

Online course title:	Seduction and Terror: Hitler's Germany
Instructor:	Dr. Marcus Funck
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Course days:	Please see the course schedule below.
Language of instruction:	English
Contact hours:	The coursework corresponds to an on-site course amounting to 48 contact hours.
ECTS credits:	4
Prerequisites:	Students should be able to speak and read English at the upper intermediate level (B2), preferably even higher. Interest and curiosity for the course.
General requirements:	<p>Please make sure to be online approximately from 8 am CET to 12:30 pm CET on the respective course days! Therefore, please check the possible time difference between Germany and your country of residence.</p> <p>We also recommend that you make sure to have a quiet and appropriate working space.</p> <p>To ensure a comfortable learning environment for all, please adhere to general netiquette rules.</p>
Technical requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- stable internet connection- fully functional device, such as computer, laptop or tablet (use of smart phones not recommended), headset recommended- recommended operating systems: Windows 7 or higher or Mac OS X 10,13 or higher, avoid using a VPN

Course description

The 'thousand year Reich' that Hitler promised when he became Chancellor of Germany in January 1933 lasted but 12 years. During this time, however, Hitler and his Nazi Party came to dominate European and even world affairs, terrorizing vast numbers of Germans, launching a devastating war, and orchestrating the murder of more than five million Jews. Yet Hitler and the Nazi Party gained the active support and involvement of most Germans. How was this possible?

This class focuses on Hitler's Germany and it begins with the essential 19th century background. How did political anti-Semitism grow there? What shaped the social and political life? Central to this session will be a discussion of the broad political currents and the popular literature that Hitler and many of his supporters read and absorbed.

Crucial to understanding the lure of Hitler and the Nazi Party was Germany's experience in the First World War, a conflict that decimated a generation and destroyed Europe as it was known. Germany became a democratic state, but was torn by political divisions and

dissatisfaction. In this climate of uncertainty and despair, Hitler and the Nazi Party grew from a small group on the radical fringe in Munich to a national force. How did this happen? Those traits of Hitler crucial to his success, particularly his charisma, will be defined and analyzed within the broader political context of Weimar political life.

In late January 1933 Hitler gained the long desired but elusive goal: he became chancellor of Germany, the leader of a coalition government. Much attention will be paid to how Hitler, his cabinet, and supporters were able to consolidate the control over the state and society within a matter of months. This came at the cost of political liberties, through the growing use of terror, oppression, and intimidation. Yet, Hitler gained supporters as he seemingly offered economic stability and a new unity to the German people. How the regime solidified its control over society and political life will be examined and discussed at length in this session.

A key element of Hitler's rule was the concentration camp system, what came to be a vast chain of prisons and centers of oppression and death. How this developed will be examined and analyzed.

Hitler's ambitions, the conquest of 'living space' in Eastern Europe and the annihilation of the Jews, motivated his foreign ambitions and led directly to World War II, the most destructive conflict in human history. A central element of the war was the Holocaust, the all-out program to destroy the Jews of Europe. The session will examine closely these developments, the nature of the war, how the Holocaust was implemented, and the role that terror played in sustaining Nazi rule. We will also discuss the measures taken against the handicapped, homosexuals, Sinti and Roma.

In Germany and later in occupied Europe opposition and resistance emerged and challenged Nazi rule. Opponents were motivated by a variety of reasons, some personal, some political, and these too will be discussed.

Lastly, the class will examine the end of the war, the so-called 'zero hour' in Germany, the destruction and collapse of Germany, and then how this nation has dealt with the legacy of Hitler and Nazi rule.

In this online version of this course visiting websites of museums and memorial sites, getting virtual tours of such places, and speaking with experts working on these sites will be an essential part.

Student profile

We welcome students from all disciplines who are interested in gaining an insight into the operations and dynamics of Nazi rule in Germany, its attempt to annihilate the Jews and to dominate the continent.

Required language skills

The language of instruction is English. Language proficiency on an advanced Intermediate level (Mittelstufe II) is a prerequisite for participation. For orientation purposes, you can assess your language skills here (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR):

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168045bb52>

Course requirements

Attendance in class (online), the careful reading of the assigned course materials, the discussion of the material in class, the completion of three short response papers (approx. 1000 words each), and the final examination in form of one short essay (approx. 3000

words). Guidelines for the papers as well as suggested topics will be provided during the first session.

Course structure

Each session consists of a lecture-style introduction, one break-out session for in-depth analysis of historical sources in small groups, and seminar-style group discussions as well as phases of self-study.

Grading

Class participation	20%
Three response papers	40%
Essay	40%

Readings

A course reader will be provided online as PDF file. This includes a recent monograph on Nazi Germany, a selection of articles offering the newest research and insights, excerpts from original documents (in translation), a weekly schedule of the readings and a series of questions as a guide through each of the texts.

Course schedule

Date	Program
Wednesday, January 6, 2021	<p>Anti-Semitism, Volkish Ideology, and Authoritarianism in Germany before Hitler</p> <p>Session 1 Political antisemitism since the 19th century</p> <p>Session 2 The Volkish movement and radical nationalism</p> <p>Session 3 World War I: militarization and radicalization of German politics</p>
Thursday, January 7, 2021	<p>The Early Years of the NSDAP</p> <p>Session 1 Revolution and counter-revolution: The founding of the Nazi Party</p> <p>Session 2 Hitler and the rise of the NSDAP, 1923-1932</p> <p>Session 3 Hitler becoming Chancellor: seizure or (legal) transfer of power?</p>
Monday, January 11, 2021	<p>The Nazis in Power: Political Violence and Terror</p> <p>Session 1 The Destruction of the political opposition</p> <p>Session 2</p>

	<p>“Fuehrerstaat” and “Gleichschaltung”: The remaking of German politics and society</p> <p>Session 3 Anti-Semitism as state policy: discrimination, exclusion, and persecution of German Jews, 1933-1939</p>
Wednesday, January 13, 2021	<p>The Nazis in Power: Seduction and Approval</p> <p>Session 1 State Propaganda and State Programs</p> <p>Session 2 Everyday life in Nazi Germany</p> <p>Session 3 Germans and Nazis: A love story?</p>
Friday, January 15, 2021	<p>The Nazi Concentration Camp System 1933-1945</p> <p>Session 1 Enemies of the state: victims of Nazi discrimination and terror</p> <p>Session 2 The organization of the Nazi Concentration Camp System</p> <p>Session 3 Functional differences: Labor Camp, Concentration Camp, Death Camp</p>
Tuesday, January 19, 2021	<p>The Nazi Regime at War</p> <p>Session 1 Hitler’s ambitions abroad and the outbreak of war in Europe</p> <p>Session 2 Ideological warfare: The war against the Soviet Union</p> <p>Session 3 Nazi occupation policies in western and eastern Europe</p>
Thursday, January 21, 2021	<p>Holocaust: The Nazi Murder of European Jewry</p> <p>Session 1 The Holocaust: local massacres and industrial mass killing</p> <p>Session 2 The perpetrators: inhumane monsters or “ordinary men”?</p> <p>Session 3 The victims: opposition and resistance to the Nazi regime and Nazi rule across Europe</p>
Tuesday, January 26, 2021	<p>The Legacy of Germany’s Nazi Past</p>

	<p>Session 1 “Zero Hour”? The defeat and collapse of Hitler’s Germany</p> <p>Session 2 Rebuilding Germany: dealing with the Nazi past and the Holocaust</p> <p>Session 3 The German Nazi past today: from burden to identity?</p>
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