

**EUH 5905--Readings in Modern German History
THE NAZI STATE: ORIGINS, IMPACT, LEGACY**

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**Office hours—T and Th 2-4PM; F 10AM-noon
and by appointment**

Content

This course is designed to acquaint students with major issues and historiography of the Nazi Era. The origins of the Nazi state will be examined, along with Hitler's background, personality and rise to power. Students will also focus study the structure of the Nazi state, the Holocaust, the impact of Nazism on German society, and its legacy.

Students are required to have readings completed prior to each class meeting. Regular attendance is crucial. If illness or other emergencies prevent your attendance, please notify the instructor in advance, or points will be deducted from your final grade.

Grading

Class participation --40%-- Students will be assigned questions on weekly readings, and will be called upon to answer these questions during class. During the last class, students will make presentations on a reading or readings that they found most compelling during the course of the semester.

Essays --60%--2 papers, 7-10 pages in length, based on class readings. Paper topics will be announced in due course.

Readings- to be purchased at the bookstore

Students must purchase the *most recent editions* of Niewyk and Mitchell

Books

David Engel. The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews

Frank McDonough. Hitler and the Rise of the Nazi Party

Allan Mitchell. The Nazi Revolution

Donald Niewyk. The Holocaust

Recommended

Fulbrook, Mary. A Concise History of Germany

Spielvogel, Jackson, Hitler and Nazi Germany

Articles assigned for classes can be found in the Library or can be downloaded from the website www.jstor.org

Class Schedule

22 August

Introduction and Expectations

- 29 August *The Nazi Movement and German History*
The Weimar Republic
Readings: **McDonough**, Introduction, chapter 3 and documents 1-5; **Mitchell**, Part I; **Fulbrook**, pp. 144-78
- 5 September *Early Years of the Nazi Party*
Readings: **McDonough**, chapter 5 and documents 6-9; **Mitchell**, essays by Pridham and Childers; “From Antisemitic Peripheries to Antisemitic Centres: The Place of Antisemitism in Modern German History” Oded **Heilbronner**. *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 35, No. 4. (Oct., 2000), pp. 559-576.
- 12 September *Hitler’s Background and the Nazi Seizure of Power*
Readings: **McDonough**, chapters 2, 4, 6 & 7 and documents 10-20; **Mitchell**, review Part I, articles by Fest and Besell and part III
- 19 September *Hitler’s policies and their impact*
Readings: **Mitchell**, Parts IV and V; “Nazism and Polarization: The Left and the Third Reich” by Shelley **Baranowski** *The Historical Journal*, Vol. 43, No. 4. (Dec., 2000), pp. 1157-1172; **Engel**, chapters 3-4 and documents 1-10
- 26 September *The Holocaust—Background and Origins*
Readings: **Engel**, Part I; **Niewyk**, Part I; “The Wannsee Conference, the Fate of German Jews, and Hitler’s Decision in Principle to Exterminate All European Jews,” by **Christian Gerlach**. *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 70, No. 4. (Dec., 1998), pp. 759-812; Review: Racism and the Third Reich by **Martyn Housden** *The Historical Journal* Vol. 37, No. 4 (Dec., 1994), pp. 981-994
- 3 October *The Holocaust Experience*
Readings: **Niewyk**, Part III and IV; **Engel**, chapters 5 & 6 and documents 11-16
- 10 October *The Perpetrators, the Bystanders and the Rescuers—Part I*
Readings: **Niewyk**, Part II, V and VI; **Engel**, chapters 7 and 8 and documents 17-24; “Defining Enemies, Making Victims: Germans, Jews, and the Holocaust” by **Omer Bartov**. *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 103, No. 3. (Jun., 1998), pp. 771-816; “Denunciations in Twentieth-Century Germany: Aspects of Self-Policing in the Third Reich and the German Democratic Republic” **Robert Gellately** *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 68, No. 4, “Practices of Denunciation in Modern European History, 1789-1989” (Dec., 1996), pp. 931-967.
- FIRST ESSAY DUE**
- 17 October *The Perpetrators, the Bystanders and the Rescuers—Part II*
Readings: see 10 October

24 October

The Problem of Resistance

Readings: “Image of a Churchman-Resister: Bishop von Galen, the Euthanasia Project and the Sermons of Summer 1941” Beth **Griech-Poelle** *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 36, No. 1. (Jan., 2001), pp. 41-57; “Opposition to National Socialism-An Anatomy of Failure?” (in Review Articles) Review author[s]: Martyn **Housden**, *The Historical Journal*, Vol. 36, No. 2. (Jun., 1993), pp. 477-485. **Selected articles** from *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 64, Supplement: Resistance Against the Third Reich, Dec., 1992 (see final page of syllabus)

31 Oct and 6 Nov

The Historiography of Nazi Germany

Readings: Nazism, Politics and the Image of the Past: Thoughts on the West German Historikerstreit 1986-1987 by **Geoff Eley** *Past and Present* No. 121 (Nov., 1988), pp. 171-208; “Rethinking the Nazi Terror System: A Historiographical Analysis” **Robert Gellately** *German Studies Review*, Vol. 14, No. 1. (Feb., 1991), pp. 23-38.

13 November

The Goldhagen Controversy

Readings: review Goldhagen essay in **Niewyk** text

“Structure and Agency in the Holocaust: Daniel J. Goldhagen and His Critics” by **A. D. Moses** *History and Theory* Vol. 37, No. 2 (May, 1998), pp. 194-219

“Revising the Holocaust” (review of Goldhagen)

Ruth Bettina **Birn**; Volker **Riess**

The Historical Journal, Vol. 40, No. 1. (Mar., 1997), pp. 195-215.

Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust

Daniel Jonah Goldhagen

Review author[s]: Henry **Friedlander**

German Studies Review, Vol. 19, No. 3. (Oct., 1996), pp. 578-580.

Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust.

Daniel Jonah Goldhagen

Review author[s]: Robert **Gellately**

The Journal of Modern History, Vol. 69, No. 1. (Mar., 1997), pp. 187-191.

Review Article: “After Goldhagen. Recent Work on the Genesis of Nazi Genocide”
Nikolaus **Wachsmann**. *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 34, No. 3. (Jul., 1999), pp. 477-487.

20 November

Facing the Nazi Past

Readings: Review Mitchell, Part I, McDonough, Part I, and Engel, chapter 8; “Today's View of the Third Reich and the Second World War in German Historiographical

Discourse” by **Ulrich Schlie**. *The Historical Journal* Vol. 43, No. 2 (Jun., 2000), pp. 543-564

27 November

Conclusions and Reflections—Final Student Presentations

SECOND ESSAY DUE

The Journal of Modern History, Vol. 64, Supplement: Resistance Against the Third Reich, Dec., 1992

[Introduction: Resistance against the Third Reich as Intercultural Knowledge](#), pp. S1-S7

Michael Geyer; John W. Boyer

Normality, Exceptionalism, Resistance

[Ethical Dilemmas and Nazi Eugenics: Single-Issue Dissent in Religious Contexts](#), pp. S8-S31

Claudia Koonz

["In the End I Just Said O.K.": Political and Moral Dimensions of Escape Aid at the Swiss Border](#), pp. S68-S81

Alfred G. Frei

[Between Normality and Resistance: Catastrophic Gradualism in Nazi Germany](#), pp. S82-S101

Frank Trommler

Human Solidarity and the Restoration of Politics

[The German Resistance against Hitler and the Restoration of Politics](#), pp. S112-S127

Hans Mommsen

[Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Decision to Resist](#), pp. S134-S146

Raymond Mengus

Nachholender Widerstand--Resistance after 1945

["A Beacon in the German Darkness": The Anti-Nazi Resistance Legacy in West German Politics](#), pp. S173-S186

David Clay Large

[From Resistance to Liberation Theology: German Theologians and the Non/Resistance to the National Socialist Regime](#), pp. S187-S203

Werner G. Jeanrond

[Repressing, Remembering, Working Through: German Psychiatry, Psychotherapy, Psychoanalysis, and the "Missed Resistance" in the Third Reich](#), pp. S204-S216

Geoffrey Cocks

[Resistance as Ongoing Project: Visions of Order, Obligations to Strangers, Struggles for Civil Society](#), pp. S217-S241

Michael Geyer