NEJS 148a
Inside Nazi Germany:
Social and Political History of the Third Reich

Professor: Dr. Laura Jockusch
Semester: Spring 2019
Class Meetings: Mon and Wed 2:00-3:20
Room: Mandel G 11
Office: Lown 310
Email: jockusch@brandeis.edu
Hours: M 3:30-4:30 pm, Thr 10-11 am
Teaching Assistant: Carey Slaecker
Email: cslaeker@brandeis.edu

Course Description

This course explores the history of Nazi Germany and introduces students to important themes of what has become one of the most intensively studied periods of the twentieth century. Combining the discussion of new research with an introduction into source work and methodological approaches, students will learn about the political and social history of the Third Reich. We will start by examining the early history and the ideological foundations of National Socialism as a political movement and ask how Hitler and his party took power and remade the German state into a dictatorship. Further themes include: the forging of the “people’s community” organized around the social and racial distinction between “insiders” and “outsiders”; the emergence of the SS and police apparatus and Nazi terror against political opponents and other “enemies of the Reich”; National Socialist gender norms, family, and youth; the persecution and murder of the German Jews; Nazi economic policies strongly driven by rearmament and the fighting of “total war”; propaganda and the Nazification of social life and culture; and the question of German resistance against the regime. The class focuses mainly on a perspective from “inside” Nazi Germany, considering the experiences of victims, perpetrators, and onlookers.

Please Note: All required and recommended readings will be posted on LATTE.

Required Books


Learning Goals

• Identify the major events, persons, problems, concepts, and ideas in the history of Nazi Germany
• Read critically, interpret, and contextualize historical texts and primary sources
• Understand both the historical narrative and its "creation" through learning to critically read the interpretative works of the major historians in the field
• Write short interpretive essays that speak critically about events and ideas
• Encourage critical thinking about topics related to the study of the perpetrators and victims of the German dictatorship.

Preparation Time

Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

Course Requirements

1. Serious and consistent class participation (this means attendance is essential because your participation is part of your grade)
2. Regular introductions of the homework readings
3. Two written assignments of 4-5 pages
4. A midterm exam
5. A final exam

Grading

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
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<td>Essays</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40 percent</td>
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Late Work Policy

Unless there are legitimate reasons (e.g., serious illness or personal circumstances), work will not be accepted more than one week past the due date. Work turned in late will be docked 5 percent per day.

Academic Honesty

You must complete all assignments alone. In your writing, you must follow rules of attribution, meaning that you must cite all sources consulted in preparing your papers. As stated in the Student Handbook, “Every member of the University community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. A student shall not receive credit for work that is not the product of the student’s own effort.” Examples of penalties for a student found responsible for an infringement of academic honesty are no credit for the work in question, failure in the course, and the traditional range of conduct sanctions from disciplinary warning through permanent dismissal from the University.

Students with Documented Disabilities
Students with disabilities certified by the Coordinator of Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities in the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs and First Year Services will be given reasonable accommodations to complete required assignments. Disabilties that are not documented and approved by the Office of Academic Affairs will not be given accommodations.

Weekly Topics and Assignments

**Introduction**

**January 16, 2019**  
Film: *Triumph of the Will* (Dir. Leni Riefenstahl, Germany 1935).

Jane Caplan  

Recommended:

Rentschler  

**January 21, 2019**  
Martin Luther King Day – no class

**Ideological Foundations of National Socialism**

**January 22, 2019** [Brandeis Monday!] Nazi Ideology and Party Program

Richard J. Evans  

Peter Fritzsche  

Recommended:

Raphael  
Primary Sources: The Nazi Party program, 1920 (Document 2.6) in Roderick Stackelberg and Sally A. Winkle, eds., The Nazi Germany Sourcebook: An Anthology of Texts (London: Routledge, 2002).

January 23, 2019

Hitler’s World View


Recommended:

Primary Sources: Hitler’s Reichstag Speech, January 30, 1939 (Doc. 4.15)
Adolf Hitler, “My Political Testament,” April 29, 1945 (Doc. 5.29)

The Hitler State: Between Dictatorship and Polycracy

January 28, 2019

How central was Hitler in the Third Reich?


Recommended:


## The Making of the “People’s Community”

### January 30, 2019  Inclusion and Promise

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title and Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Martina Steber and Bernhard Gotto</td>
<td>“Volksgemeinschaft: Writing the Social History of the Nazi Regime,” in Steber and Gotto, <em>Visions of Community</em>, 1-25.</td>
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**Recommended:**

### February 4, 2019  Exclusion and Illusion

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<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title and Source</th>
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**Recommended:**
### Primary Sources:

- Law for the Reinstitution of Professional Civil service, The Nuremberg Laws, September 15, 1935 (Doc. 3.26)

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#### Terrorizing Citizens

**February 6, 2019  Police Violence and Denunciation**


**Recommended:**


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**February 11, 2019  The Nazi Concentration Camp System**


**Recommended:**


**Primary Source:** Decree of the Reich President for the Protection of the People and State, February 28, 1933 (Doc. 3.5)

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#### Gender Roles and Family Life in Nazi Society

**February 13, 2016  Women in the Fatherland**

Jane Caplan  “Gender and the Concentration Camps,” in Caplan and Wachsmann, *Concentration Camps in Nazi Germany*, 82-107.
Jill Stephenson  

**Recommended:**
Jill Stephenson  
*Women in Nazi Germany*, 1-20 and 129-138.

**Primary Sources:**
- Hitler’s Speech to the National Socialist Women’s Organization, September 1934 (Doc. 3.25a)
- Emilie Müller-Zadow, “Mothers who give us the future,” 1936 (Doc. 3.25b)
- “The Women’s Front and the Women in the Party,” 1943 (Doc. 5.25)

**February 18-22, 2019**  
**Spring Break**

**February 25, 2019**  
**Review for Midterm**

**February 27, 2019**  
**Midterm**

**March 4, 2019**  
**Manhood, Masculinity, and Youth**

George L. Mosse  

Edward Westermann  

**Recommended:**
Thomas Kühne  

Claudia Koonz  

**Primary Sources:**
- Founding of the organization “Lebensborn e.V.,” September 13, 1936 (Doc. 4.4)
- SS Order for the entire SS and Police, October 28, 1939 (Doc. 4.5)
The “Racial State”: Eugenics, Euthanasia, and Genocide

March 6, 2019  From Eugenics to Euthanasia


Primary Sources:  Law for the Prevention of Genetically Diseased Offspring, July 14, 1933 (Doc. 3.14)
Hitler’s authorization of the killing of the incurably ill, September 1, 1939 (Doc. 6.1a)
Testimony of Nurse Berta Netz, Munich, 1962 (Doc. 6.2)

March 11, 2016  Euthanasia Policies

Film:  Ich klage an [I accuse] (Germany 1941. Dir. Wolfgang Liebeneiner, 205 mins.)


March 13, 2016  Euthanasia Policies (continued)

March 18, 2019  Other Victims: Sinti and Roma, Homosexuals, “Asocials”


Sybil Milton  “‘Gypsies’ as Social Outsiders in Nazi Germany,” in Gellately and Stoltzfus, Social Outsiders in Nazi Germany, 212-232.

Recommended:
Geoffrey J. Giles  “The Institutionalization of Homosexual Panic in the Third Reich,” in Gellately and Stoltzfus, Social Outsiders in Nazi Germany, 233-255.

Annette Timm  “The Ambivalent Outsider: Prostitution, Promiscuity and VD Control in Nazi Berlin,” in Gellately and Stoltzfus, Social Outsiders in Nazi Germany, 192-211.
# The Persecution and Murder of German Jews

**March 20, 2019**  
State Policies: A Twisted Road to Auschwitz?

**Robert Gellately**  

**Dieter Pohl**  
“The Holocaust and the Concentration Camps,” in Caplan and Wachsmann, *Concentration Camps in Nazi Germany*, 149-166.

**Recommended:**

**Nathan Stolzfus**  

**Primary Sources:**

- Göring’s authorization to Heydrich, July 31, 1941 (Doc. 6.4)
- Police decree of identification of Jews, September 1, 1941 (Doc. 6.5)
- Minutes of the Wannsee Conference, 20 January 1942 (Doc. 6.8)
- Speech of Heinrich Himmler at a meeting of senior SS Officers in Posen (Doc. 6.14)

**March 25, 2019**  
Ordinary Germans and the Persecution and Mass Murder of German Jews

**David Bankier**  

**Alan Steinweis and Susanna Schrafstetter**  

**Recommended:**

**Frank Bajohr**  

**Wolf Gruner**  
“Indifference? Participation and Protest as Individual Responses..."

Peter Fritzsche


March 27, 2019

Workshop on gender and mass violence, “Reading Gendered Violence through Primary Sources,” The Tauber Institute, Brandeis University, in cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, **1 pm-3:30 pm** (instead of our regular meeting).

**Propaganda, Culture, and Entertainment**

April 1, 2019  Indoctrinating and Entertaining the ‘People’s Community’

Tim Kirk


David Welch


Recommended:

Alan Steinweis


April 3, 2019  Dehumanizing the ‘Enemies of the Reich’

Film: Sections from “The Eternal Jew” (Dir. Fritz Hippler, Germany 1940)

David Bankier


Terry Charman

# The Wehrmacht and Germany’s War of Annihilation

## April 8, 2019  Militarism and War

**Wolfgang Wette**


**Recommended:**

**Nicole Kramer**


**Johannes Hürter**


**Primary Sources:**

- Oath of officials and soldiers of the Wehrmacht, August 20, 1934 (Doc. 3.22)
- Hitler’s Speech to the Commanders-in-Chief of the Wehrmacht, August 22, 1939 (Doc. 4.20a)

## April 10, 2019  Warfare and Genocide

**Thomas Kühne**


**Hannes Heer**


**Recommended:**

**Michaela Kipp**


**Kevin Farrell**

“Recent Approaches to the German Army of World War II: Is the Topic More Accessible after 65 Years?,” in *Global War Studies* Vol. 7:2 (2010), 131-156.
Primary Sources: The Commissar Decree, June 6, 1941 (Doc. 5.12)

Nazi Economy

April 15, 2019

Aryanization, Plunder, and Slave Labor

Adam Tooze

Recommended:

Götz Aly
Hitler’s Beneficiaries: How the Nazis bought the German People, New York: Metropolitan, 2007, 1-9, 94-134.

Martin Dean

Religion and the Churches

April 17, 2019

Catholic and Protestant Attitudes to Nazism

Richard Steigmann-Gall
“Religion and the Churches,” in Caplan, Nazi Germany, 146 – 167.

Recommended:

Shelley Baranowsky

Guenter Lewy
“Pius XII, The Jews and the German Catholic Church,” in Ericksen
Was there “another” Germany? Anti-Nazi Resistance

April 29, 2919   Conservative, Military, Religious and Youth Opposition

Michael Burleigh  “‘When God Wills it even a Broom can Shoot’ (Russian Proverb): Resistance in Germany, 1933-1945,” in idem, *The Third Reich*, 665-730.

Recommended:


Primary Sources:
Second the Third leaflets of the White Rose, Fall 1942 (Doc. 5.24a-b)
Resistance Leaflet of the White Rose, January 1943 (Doc. 5.24.c)

May 1, 2019   Summing up

Final Exam