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HIST 103-02, Introduction to Historical Investigation: Why Hitler?, Spring 1999

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HISTORY 103 – 2

Introduction to Historical Investigation: *Why Hitler?*

Prof. Hatfield
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Office hours: MTWThF 9:00–11:00
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Spring Semester 1998–99
313 Clough
3:00–4:30 M/Th

You are encouraged to consult with me whenever you need to, whenever you want to, by whatever means is most comfortable for you. It is okay for you to contact me at home (but please do not call after 10:30 P.M. unless it is an emergency). There will also be a class folder for this class in my folder on the Academic Volume. You may deposit items for me in my In-Box.

Course Objectives

- I. To study in detail the events that led from the end of the First World War to the appointment of Hitler as Chancellor in Germany and the subsequent moves made by Hitler to convert his position into a dictatorship.
- II. To investigate critically some of the ways that historians have attempted to explain this course of events.
- III. To write a critical review of an assigned work of historical literature.
- IV. To learn the techniques of assembling and evaluating sources, both secondary and primary.
- V. To write an original historical essay dealing with some aspect of Hitler's rise and consolidation of power.

Course Requirements

- I. Attendance and participation
 - A. Students are expected to attend all 27 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 are indicated in this Syllabus.
 - D. Students are expected to participate
 1. In class discussions of the assigned readings
 2. By leading the discussion of one of the class assignments
 3. By presenting a report in class on the student's essay project

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

- A. Martin Broszat, *Hitler and the Collapse of Weimar Germany*.
- B. Richard Marius, *A Short Guide to Writing About History* (third edition)
- C. Joachim Remak, ed., *The Nazi Years: A Documentary History*
- D. Ron Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler: The Search for the Origins of His Evil*

III. Book Review Project

Each student will be assigned a book from the library for this project. On the assigned book, the student will

- A. Submit a written **preview** of the book. The preview will be submitted on a special form that will be distributed. The preview will be due at class time on Thursday, February 4.
- B. Submit a formal critical review of the book. The review will be written in conformity with guidelines and instructions that will be distributed. The critical review will be due on Thursday, February 25.

IV. Original Historical Essay

Each student will write an original historical essay dealing with some aspect of the establishment of Hitler's regime in Germany. The essay will be written in conformity with the guidelines (to be distributed). The rules of style and structure will be governed by Marius, *A Short Guide to Writing About History*. The following are target dates for the various stages of the project:

- A. Selection of topics in individual conferences: the week of February 8 – 12.
- B. Preliminary bibliography: Monday, March 1.
- C. Proposed thesis statement and essay outline: Thursday, March 25.
- D. Essays submitted: Thursday, April 15.
- E. Essays returned: Thursday, April 22.
- F. Revised essays submitted: Thursday, April 29.

V. Testing

- A. Mid-term exam: Thursday, March 4.
- B. Final exam: Wednesday, May 5, 5:30 – 8:00 P.M.

VI. Elements of the course grade

- A. Attendance 5% (One point reduction for each absence in excess of two)

- B. Participation 15%

Class disc. 5%
Lead class 5%
Proj. report 5%

C. Book Project 20%

Preview 5%
Review 15%

D. Essay project 30%

Pre Bib 5%
Outline 5%
Essay 20%

(This will be an average of the grades on the original essay and the rewritten essay.)

E. Mid-term Exam 10%

F. Final Exam 20%

VII. Summary of due dates

Th Jan. 14	Book assignment
Th Jan. 14	Discussion leadership assignment
Th Feb. 4	Book preview due
M Feb. 8 —	
F Feb. 12	Topic selection conferences
Th Feb. 25	Book Review due
M Mar. 1	Preliminary bibliography due
Th Mar. 4	Mid-term exam
F Mar. 5	Mid-term grades
Th Mar. 25	Thesis statement and essay outline due
Th Apr. 15	Essays due
M Apr. 19	Class reports (1)
Th Apr. 22	Essays returned
Th Apr. 22	Class reports (2)
M Apr. 26	Class reports (3)
Th Apr. 29	Revised essays due
Th Apr. 29	Class reports (4)
W May 5	Final Exam (5:30 – 8:00 P.M.)

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

1. Th 1/14 A. Introduction to the Course
 B. Assignment of review project books
 C. Assignment of discussion leadership topics

 M 1/18 No class meeting. Martin Luther King Day
2. Th 1/21 A. The Historical Preconditions of National Socialism
 Broszat 37–50

 B. The Roots of German National Socialism
 Remak 1–15
3. M 1/25 A. Hitler and the Nazi Party in Munich 1919-1923/24
 Broszat 1–9

 B. Documents Related to the Early Nazi Movement
 Remak 17–30
4. Th 1/28 A. Hitler and the Nazis during the Period of Stability 1924–28
 Broszat 50–67

 B. The Writing of History as a Way of Thinking
 Marius 1–12
5. M 2/1 A. Economic and Political Disorder: The Nazis as a Mass Movement
 Broszat 67–81

 B. The Essay in History
 Marius 13–28
6. Th 2/4 A. Berlin in the Autumn of 1930 (1)
 Broszat 11–25

 B. Thinking about History
 Marius 29–48

 C. Sign up for individual conferences on essay topics

BOOK PREVIEW IS DUE

M 2/8 — F 2/12 **CONFERENCES ON ESSAY TOPICS**

7. M 2/8 A. Berlin in the Autumn of 1930 (2)

Broszat 25–36

B. Modes of Historical Writing

Marius 49–71

8. Th 2/11

A. The Growth of the Nazi Reichstag Vote

Broszat 81–91

B. Documents on Nazi Electoral Success

Remak 31–47

9. M 2/15

A. The Harzburg Front

Broszat 93–108

B. Gathering Information

Marius 72–98

10. Th 2/18

A. Presidential Elections of 1932: The Fall of Brüning

Broszat 108–115

B. Writing Drafts

Marius 98–108

11. M 2/22

A. The Destruction of the Republic Under Papen

Broszat 115–128

B. Documenting Sources

Marius 136–145

12. Th 2/25

A. The Final Stages of Hitler's Rise to the Chancellorship (1)

Broszat 129–138

B. Introduction to the Hitler Problem

Rosenbaum xi–xlvi

BOOK REVIEW DUE

13. M 3/1

A. The Final Stages of Hitler's Rise to the Chancellorship (2)

Broszat 138–149

B. H. R. Trevor-Roper

Rosenbaum 63–77

PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

14. Th 3/4

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

- F 3/5 Mid-Term Grades
- M 3/8 Spring recess
- Th 3/11 Spring recess
15. M 3/15 A. Converting Constitutional Office into Dictatorship
 Remak 49–55
- B. Alan Bullock
 Rosenbaum 78–96
16. Th 3/18 A. Gleichschaltung
 Remak 55–69
- B. Freudian Explanations
 Rosenbaum 135–152
17. M 3/22 A. The Attractions of the National Socialist Regime
 Remak 71–82
- B. David Irving
 Rosenbaum 221–236
18. Th 3/25 A. Propaganda
 Remak 83–92
- B. Rudolph Binion
 Rosenbaum 239–250
- THESIS STATEMENT AND ESSAY OUTLINE DUE**
19. M 3/29 A. National Socialism and the German Churches
 Remak 93–105
- B. Emil Fackenheim and Yehuda Bauer
 Rosenbaum 279–299
- Th 4/1 Easter recess
20. M 4/5 A. National Socialism and War
 Remak 107–121

- B. George Steiner: Singling Out the Jews
Rosenbaum 300–318
21. Th 4/8 A. German Occupation Policy
Remak 121–131
- B. Daniel Goldhagen: Blaming the Germans
Rosenbaum 337–368
22. M 4/12 A. National Socialism and Eugenics
Remak 133–143
- B. Lucy Dawidowicz: Blaming Hitler
Rosenbaum 369–393
23. Th 4/15 A. National Socialism and the Jews
Remak 145–160
- B. German Resistance to National Socialism
Remak 161–176

INTERPRETIVE ESSAYS ARE DUE

24. M 4/19 Project Reports (1)
25. Th 4/22 Project Reports (2)

INTERPRETIVE ESSAYS RETURNED

26. M 4/26 Project Reports (3)
27. Th 4/29 Project Reports (4)

REVISED INTERPRETIVE ESSAYS DUE

- W 5/5 Final Examination (5:30–8:00 P.M.)