

- Online course title:** **Seduction and Terror: Hitler's Germany**
- Instructor:** Dr. Marcus Funck
- Email address:** m.funck@tu-berlin.de
- Track:** A-Track
- Language of instruction:** English
- Contact hours:** The coursework corresponds to an on-site course amounting to 48 contact hours.
- ECTS credits:** 5
- 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:** Please make sure to be online approximately from 4 pm CEST to 8:30 pm CEST on the respective course days! Therefore, please check the possible time difference between Germany and your country of residence. We also recommend that you make sure to have a quiet and appropriate working space. To ensure a comfortable learning environment for all, please adhere to general netiquette rules.
- Technical requirements:**
- 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.

Prerequisites

Interest and curiosity

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 session procedures

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 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 19, 2021	<p>Anti-Semitism, Volkish Ideology, and Authoritarianism in Germany Before Hitler</p> <p>Session 1 Political Antisemitism Since the 19th Century <i>Source 1: Adolf Stoecker, Speech on the “Jewish Question” (1879)</i></p> <p>Session 2 The Volkish Movement and Radical Nationalism Around 1900</p>

	<p><i>Source 2: Julius Langbehn, Rembrandt As Educator (1890)</i></p> <p>Session 3 World War I: Militarization and Radicalization of German Politics <i>Source 3: Painting and Cartoons on Military-Civil-Relations in Germany</i></p> <p>General Reading R.J. Evans, <i>Coming of the Third Reich</i>, pp. 22-76 J. Nichols, <i>Weimar and the Rise of Hitler</i>, pp. 1-9</p>
<p>Thursday, July 22, 2021</p>	<p>The Early Years of the NSDAP</p> <p>Session 1 Revolution and counter-revolution: The founding of the Nazi Party <i>Source 4: Program of the German Workers' Party (1920)</i></p> <p>Session 2 Hitler and the rise of the NSDAP, 1923-1932 <i>Source 5: Karl Alexander Müller on Hitler at a Mass Rally of the NSDAP (1923)</i></p> <p>Session 3 Hitler becoming Chancellor: seizure or (legal) transfer of power? <i>Source 6: Kurt v. Schröder's Report on a Meeting between Hitler and Franz von Papen on January 4, 1933</i></p> <p>General Reading A.J. Nichols, <i>Weimar and the Rise of Hitler</i>, pp. 144-171 R.J. Evans, <i>Coming of the Third Reich</i>, pp. 310-327 R. Gellately, <i>Backing Hitler</i>, pp. 1-33</p>
<p>Monday, July 26, 2021</p>	<p>The Nazis in Power: Political Violence and Terror</p> <p>Session 1</p>

	<p>The Destruction of the political opposition <i>Source 7: Rudolf Diels on the Reichstag Fire 1933</i></p> <p>Session 2 “Fuehrerstaat” and “Gleichschaltung”: The remaking of German politics and society <i>Source 8: Law to Safeguard the Unity of Party and State (December 1, 1933)</i></p> <p>Session 3 Anti-Semitism as state policy: discrimination, exclusion, and persecution of German Jews, 1933-1939 <i>Source 9: Photo showing the Anti-Jewish Boycott in 1933, Excerpt from the Nuremberg Laws 1935, Report on the Anti-Jewish Pogrom of November 1938</i></p> <p>General Reading</p> <p>R.J. Evans, <i>Coming of the Third Reich</i>, pp. 350-374 P. Fritzsche, <i>Life and Death in the Third Reich</i>, pp. 19-65 M. Burleigh, <i>Racial State</i>, pp. 201-241</p>
<p>Thursday, July 29, 2021</p>	<p>The Nazis in Power: Seduction and Approval</p> <p>Session 1 State Propaganda and State Programs <i>Source 10: Joseph Goebbels, Two Speeches on the Tasks of the Reich Ministry for Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda (March 15 / March 25, 1933)</i></p> <p>Session 2 Everyday life in Nazi Germany <i>Source 11: Selected Photographies</i></p> <p>Session 3 Germans and Nazis: A love story? <i>Source 12: Love Letter to Adolf Hitler</i></p> <p>General Reading</p>

	<p>M. Wildt, Volksgemeinschaft, pp. 77-88, 133-137, 165-173, 188-193, 238-240</p>
<p>Monday, August 02, 2021</p>	<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> <p><i>Sources 13 to 15 to be distributed in class</i></p> <p>General Reading</p> <p>Nicholaus Wachsmann, The Development of Concentration Camps, 17-43</p>
<p>Thursday, August 05, 2021</p>	<p>The Nazi Regime at War</p> <p>Session 1 Hitler's ambitions abroad and the outbreak of war in Europe <i>Source 16: Excerpt from Hitler, Mein Kampf</i></p> <p>Session 2 Ideological warfare: The war against the Soviet Union <i>Source 17: The Three "Criminal Orders" by the Wehrmacht High Command</i></p> <p>Session 3 Nazi occupation policies in western and eastern Europe <i>Source 18: Map of Occupied Europe 1941/42</i></p> <p>General Reading</p>

	<p>Gerald Weinberg, German Strategy, pp. 107.-131 David R. Stone, Operation on the Eastern Front, pp. 331-357 Jan Bendersky, History of Nazi Germany, pp. 149-162, 176-187</p>
<p>Monday, August 09, 2021</p>	<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> <p><i>Sources 19 to 21 to be distributed in class</i></p> <p>General Reading</p> <p>Peter Fritzsche, Life and Death in the Third Reich, pp. 186-224 Dieter Pohl, Holocaust and Concentration Camps, pp. 149-165 Daniel Blatman, The Death Marches, pp. 167-185</p> <p>Document: Decree of the Police on the ‘Marking on the Jews’, September 15, 1941 Document: Wannsee Conference Protocol, January 20, 1942 Document: The Jäger Report, December 1, 1941</p>
<p>Thursday, August 12, 2021</p>	<p>The Legacy of Germany’s Nazi Past</p> <p>Session 1 “Zero Hour”? The defeat and collapse of Hitler’s Germany <i>Source 22: Germany in 1945: three documents</i></p> <p>Session 2 Rebuilding Germany: dealing with the Nazi past and the Holocaust</p>

	<p>Source 23: Jürgen Habermas, <i>On the Public Use of History</i></p> <p>Session 3 The German Nazi past today: from burden to identity?</p> <p>Source 24: Falk Jäger, <i>Commemorative Culture: Avoiding the Pathos</i> see also https://www.goethe.de/de/kul/arc/20979492.html for visual examples</p> <p>General Reading</p> <p>Ian Kershaw, <i>The End</i>, pp. 386-400 Robert Gellately, <i>Backing Hitler</i>, 256-264 Richard Bessel, <i>Germany 1945</i>, pp. 385-401</p>
--	--

*Field trips are subject to change depending on the availability of appointments and speakers. On field trip days, class hours may be adjusted.