

History 410: Modern Germany, 1870 to the Present

Spring 2006 Lecture: MWF 11-11:50, 4028 Vilas

Discussion Sections: M 1:20; T 9:55, 12:05, 2:25, 3:30

Instructor: Mr. Koshar (rjkoshar@wisc.edu); 265-2578

Office Hours: 4101 Humanities, M 2:30-4:30, and by appt.

The premise of this course is that Germany since 1870 is a question rather than an answer. We will spend the course exploring how the search for meaning, in the broadest sense, has shaped a “German” history marked by supreme accomplishment as well as unprecedented violence, progress as well as fragmentation. All required reading, except for the excerpted documents on Imperial Germany and the coming of World War I, will be available for purchase at the Underground Textbook Exchange, which is temporarily relocated in the basement of the Varsity Building, 401 N. Lake St., on the northeast corner of Lake and University. Required reading will also be on reserve at Helen C. White.

This is a writing-intensive course, the assignments for which will help you build your critical and expository skills. The primary writing assignments are two six-page papers, due on Feb. 17 and Mar. 31. In addition, students will write three two-page essays and three single-sentence “challenges” related to course readings. The sentences and two-page exercises ask you to summarize or contextualize arguments or primary sources; the longer essays test your ability to employ these skills in a more developed format. The cumulative final exam, consisting of two essays, will be on May 11. The two longer papers and final exam count for 60 percent (20 percent each) of your final grade; the other 40 percent comes from the two-page essays, the sentences, and participation in discussion. You will receive a formal grade for the essays, but only a check or minus on the single-sentence challenges. You should be prepared to discuss weekly readings, lectures, and writing assignments in the discussion sections, attendance to which is required. Students with more than one unexcused absence in section will lose one gradation for their discussion grade.

Required Reading

Frank B. Tipton, *A History of Modern Germany since 1815*. University of California Press.

Helmut Walser Smith, *The Butcher's Tale: Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town*. Norton.

Excerpts on Imperial Germany and World War I: Heinrich Class, *If I Were the Kaiser* (1912); Friedrich von Bernhardi, *Germany and the Next War* (1914, 9th ed.); to be e-mailed to students.

Herman Hesse, *Steppenwolf. A Novel*. Picador.

George L. Mosse, ed., *Nazi Culture: A Documentary History*. Schocken Books.

Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*. HarperCollins.

Uta G. Poiger, *Jazz, Rock, and Rebels: Cold War Politics and American Culture in a Divided Germany*. University of California Press.

Ulrich Plenzdorf, *The New Sufferings of Young W.* Waveland Press.

Gunter Grass, *Two States--One Nation?* Harcourt.

Course Schedule

Preliminaries

- Jan. 18 Introduction
Jan. 20 Germany? But where is it?
Reading: Tipton, 1-24

Imperial Germany

- Jan. 23-27 The Contingent Appearance of "Germany," 1850-71
Reading: Tipton, 90-128
- Jan. 30-Feb. 3 National Unification and Anxiety, 1871-90
Reading: Tipton, 129-79; start Smith
- Feb. 6-10 Powerhouse on the Edge, 1890-1914
Reading: Tipton, 180-220; complete Smith
- Feb. 13-17 Origins of World War I
Reading: Tipton, 223-269; excerpts from Class, von Bernhardt.

World War I and the Weimar Republic

- Feb. 20-24 Storm of Steel: World War I
Reading: Tipton 270-322
- Feb. 27-Mar. 3 Weimar Republic: Hot and Cool
Reading: Tipton, 323-369; start Hesse
- Mar. 6-10 Weimar Republic: Small Successes, Big Failures
Reading: Tipton, 370-419; finish Hesse

Mar. 11-19 Spring Recess

Nazism and the Holocaust

- Mar. 20-24 Hitler's Will to Power
Reading: Tipton, 420-56; Mosse, chs. 1-5
- Mar. 27-31 The National Socialist Dictatorship
Reading: Tipton, 457-495; Mosse, chs. 6-11
- Apr. 3-7 Ordinary Men and Willing Executioners: The Holocaust
Reading: Browning

Germany? But what is it?

- April 10-12 Germany Dismembered and Occupied
Reading: Tipton, 496-520; start Poiger
- Apr. 17-21 Cold War Division and Reconstruction

	Reading: Tipton, 521-57; finish Poiger
Apr. 24-28	Two Germanys, at least... Reading: Tipton, 558-613; Plenzdorf
May 1-5	Reunification? Reading: Tipton, 614-67; Grass
May 11	Cumulative Final Exam, 2:45-4:45pm, Room TBA

Writing Schedule and Assignments:

Essays are to be double-spaced, in twelve-point font. Outside sources may be used, but they are not required. Short parenthetical insertions will suffice for identifying sources, e.g, (Smith, p. 399) or (Koshar, lecture, 5/22/05). If students use outside materials for the essays, they should attach a separate bibliography listing all sources, including class materials. Students may rewrite **one** of the six-page essays, but they are required to submit rewrites no later than one week after the class session in which the original paper was returned. You will never receive a lower grade for a rewrite, but you are not guaranteed a higher grade if you do one. A rewritten paper should be a substantial reworking based on the instructor's comments; submit both the original paper with annotations and the rewritten paper.

Assignments:

Feb. 10: In one sentence of no more than fifty (50) words, state Helmut Walser Smith's main argument in *The Butcher's Tale*.

Feb. 17: In a paper of no more than six pages situate the excerpts from Heinrich Class and Friedrich von Bernhardt in their historical context.

Mar. 10: In no more than two pages, discuss Hermann Hesse's *Steppenwolf* as a historical document.

Mar. 31: Incorporating as many primary sources as possible from George Mosse's *Nazi Culture*, outline National Socialism's idea of "the good society" in an essay of no more than six pages.

Apr. 7: In one sentence of no more than fifty (50) words, state the main argument of Christopher Browning's *Ordinary Men*.

Apr. 21: In one sentence of no more than fifty (50) words, state the main argument of Uta Poiger's *Jazz, Rock, and Rebels*.

Apr. 28: Is Edgar Wibeau more concerned about how East Germany fulfilled wants than about how it satisfied needs? In no more than two pages, respond to this question.

May 5: In no more two pages, summarize Günter Grass's case against German reunification and his alternative for the future.