Course title:	**Seduction and Terror: Hitler's Germany**
Instructor:	Dr. Robert G. Waite
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Track:	B-Track
Language of instruction:	English
Contact hours:	72 (6 per day)
ECTS credits:	8
Prerequisites:	Students should be able to speak and read English at the upper intermediate level (B2) or higher.

Course description

The 'Thousand Year Reich' promised by Hitler when he became Chancellor of Germany in January 1933 lasted but 12 years. During this time, Hitler and his Nazi Party came to dominate all phases of life within Germany, and terrorized vast numbers of Germans and Europeans as the regime aggressively expanded its borders and objectives through a devastating war. The Hitler's Germany dominated and laid waste to much of Europe and orchestrated the murder of more than five million Jews. Despite the terror and vast destruction, Hitler and the Nazi Party gained and retained the active support and involvement of most Germans. How was this possible? What roles did seduction and terror, consent and coercion play?

This seminar focuses on Hitler's Germany and addresses those issues in depth. It begins with the 19th century background. Central to this session will be a discussion of the broad political currents, the agitators and petty demagogues who fueled the dissatisfaction and spread it widely. We will also examine 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. In its wake it left a shattered, humiliated, and deeply torn Germany. In this climate of uncertainty and despair, Hitler and the Nazi Party grew from a small group on the fringe of radical politics in Munich into a national force. This development is of central importance to this session. Those traits of Hitler, crucial to his success, particularly his charisma, will be defined and analyzed within the broader context of Weimar's political and its vibrant cultural life.

On January 30, 1933, Hitler gained the long desired but elusive goal: he became chancellor of Germany, the leader of a coalition government. The political intrigues leading to his appointment will be examined and discussed. Much attention will be paid in this session to how Hitler, his cabinet, and supporters were able to consolidate their control over the state and society within a matter of months. This domination 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 did the regime solidify its control over society and over political life? Was it seduction or terror, consent or coercion?

A key element of Hitler's rule was the concentration camp system, what came to be a vast network of prisons, centers of incarceration, oppression and death. How the system developed from the hundreds of small, improvised concentration camps set up in Berlin and across Germany shortly after Hitler's takeover of power in 1933 to the well-organized and highly centralized system by 1939 will be the focus of this session. During the war, the concentration camp system spread across Germany and occupied Europe. To gain insight into the operations of the concentration camps we will spend the day at the Sachsenhausen Concentration, north of Berlin.

Hitler's ambitions, the conquest of 'living space' in Eastern Europe, the ruthless exploitation of these territories, and the annihilation of all Jews, motivated his foreign ambitions and led directly to World War II, the most destructive conflict in human history. These issues will be the focus of this session. In addition, we will examine and discuss the measures taken against the handicapped, homosexuals, asocials, and Sinti and Roma within Germany and in the occupied territories.

In Germany and in occupied Europe opposition and resistance emerged and challenged Nazi rule. Opponents were motivated by a variety of reasons, some personal, some political. The diversity and the extent of non-conformity, defiance and resistance will be identified and discussed as well as the regime's ruthless efforts to eradicate all opposition, all dissent.

Lastly, the class will examine the end of the war and the so-called 'zero hour', the destruction, collapse and unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany. Almost immediately, the reckoning with the Nazi past began, through investigations and criminal prosecutions, and the widespread non-reckoning among the German public. Only since the late 1960s has Germany begun to look openly and critically at its Nazi past. Only then did it begin to establish memorials and monuments, some of which we will be visiting in Berlin.

Furthermore, we will be visiting local museums, historical sites, and locations that reveal the operations and nature of Nazi rule. These visits to sites in and near Berlin are a key element of the class and central to the experience of studying here. Please note that field trips are subject to change depending on the availability of appointments and speakers; on field trip days, class hours may be adjusted.

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 and its attempt to annihilate the Jews and to dominate the continent.

Course requirements
Interest and curiosity.

Required language skills
The language of instruction is English. Language proficiency on an advanced intermediate level (B2) 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

Attendance
Each course day consists of six teaching modules (45 minutes each). If you miss 8 modules (unexcused), your final course grade will drop by one grade. Coming more than 20 minutes late counts as one missed module (this also applies to excursion days). If you come late to class six times (up to 20 minutes) your entire course grade will also drop by one grade. If you

miss 20 modules or more (unexcused), you will fail the class. Excused absences, such as those with medical documentation, do not count toward these totals.

Class times

9 - 10:30 am 11 am - 12:30 pm 2 - 3:30 pm (Break times may be adjusted in consultation with the class. Additionally, on field trip days adaptation of class times is possible.)

Grading

Class participation:	30%
Two short papers:	30%
Final exam:	40%

Grading will be based on active participation 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 (3-5 pages), and the final examination. Guidelines for the papers as well as suggested topics will be provided during the first session and throughout the term.

Readings

A digital reader will be provided. This includes excerpts from recent monographs on Nazi Germany, a selection of articles offering the newest research and insights, excerpts from original documents (in translation), and a weekly schedule of the readings. Also included is a 'guide to the readings', a series of questions that serve as a guide through the assigned texts.

Course schedule

Date	**Program***
Saturday, May 29, 2027	Arrival day / Move-in day (no classes)
Sunday, May 30, 2027	Orientation day (mandatory)
Tuesday, June 1, 2027	**Session 1** Introduction**.** Germany before Hitler: a deeply fractured society, the rise of political anti-Semitism, the Volkisch ideology, and a new style of politics **Session 2** World War I, Hitler, and German society, 1914-1918: from peacetime to war to revolution to democracy; a society torn apart **Session 3** Field trip: Unter den Linden - German Historical Museum
Friday, June 4, 2027	**Session 1**

	Aftermath of war: revolution, political violence, and the quest for political stability: Hitler and the emergence of the Nazi Party, 1918-1924 **Session 2** The Weimar Republic: politics, economics, conflicts, crisis, culture, and social change **Session 3** Field trip: Topography of Terror
Tuesday, June 8, 2027	**Session 1** The rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party, 1924-1933. Hitler becomes Chancellor and the Nazis take power **Session 2** The Nazi seizure of power: securing authority, crippling civil liberties, and combating/crushing political opponents, dissidents and non-conformists **Session 3** Field trip: Pape Street Memorial Site – an early concentration camp in Berlin
Friday, June 11, 2027	**Session 1** Hitler and the Nazi Party in power: remaking political and social life, combating the economic crisis **Session 2** Hitler and the Nazi Party in power: restructuring political life, the making of the Führer-State **Session 3** Film: Triumph of the Will (1935)
Tuesday, June 15, 2027	**Session 1** The "people's community": constructing a new national unity. 'People's products', mass consumption, and conformity **Session 2** Anti-Semitism as state policy, 1933-1938: exclusion, discrimination, expropriation, and violence against Jews **Session 3** Field trip: House of the Wannsee Conference **1st paper due (3-5 pages)**
Friday, June 18, 2027	**Session 1** Mid-term discussion/review session. Mobilizing society: Hitler's "people's community": insiders and outsiders **Session 2** Mobilizing society: women and youth **Session 3** Field trip: Forced Labor Documentation Center Schöneweide

Tuesday, June 22, 2027	**Session 1 to Session 3** The Nazi concentration camp system, 1933-1945. Field trip - Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial Center
Friday, June 25, 2027	**Session 1** Hitler's ambitions abroad. Foreign policy and the outbreak of war in Europe, spring 1933 to September 1939 **Session 2** War and German society. Conquest, propaganda, and popular support, 1939-1941 **Session 3** Field trip: Museum Berlin-Karlshorst
Tuesday, June 29, 2027	**Session 1** Hitler and the Nazi regime at war. Barbarossa: the eastern front, 1941-1944 **Session 2** Nazi occupation policies: western Europe and eastern Europe contrasted **Session 3** Field trip: Soviet War Memorial Treptower Park **2nd paper due (3-5 pages)**
Friday, July 2, 2027	**Session 1** War and German society, 1943-1945: propaganda, despair, destruction, desperation, and defeat **Session 2** Opposition and resistance to Nazi hegemony **Session 3** Field trip: German Resistance Memorial Center
Tuesday, July 6, 2027	**Session 1** Holocaust: background and beginnings of state sanctioned terror against Jews, 1933-1939; deportation, expulsion, and the initial wave of killings **Session 2** Holocaust: the death camps and industrialized mass murder. The concerted effort to murder ALL the Jews of Europe **Session 3** Field trip - Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe

Friday, July 9, 2027	**Sessions 1-2** 9-9:30: 'Zero Hour': defeat and collapse. Reckoning with the recent past 10-12:30: final examination FUBiS Farewell Ceremony
Saturday, July 10, 2027	Departure day / Move-out day (no classes)

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