

HIST 589: Germany Between the Wars

Spring 2012

Prof. Clinefelter

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Office hours: before class, and by appointment; I live in my office so just about any time.

Course description: This course introduces students to German history from the Great War through the end of the Cold War. It examines how Germany transformed itself from a weak republic to two dictatorships and the to a strong republic that ultimately enabled the reunification of a new German nation. Students will examine key secondary works in German history and develop skills in interpreting those works as well as primary sources that treat the Holocaust. In addition, students will read articles that place Germany within a broader context, especially as German history becomes "Europeanized."

You will no doubt note that the course is front loaded. By that I mean you will do the bulk of the work before spring break. After break, the readings lighten up and you will focus on your final paper and just one more review. Please note now: Your rough draft of the big paper is due 11 April. I will have the drafts graded and returned in one week. Indeed, unless something happens, grades will be returned in one week. Please note that I do not use Blackboard.

Learning outcomes: Students will master key events in and interpretations of German history, demonstrating their comprehension through class discussion and book reviews. Students will refine their skills of reading books and documents critically through both discussion and interpretive assignments. Finally, students will develop a final project that demonstrates their interpretive skills, mastery of the material, and ability to think critically.

Assignments: Students will complete the following assignments: one citation assignment; two book reviews; one article review; two primary source papers; one paper proposal; one 15-25 comparative/historiographic review or research paper (both a rough draft and a final version); and at least 3 class presentations. All assignments are described in the course packet, which is on my website. The grade distribution is as follows:

Citation assignment	Pass/fail
Review of Peukert	5%
Review of Fritzsche, Kershaw or Steege	5%
Primary source papers:	20%(10% each)
Paper proposal	5%
Final Paper	45% (20% rough draft, 25% final version)
Participation/Presentations	20% (includes peer review)

All students are expected to participate in the weekly discussion of the readings; attendance is mandatory. If you must miss, you must clear it with me and you must hand in a 5-page summary of the readings that you missed. More than one absence—which must be cleared with me first—will result in the deduction of 10 points from your final grade. That means if your final grade is a 90, you would get an 80 or a B-.

Grading, Extensions, etc.: Grading is A-F, with plus and minus grades. An A is 93 -100; an A- 90-92; B+ 88-89; B 83-87; B- 80-82, and so on. The final grade is calculated by multiplying the assignment grade by the percentage it is worth, and then adding up those totals. **Failure to hand in any one of the assignments will result in an automatic F in the course.** You may have **one extension of one week** for any assignment except the draft and final version of the paper. To receive the extension, just ask no later than two days before class.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is discussed in the course packet. If I find that plagiarism has occurred, or that the paper submitted was not written by you, you will fail the entire class. In addition, you will be expelled from the graduate program in History.

Required Texts: (Available at the UNC Bookstore, or purchase on-line)

Clinefelter, Joan. Course Packet: Germany Between the Wars. On my website.

Fritzsche, Peter. *Life and Death in the Third Reich* Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University, 2009. ISBN 0674034651

Fulbrook, Mary. *The People's State: East German Society from Hitler to Honecker*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008. ISBN 9780300144246

History Department, Manual of Style, available only in the History Department, \$3.00.

Jarausch, Konrad H. *After Hitler: Recivilizing the Germans, 1945-1995*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN 0195374002

Kershaw, Ian. *The End: The Defiance and Destruction of Hitler's Germany, 1944-1945*. New York: Penguin, 2011. ISBN 1594203148

Klee, Ernst, et al, eds. *The Good Old Days: The Holocaust as Seen by Its Perpetrators and Bystanders*. Old Saybrook, CT: William S. Konecky Associates, 1996. ISBN 1568521322

Peukert, Detlev. *The Weimar Republic: The Crisis of Classical Modernity*. Trans. Richard Deveson. New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 1993. ISBN 0809015560

Steege, Paul. *Black Market, Cold War: Everyday Life in Berlin, 1946-1949*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007. ISBN 0521745179

Articles on Reserve (all are required reading):

Bessel, Richard. "The Legacy of the First World War and Weimar Politics." In *Germany after the First World War*. Ed. Richard Bessel. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993, 254-84.

Herf, Jeffrey. "Post-Totalitarian Narratives in Germany: Reflections on Two Dictatorships after 1945 and 1989." *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions* 9 (June-September 2008): 161-86.

- Jarausch, Konrad. "The Federal Republic at Sixty: Popular Myths, Actual Accomplishments and Competing Interpretations." *German Politics and Society* 28 (Spring 2010): 10-29.
- Jones, Heather. "The German Spring Reprisals of 1917: Prisoners of War and the Violence of the Western Front." *German History* 26 (July 2008): 335-56.
- Jones, Larry Eugene. "The Dissolution of the Bourgeois Party System in the Weimar Republic." In *Social Change and Political Development in Weimar Germany*. Ed. R. Bessel and E. J. Feuchtwanger. London: Croom Helm, 1981, 268-88.
- Kocka, Jürgen. "German History before Hitler: The Debate about the German *Sonderweg*." *Central European History* 23 (1988): 3-16.
- , "Asymmetrical Historical Comparison: The Case of the German *Sonderweg*." *History and Theory* 38 (February 1999): 40-50.
- Lieberman, Ben. "Testing Peukert's Paradigm: The 'Crisis of Classical Modernity' in the 'New Frankfurt,' 1925-1930." *German Studies Review* 17 (1994): 287-303.
- Moeller, Robert G. "Germans as Victims? Thoughts on a Post-Cold War History of World War II's Legacies." *History and Memory* 17 (2005): 147-94.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities: Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor by giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

Honor Code: All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

UNC's Policies: UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link <http://www.unco.edu/dos/handbookindex.html>

Course Schedule: Note readings are due the week for which they are listed. If I say read ch. 1-3 that means read through the end of ch. 3

11 Jan.: Introduction to the course

Lecture: Crash course in Weimar Germany; how to read a book; close reading of documents; WorldCat etc.

Look Ahead: Citation assignment due next the next class

18 Jan. The Weimar Republic

Discussion: What is Peukert's thesis? Define the crisis of modernity; what were Weimar's weaknesses? Provide two examples of that illustrate the crisis of classical modernity at work; what was the legacy of the First World War in Germany?

Readings: Peukert, *The Weimar Republic*, 1-164; Bessel, "The Legacy of the First World War and Weimar Politics"; Kocka, "German History before Hitler". See the course packet for the discussion questions.

Due in class: Citation Assignment

25 Jan.: The Weimar Republic: Crisis of Modernity

Discussion: Peukert's thesis, revised; definition of crisis of modernity, revised; more weaknesses, and strengths? Come prepared with two examples of the crisis of classical modernity at work; What does Jones mean by the dissolution of the Bourgeois Party System? How did it contribute to the republic's failure? Does Lieberman support or refute Peukert? Does Jones?

Readings: Peukert, *The Weimar Republic*, finish; Lieberman, "Testing Peukert's Paradigm"; Jones, "The Dissolution of the Bourgeois Party System." See the course packet for the discussion questions.

No later than this class I will handout guidelines for the assignments related to *The Good Old Days*.

1 Feb.: The Third Reich

Discussion: Fritzsche's thesis? Presentation questions. See handout for the "Initially Difficult" document

Readings: Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, intro-ch. 2; bring Klee, *The Good Old Days*. We will discuss "Initially Difficult" as a way to do a close reading, so have that read

Due in class: Review of Peukert

8 Feb.: The Empire of Destruction

Discussion: Fritzsche's thesis and discussion; What are we to make of the Jäger Report? Do the primary sources in Klee support or refute Fritzsche's contention that the Germans supported the Third Reich? Prepare two questions for each of the primary sources for discussion

Readings: Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, finish; Klee, *The Good Old Days*, through the end of "total 137,346"

Prepare: Determine which section of the primary sources you will be responsible for next week, and see the course packet for specific tasks

Due in class: Primary source paper 1 (Jäger report)

15 Feb.: The Good Old Days

Discussion: Based on the primary sources: What effects did the mass killing have on the perpetrators? Why did the killers kill? What theses could you develop around the documents detailing the executions as popular entertainment?

Readings: *The Good Old Days*

Presentation: Of your primary source section in *The Good Old Days*

22 Feb.: The Second World War

Discussion: Kershaw's thesis and argument; your discussion questions; how could the reprisals of 1917 and the violence of the Great War have paved the way for acceptance of slave labor and mass violence against civilians in WWII?

Readings: Kershaw, *The End*, Intro-ch. 5; Jones, "The German Spring Reprisals of 1917"

Due in class: Primary source paper 2

29 Feb.: The Germans and the Defeat

Discussion: Your discussion questions; Come to class prepared with a primary source from Klee that can either support or refute Kershaw's contention that the Germans kept fighting in part because they feared their actions in the East would be visited upon them; discussion of your primary source

Readings: Kershaw, *The End*, finish; Klee, *The Good Old Days*, selections

7 March: Stunde Null

Discussion: Steege discussion questions

Readings: Steege, *Black Market, Cold War*, ch. 1-3

Due: Research paper proposal

14 March: The Cold War and Berlin

Discussion: Your discussion questions

Readings: Steege, *Black Market, Cold War*, finish; Moeller, "Germans as Victims?"

Due in class: Review of either Fritzsche, Kershaw or Steege

21 March: No Class, Spring Break

28 March: Recivilizing the Germans

Discussion: Jarausch's thesis and argument; your discussion questions

Readings: Jarausch, *After Hitler*, first half

4 April: Recivilizing, still

Discussion: Your discussion questions

Readings: Jarausch, *After Hitler*, second half

11 April: East Germany: A People's State?

Discussion: Your discussion questions

Readings: Fulbrook, *The People's State*, first half

Due in Class: The Rough Drafts

18 April: Research Presentations and Peer Critiques

Discussion: Research presentations and critiques

Readings: Your Colleagues' Drafts

Due in Class: Peer Reviews and Research Presentations

25 April: East Germany and the Fall of the Second German Dictatorship

Discussion: Your discussion questions

Readings: Fulbrook, *The People's State*, second half

2 May: The Europeanization of German History?

Discussion: Has German history become Europeanized? Normalized?

Readings: Herf, "Post-Totalitarian Narratives"; Jarausch, *The Federal Republic at Sixty*"; Kocka, "Asymmetrical Historical Comparison"

Due in class: Article Review

9 May: Finals Week

All final papers must be in, time to be determined