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 163-164
[F 29 Feb – M 10 Mar Spring Break]
23. M 10 Mar Creating Dictatorship (2)
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 54-55
24. W 12 Mar Institutional "Co-ordination" (*Gleichschaltung*)
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 55-69
25. F 14 Mar "Revolutionizing" Society
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 71-82
26. M 17 Mar Propaganda: Goebbels and the Propaganda Ministry
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 83-92

27. W 19 Mar Police Terror: Himmler and the SS
 Instructions for Essay Two
 [F 21 Mar No class. Easter break.]
28. M 24 Mar Resistance to *Gleichschaltung*: The Churches
 Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 93-105
29. W 26 Mar Resistance to Dictatorship
 Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 161-176
30. F 28 Mar Interpretation, Argumentation, Documentation
Interpretive Essay Two is due.
31. M 31 Mar Sharing Interpretive Insights

PART THREE: THE PROPHET

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

32. W 2 Apr Hitler's Character: "True Believer" or "Mountebank"
 Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 63- 96
33. F 4 Apr Hitler's Character: "The Dark Matter"
 Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 135-152
34. M 7 Apr The Origins of Hitler's Anti-Semitism: Psychological Trauma
 Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 239-250
Revised Essay Two is due.
35. W 9 Apr The Origins of Hitler's Anti-Semitism: A Developmental Process
 Kershaw, *Hitler, 1889-1936: Hubris*, 97-125, Course pack, 49-63

36. F 11 Apr Living Space
Kershaw, *Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis*, xv-xviii, xxv-xlvi,
Course pack, 69-79
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 107-128
37. M 14 Apr Functionalist or Intentionalist?
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 221-236;
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 133-143
38. W 16 Apr Blaming God and Blaming Victims
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 279-318
39. F 18 Apr Blaming the Germans
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, 337-368
40. M 21 Apr Assessing Historical Responsibility
Kershaw, *Hitler, 1936-1945: Nemesis*, 461- 494, course packet, 81-99
Remak, *The Hitler Years*, 145-160
41. W 23 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 11:00 A.M.**