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Course title:	Seduction and Terror: Hitler's Germany
Track:	A-Track
Language of instruction:	English
Contact hours:	48 (6 per day)
ECTS-Credits:	4

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, the two other Nazis in his cabinet, and supporters on the streets 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.

We will be visiting local museums, historical sites and locations that reveal the operations of Nazi rule. These visits are a key element of the class and the experience of studying in Berlin.

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.

Prerequisites

Interest and curiosity

Course requirements

Attendance in class, the careful reading of the assigned course materials, participation in the field trips, the discussion of the material in class, the completion of two short research papers (2-4 pages), and the final examination. Guidelines for the papers as well as suggested topics will be provided during the first session.

Grading

Class participation 20%
 Two short papers 40%
 Final exam 40%

Readings

A course reader will be provided at the first meeting of the class. 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*
Monday, July 23, 2018	<p>Session 1 Introduction. Germany before Hitler: the rise of political anti-Semitism and the Volkish ideology</p> <p>Session 2</p>

	<p>World War I, Hitler and the beginnings of the Nazi Party, 1914-1923</p> <p>Session 3</p> <p>Field trip: Topography of Terror</p>
Thursday, July 26, 2018	<p>Session 1</p> <p>Hitler and the rise of the NSDAP, 1923-1933</p> <p>Session 2</p> <p>Hitler as Chancellor of Germany: the Nazi seizure of power, 1933-1935</p> <p>Session 3</p> <p>Field trip: Pape Street Memorial Site</p>
Monday, July 30, 2018	<p>Session 1</p> <p>Hitler and the Nazi Party in power: remaking society and political life. Anti-Semitism as state policy: terror, 1933-1939</p> <p>Session 2</p> <p>The new Nazi state and society: seduction</p> <p>Session 3</p> <p>Field trip: House of the Wannsee Conference</p> <p>1st paper due (2-4 pages)</p>
Thursday, August 2, 2018	<p>Session 1 to Session 3</p> <p>The Nazi concentration camp system, 1933-1945. field trip - Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial Center</p>
Monday, August 6, 2018	<p>Session 1</p> <p>Hitler's ambitions abroad and the outbreak of war in Europe</p> <p>Session 2</p> <p>War and society</p> <p>Session 3</p> <p>Field trip: German Resistance Memorial Center</p>
Thursday, August 9, 2018	<p>Session 1</p> <p>The Nazi regime at war: Barbarossa, the eastern front, and the world</p> <p>Session 2</p> <p>Nazi occupation policies in western and eastern Europe</p> <p>Session 3</p> <p>Field trip: German-Russian Museum Karlshorst</p> <p>2nd paper due (2-4 pages)</p>
Monday, August 13, 2018	<p>Session 1</p> <p>Holocaust: the annihilation of the Jews of Europe</p> <p>Session 2</p> <p>Opposition and resistance to the Nazi regime and Nazi rule</p> <p>Session 3</p> <p>Field trip: Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe</p>
Thursday, August 16, 2018	<p>9-10:30 am</p>

	<p>'Zero Hour': the defeat and collapse of Hitler's Germany 11-12:30 Rebuilding Germany: dealing with the Nazi past and the Holocaust 2:00 pm Final exam</p>
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*Field trips may be subject to change depending on the availability of appointments and speakers. On field trip days, adaptation of class times is possible.