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## HIST 105-04, Topics in History: Why Hitler?, Spring 2006

Item Type	Syllabus
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Publisher	Memphis, Tenn. : Rhodes College
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## HISTORY 105 – 4

### Topics in History: *Why Hitler?*

Prof. Hatfield  
402 Halliburton - Ex. 3160

Spring Semester 2005-06  
302 Clough - TR 2:00-3:15

My office hours are TR mornings, 10:00-10:30, and TR afternoons, 1:00-1:30. 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 759-1203. (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.

### Course Objectives

- I. For each student to develop and write an original 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 of his policies 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. To develop 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 persuasively and in making effective oral presentations

### 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 a summary of their book review in class and by leading the class in discussing a related topic, as indicated in the Schedule of Classes and Assignments.

II. Required class readings (to be purchased in the College bookstore)

- A. Henry A. Turner, Jr., *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power: 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. Students will select their books on the basis of an order determined by a random drawing, to be held in class on Thursday 12 January. The review project will be accomplished according to the following stages:

- A. 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.
- B. A **revised/formatted critical review** is due on Tuesday 7 February.
- C. An **oral presentation** of the book review on the date indicated on the book sign-up sheet. The report will be tied to the assigned reading for that day as indicated in the "Schedule of Classes and Assignments" (below).

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 will be due on Wednesday 15 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 21 March.

Part Three: Why did Hitler use the power of the German state for the purposes of expansion, domination, and extermination and what were the consequences of the enacting of his policies? Part Three will be due on Wednesday 26 April.

Parts One, Two and Three, with all parts revised and integrated into a coherent essay, along

with a general introduction and a conclusion dealing with issues of ultimate responsibility will be due on Friday 5 May by 11:00 A.M.

V. Elements of the course grade

A. Attendance 10%

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 5%  
Class presentation 10%

C. Book Review Project 25%

D. Essay project 50%

Part One 10%  
Part Two 10%  
Part Three 10%  
Final, completed essay 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	

VII. Summary of due dates

1. Thursday 12 January: Book Review Assignments
2. Thursday 26 January: Book Review
3. Tuesday 7 February: Revised/Formatted Book Review

4. Wednesday 15 February: Interpretive Essay: Part One
5. Friday 17 March: Interpretive Essay: Part Two
6. Wednesday 26 April: Interpretive Essay: Part Three
7. Friday 5 May (by 11:00 A.M.): Complete Interpretive Essay (Parts One, Two, and Three, along with a general introduction and a conclusion on issues of ultimate responsibility)

## Schedule of Classes and Assignments

### GETTING STARTED:

1. Th 12 Jan Introduction to the Course  
Assignment of review project books  
Film: The Fatal Attraction of Adolf Hitler, Beginning  
Produced by Bill Treharne Jones for the BBC  
Narrated by Dr. Christopher Andrew
2. T 17 Jan Overview of Hitler's Career and Impact  
  
Film: The Fatal Attraction of Adolf Hitler, Conclusion  
Produced by Bill Treharne Jones for the BBC  
Narrated by Dr. Christopher Andrew

### PART ONE: THE POLITICIAN

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

3. Th 19 Jan Germany in Historical Context  
  
Bracher, *The German Dictatorship*, Course packet, 1-26
4. T 24 Jan Life of Hitler Within the Historical Context  
  
Kershaw, *Hitler 1889-1936: Hubris*, Course packet, 33-42
5. Th 26 Jan 1932 — The Decisive Year  
  
Turner, *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power*, 1-29  
**Book Review is due (hard copy)**
6. T 31 Jan Beginning of the Conspiracy Against Schleicher and the Lippe Elections  
  
Turner, 31-78
7. Th 2 Feb Schleicher Miscalculates  
  
Turner, 79-108
8. T 7 Feb Schleicher's Fall  
  
Turner, 109-133  
**Revised/formatted book review is due (computer file)**

9. Th 9 Feb Appointment of the Hitler/Papen Government  
Turner, 135-161
10. T 14 Feb The Nazi "Seizure of Power" (*Machtergreifung*)  
Turner, 163-183; Kershaw, Course packet, 61b-63b
- W 15 Feb 5:00 P.M. **Interpretive Essay, Part One is due (computer file)**
11. Th 16 Feb Why Hitler? Part One  
Class presentations

### **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 21 Feb Creating Dictatorship  
Remak 49-55  
Report on Conan Fischer, *Stormtroopers*
13. Th 23 Feb Institutional "Co-ordination" (*Gleichschaltung*)  
Remak, 55-69  
Report on Jill Stephenson, *The Nazi Organization of Women*
14. T 28 Feb "Revolutionizing" Society  
Remak, 71-82  
Report on David Schoenbaum, *Hitler's Social Revolution*
15. Th 2 Mar The Roles of Propaganda  
Remak, 83-92  
Report on Ernest K. Bramsted, *Goebbels and National Socialist Propaganda*

[M 6 Mar - F 10 Mar **Spring break**]

16. T 14 Mar Resistance to Dictatorship: The Churches  
Remak, 93-105  
Report on John Conway, *The Nazi Persecution of the Churches*

17. Th 16 Mar Other Forms of Resistance to the Dictatorship  
Remak, 161-176  
Report on Terence Prittie, *Germans Against Hitler*

F 17 Mar 5:00 **Interpretive Essay. Part Two is due (computer file)**

18. T 21 Mar Why Hitler? Part Two  
Class presentations

### **PART THREE:THE PROPHET**

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

19. Th 23 Mar Rosenbaum's Project  
Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*, xi-xlvi

20. T 28 Mar The child is father to the man  
Rosenbaum, 3-59  
Report on Bradley Smith, *Adolf Hitler: His Family, Childhood and Youth*

21. Th 30 Mar Hitler's Character: "The Dark Matter"  
Rosenbaum, 63-152  
Report on H. R. Trevor Roper, *The Last Days of Hitler*  
Report on Robert G. L. Waite, *The Psychopathic God: Adolf Hitler*

22. T 4 Apr Living Space  
Kershaw, Course pack, 65-74  
Remak, 107-121  
Report on Norman Rich, *Hitler's War Aims*, vol. 1



23. Th 6 Apr The Origins of Hitler's Anti-Semitism  
 Rosenbaum, 239-250  
 Kershaw, Course pack, 43-60  
 Report on Rudolph Binion, *Hitler Among the Germans*
24. T 11 Apr Functionalist or Intentionalist?  
 Rosenbaum, 221-236  
 Remak, 133-143  
 Report on Gerald Fleming, *Hitler and the Final Solution*  
 Report on Henry Friedlander, *The Origins of Nazi Genocide*
- Th 13 Apr **No class Meeting. Easter Recess.**
25. T 18 Apr Blaming God and Blaming Victims  
 Rosenbaum, 279-318  
 Report on Yehuda Bauer, *Rethinking the Holocaust*
26. Th 20 Apr Blaming the Germans  
 Rosenbaum, 337-368  
 Remak, 121-131, 145-160  
 Report on Daniel Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*  
 Report on Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men*
27. T 25 Apr Final Responsibility  
 Rosenbaum, 369-393  
 Kershaw, course pack, 75-93  
 Report on Lucy Dawidowicz, *The War Against the Jews*
- W 26 Apr 5:00 P.M. **Interpretive Essay, Part Three is due (computer file)**
28. Th 27 Apr Why Hitler, Part Three  
 Class Presentations
- F 5 May **Interpretive Essay: Parts One, Two, and Three, all revised appropriately, with a general introduction, transitions between parts, and a conclusion dealing with the issues of ultimate responsibility, due by 11:00 A.M. (Computer file)**