History 867 Seminar in European Social and Intellectual History  
Spring Semester 2012  
W 11-1, 5257 Humanities  
Instructor: Koshar (rjkoshar@wisc.edu)  
Office: 4101 Humanities, TR 4-5 & by appt.

History 867 explores the nexus in recent European and German historical scholarship between modern social and intellectual history. Starting with two broader statements on late modern history—Dan Diner’s *Cataclysms*, and Konrad Jarauch and Michael Geyer’s *Shattered Past*—we consider an array of topics, including imperialism and commercialism in Imperial Germany; the intellectual biography of Max Weber; body culture during the Weimar Republic; sexuality and politics in the Third Reich and postwar Germany; German intellectuals and memory of the Nazi past; consumer culture in East German Communism; anti-Nazi resistance; and images of the Holocaust.

The course is structured as a readings and research seminar. In the first eleven weeks of class, we investigate a number of common readings (and one documentary film). Each week two student will be responsible for a short overview of the assigned book and for posing a series of discussion questions. (Discussants are encouraged to draw from the supplementary reading lists; these lists include books placed on reserve and several on-line resources, marked with asterisks.) In the last three class meetings, students will have the chance to make twenty-minute presentations of research projects they have developed in the course of the semester. Research papers are due at 11am on May 9. Discussion and in-class presentation account for half of a student’s final grade, the research paper for the other half.

**Required Reading (all books on reserve)**

Dan Diner, *Cataclysms: A History of the Twentieth Century from Europe’s Edge* (Wisconsin)  
Erik Jensen, *Body by Weimar: Athletes, Gender, & German Modernity* (Oxford)  
Dagmar Herzog, *Sex after Fascism: Memory and Morality in Twentieth-Century Germany* (Princeton)  
A. Dirk Moses, *German Intellectuals and the Nazi Past* (Cambridge)  
Eli Rubin, *Synthetic Socialism: Plastics & Dictatorship in the German Democratic Republic* (North Carolina)
Course Schedule

January 25  Course Basics

Part I: Long Views

February 1  Writing history from the periphery
            Reading: Diner

February 8  Leave it broken or repair it?
            Reading: Jarausch and Geyer

Supplementary:
Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe’s Twentieth Century* (Vintage)
*Jan Palmowski and Kristina Spohr Readman, eds., “At the Crossroads of Past and Present—‘Contemporary’ History and the Historical Discipline,”* *Journal of Contemporary History*, Special Issue, 46, 3 (July 2011).

Part II: Imperial Germany

February 15  On the evil of images in the Kaiserreich
            Reading: Ciarlo

February 22  Is the intellectual biography dead? Max Weber, for example
            Reading: Ringer

Supplementary:
Matthew Jefferies, *Imperial Culture in Germany, 1871-1918* (Palgrave)
Suzanne Marchand and David Lindenfeld, eds., *Germany at the Fin de Siècle: Culture, Politics and Ideas* (Louisiana State).

Part III: Weimar and Nazism

February 29  Body culture and politics in Weimar
            Reading: Jensen

March 7  Exploring the popular history of Nazism
            Reading: Nelson
            Also view “Wisconsin’s Nazi Resistance” on WPT website

March 14  What’s in a picture? Holocaust Images
            Reading: Porat

Supplementary:
Shareen Blair Brysac, Resisting Hitler: Mildred Harnack and the Red Orchestra (Oxford)
Ian Kershaw, Popular Opinion and Political Dissent in the Third Reich: Bavaria, 1933-45 (Oxford)
Hans Mommsen, The Rise and Fall of Weimar Democracy (North Carolina)
Detlev Peukert, The Weimar Republic (Hill & Wang)

Part IV: Beyond Fascism?

March 21    Fascism and the history of sexuality
            Reading: Herzog

March 28    Stigma and structure
            Reading: Moses

March 31- April 8 Spring Recess

April 11    The East Germans had a thing about plastic...
            Reading: Rubin

Supplementary:
Richard Bessel and Dirk Schumann, eds., Life after Death: Approaches to a Cultural and Social History of Europe During the 1940s and 1950s (GHI/Cambridge)
Mary Fulbrook, German National Identity after the Holocaust (Cambridge/Polity)
Idem, The People’s State: East German Society from Hitler to Honecker (Yale)
Jan-Werner Müller, ed, Memory & Power in Postwar Europe (Cambridge)
Katherine Pence and Paul Betts, eds., Socialist Modern: East German Everyday Culture and Politics (Michigan)
Corey Ross, The East German Dictatorship (Arnold)

Part V: Student Presentations

April 18    Research presentation
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