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  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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<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Final exam</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. Disabilities 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:

Eric 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:

Lutz Raphael  

**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

Jill Stephenson  “Inclusion: Building the National Community in Propaganda and Practice,” in Caplan, Nazi Germany, 99-121.

Martina Steber and Bernhard Gotto  “Volksgemeinschaft: Writing the Social History of the Nazi Regime,” in Steber and Gotto, Visions of Community, 1-25.

Recommended:


February 4, 2019  Exclusion and Illusion


Recommended:

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

Terrorizing Citizens

February 6, 2019  Police Violence and Denunciation


Recommended:

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)

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.

**Recommended:**
Jill Stephenson \textit{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** \hspace{1cm} \textbf{Spring Break}

**February 25, 2019** \hspace{1cm} \textbf{Review for Midterm}

**February 27, 2019** \hspace{1cm} \textbf{Midterm}

**March 6, 2019** \hspace{1cm} \textbf{Manhood, Masculinity, and Youth}


**Recommended:**


**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 11, 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 13, 2016  Euthanasia Policies

Film: *Ich klage an* [I accuse] (Germany 1941. Dir. Wolfgang Liebeneiner, 110 mins.)


March 18, 2016  Euthanasia Policies (continued)

March 20, 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:

### The Persecution and Murder of German Jews

**March 25, 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 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).

**April 1, 2019**  
*Ordinary Germans and the Persecution and Mass Murder of German Jews*

David Bankier  

Alan Steinweis and Susanna Schrafstetter  
Recommended:


__Propaganda, Culture, and Entertainment__

**April 3, 2019  Indoctrinating and Entertaining the ‘People’s Community’**


Recommended:


**April 8, 2019  Dehumanizing the ‘Enemies of the Reich’**

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


The Wehrmacht and Germany’s War of Annihilation

April 10, 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)

[Two sessions combined in one due to snow day on March 4]

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:**  
Nikolaus Wachsmann  

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  

**Recommended:**  
Robert P. Ericksen  

Shelley Baranowsky  

Günter Lewy  
April 19-26, 2019  Passover – No class

Was there “another” Germany? Anti-Nazi Resistance

April 29, 2019  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