In twentieth-century totalitarian societies, argued George Orwell, people succumbed to the "tom-tom beat of a latterday tribalism." German National Socialism was a most horrific example of what Orwell had in mind. Swept into power by a disgruntled electorate, the Nazi regime erected a brutal political system that divided not only the German people but also the world into "races," some of which deserved to lead, while others were to be marginalized or eliminated. According to historian Michael Burleigh, "Aryan" Germans had access to a "racial meritocracy" in which violence, sentimentalized identity politics, and the blandishments of modern consumer society prevailed. But Jews, Sinti and Roma, "Bolsheviks," and religious and political dissidents were excluded, just as many nationality groups under German occupation were exploited or killed in World War II. More than fifty million people died as a result of Nazi tribalism; the shadow of National Socialist crimes has never quite faded, for Germans or for other nations and peoples. Historians continue to puzzle over the strange mixture of prosperity and pain, "normality" and "abnormality," that constituted German society under Nazi rule.

The course is designed to give advanced undergraduates a comprehensive overview of the origins, development, and outcome of National Socialism. It consists of lectures, films, readings, discussions, and writing assignments. It is based on the premise that historical questions are complex and contentious, requiring critical reading and thinking as well as an active rather than passive approach to gaining knowledge. Students are urged to attend all lectures, keep up with weekly reading, hand in all assignments on time, and participate actively in each weekly discussion session. Course assignments include two formal essays on precirculated questions (one double-spaced, 3-5 page essay, and one double-spaced 8-10 page essay) and three one-page, double-spaced synopses of readings and/or lectures. There are also two exams, a midterm and a final, each requiring short-answer identifications and essays. Additional reading and/or writing exercises may be assigned in discussion sections. Course grades will be determined as follows: Synopses=10%; Short paper=10%; Discussion=15%; Long paper=20%; Midterm=20%; Final=25%.

The required text for the course (Michael Burleigh, The Third Reich) is available for purchase at the Underground Textbook Exchange on State Street. In addition, a required course packet is available for purchase at the Mosse Humanities Building Copy Center. Both the text and course packet will be placed on reserve at Helen C. White.

Required text:
Michael Burleigh, The Third Reich: A New History (Hill and Wang)

Required course pack:
Ruth Andreas-Friedrich, Battleground Berlin: Diaries 1945-1948 (Paragon House) pp. 1-35


David Hull, Film in the Third Reich (California), pp. 68-86, 126-56

“Imagining America: Fordism and Technology,” in Anton Kaes et al, eds., Weimar Republic Sourcebook (California) pp. 393-411

Victor Klemperer, I Will Bear Witness: A Diary of the Nazi Years 1933-1941 (Random House), pp. 289-324


Barbara Miller Lane, Architecture and Politics in Germany (Harvard), pp. 185-216


**Schedule of Lectures, Readings, and Assignments**

**Week 1**
September 3: Course Introduction  
September 5: Concepts and Contexts  
Reading: Burleigh, 1-23

**Week 2**
September 10: World War I: Hitler's First "Home"  
September 12: Germany Tries Democracy  
Reading: Burleigh, 27-145

**Week 3**
September 17: Political Landscape of Weimar  
September 19: Youth Cultures and Women  
Reading: Jones, 347-69; Grossman, 78-106; Nenno, 145-61  
**September 19: Reading Synopsis Due**

**Week 4**
September 24: An (Almost) Motorized Nation  
September 26: Fordist Dreams and The People's Car  
Reading: Möser, 195-222; "Imagining America," in Kaes, et al, 393-411

**Week 5**
October 1: Nazi Mobilization, 1919-1930  
October 3: Nazi Mobilization: The Breakthrough, 1930-1933  
Reading: Brustein, 1237-1261; Childers, 232-59  
**October 3: Essay #1 Due**

**Week 6**
October 8: From the Reichstag Fire to the "Night of the Long Knives"  
October 10: Film: "Triumph of the Will"  
Reading: Burleigh, 149-215; Hull, 68-86, 126-56

**Week 7**
October 15: The Nazi Social Revolution  
October 17: Film: "Olympia," Part 1: "Festival of the People"  
Reading: Burleigh, 219-277, Bock & von Saldern (D.Crew), 110-65

**Week 8**
October 22: Midterm exam  
October 24: The Therapeutic Dictatorship?  
Reading: Burleigh, 345-404
Week 9
October 29: “Granite and Heart”: The Autobahns
October 31: Hitler’s Car Realized?
Reading: Koshar, 215-230; Overy, 68-89

Week 10
November 5: "The Beautiful Look of the Third Reich": Architecture and Design
November 7: French Comparisons (Guest lecture by Rob Lewis)
Reading: Lane 185-216; Heskett, 110-27
**November 7: Lecture Synopsis Due**

Week 11
November 12: Origins and development of World War II
November 14: First stages of the Holocaust
Reading: Burleigh, 281-342, 571-662; Klemperer, 289-324

Week 12
November 19: Mass Killing and the Camps
November 21: Occupation, Resistance, and Collaboration
Reading: Burleigh, 407-481, 665-728

Week 13
November 26: The End of World War II
Reading: Burleigh, 485-567
**November 26: Essay #2 Due**
**Thanksgiving Recess: November 28-December 1**

Week 14
December 3: Defeat and Occupation of Germany
December 5: "Hitler's Car" and the Rebirth of Germany
Reading: Burleigh, 731-812, Andreas-Friedrich, 1-35
**December 5: Reading Synopsis Due**

Week 15
December 10: Memories of Trauma: The Past Conquered?
December 12: Conclusion and Review

**December 15: Final Exam, 5:05 PM**