



HIST 4350 MODERN GERMAN HISTORY – Nazi Germany

Instructor: Dr. Gerhard Bleifuss

Office Hours: 30 minutes before/after class

Course Description

This course is meant to introduce students to the darkest chapter of German history. The land of Luther, Bach and Goethe is also the land of Hitler and the Holocaust. After unification by Prussia, Germany played a pivotal role in the European balance of power, yet for a long time did not find a satisfactory identity. The aftermath of World War I, long-standing anti-Semitism, and social tensions helped pave the way for Hitler's rise to power and unleash another world war, including genocide.

Course Objectives

After an introduction to specific factors that favoured the success of the Nazis the course offers a survey of political, economic and military developments focussed on Germany between 1933 and 1945, including changes in international relations. Students will also get familiar with explanations of Nazism and totalitarianism. They will write a term paper in conventional academic form, explaining how and why an event or a development occurred. Communication exercises allow students to use historical evidence to support arguments and analysis.

Class Schedule and Sequence of Instruction

Lecture	Date	Content
1	01 Sep.	Introduction to course and topic
2	08 Sep.	Background and post-WW I international relations
3	15 Sep.	The Nazi Party and Hitler's rise to power
4	22 Sep.	Domestic policies: Jews, industrialists, labor
5	29 Sep.	Foreign policies and preparations for war
6	20 Oct.	Nazis and arts
7	27 Oct.	Nazi Germany at war (I): years of victory
8	10 Nov.	Resistance and collaboration
9	17 Nov.	Espionage, sabotage and guerrilla: between London and Moscow
10	24 Nov.	The Holocaust
11	01 Dec.	Nazi Germany at war (II): retreat and defeat
12	08 Dec.	The aftermath: from Nuremberg to South America



Required Textbooks and Materials

Bendersky, Joseph. *A Concise History of Nazi Germany*. Fourth edition. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014. Place your order at rowman.com to get the e-book for \$27.30. ISBN 978-1-4422-2270-0 – promo/discount code: STUDENT30

Grading

Grading Scale (Based on points)

Grade	Descriptive Grade	Numeric Grade	Grade Points
A	Excellent Scholarship	93-100	4.00
A-	Excellent Scholarship	90-92	3.70
B+	Good Scholarship	87-89	3.30
B	Good Scholarship	83-86	3.00
B-	Good Scholarship	80-82	2.70
C+	Satisfactory Scholarship	77-79	2.30
C	Satisfactory Scholarship	70-76	2.00
D+	Poor Scholarship	67-69	1.30
D	Poor Scholarship	63-66	1.00
D-	Poor Scholarship	60-62	0.07
F	Failure	Less than 60	0.00

Assignments

Apart from midterm exam, term paper, (presentation for TCNJ students,) and final exam, there will be only reading assignments.

Midterm Exam	25%
Term Paper	25%
Final Exam	25%
Class Participation	25%

For TCNJ students there will be a presentation as the fifth assignment to be done, worth 15% of the course grade. Thus, their participation grade will be worth 10% of the course grade.



Exams

Midterm and final exam are closed book, and all will consist of a mixture of short answer objective and essay questions; from each group two out of three questions should be answered. The maximum of points is 25, the minimum for a passing grade is 15 points. The questions are based on the textbook **and** on additional information supplied by the instructor. Any student found cheating will get an F.

Paper

Term papers (4-6 pages of text) will be graded according to the following criteria:

Item	Points (100%)
Objective clearly stated	10
Logical development of objective	50
Research and References (MLA)	20
Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation	10
Format	10

Other Regulations and Policies

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and active classroom participation are required of each student. Tests will cover for all course material provided through lectures and presentations, readings, discussions, cases, and videos during class. **Absences and/or a lack of participation in discussions will impact negatively on the final grade.** Each student is responsible for all material covered and/or assigned and any announcements made in any class session, whether student is present or not. Group activities require all students to participate and contribute to group discussions and projects.

Students are expected to come to class on time and to have read assigned material before class. There may be an occasional pop quiz to verify whether students have read the assignments before class.

All work must be turned in on time. Late work may be accepted but points will be taken off if work is not turned in to instructor when it is due. At all times, in class and group discussions, students are expected to respect contributions, questions, and opinions of other people. Demeaning others in any way is not acceptable.

Classroom etiquette: students are not to talk with each other during lectures, nor to take or make phone calls, nor to eat or drink.

Scholastic Dishonesty

You are expected to do your own academic work and cite sources as necessary. Failing to do so is scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a university academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

If it is determined that a student has cheated, he or she may be given an "NP" for the course, and may face additional sanctions from the Study Center.