

HSTR 362 Modern Germany: The Rise of Fascism in Nazi Germany
Montana State University
Spring 2019
Peter Schweppe



Course Description

This course will examine the emergence of Fascism from Weimar Germany up to Nazi Germany. In the first part of the course, students will examine events, decrees, and propaganda that supported Fascism through its beginnings in post-War Germany, 1919-1933. The second part of the course turns to the legitimization of Totalitarianism as a method of governance, suppression, and control and its consequences, 1933-1945.

As we trace the roots of Fascism in Nazi Germany, students will hone skills in engaging with contemporary eye-witness testimonies, images, and videos, each of which contributes to the ongoing historicization of this forceful political movement. Student participation in the course will be based on reflective journals, a memoir presentation, and a History Unfolded project in conjunction with the United States Holocaust Museum.

Learning Objectives

- Identify and understand events that led to Fascism in Nazi Germany
- Interpret texts, images, and videos that supported or reacted to the Nazi agenda
- Generate critical responses to Fascism through journal reflections, a group project, and memoir presentations

Grades

20% Participation
30% Reflection journals
20% History Unfolded Project
15% Memoir presentation
15% Final exam

Course schedule**Section 1: Postwar Germany**

Wednesday, January 9	Reparations + Post-War Order Text: Paul Bookbinder, "Why Study Weimar?"
Friday, January 11	"Sonderweg" (A Special Path?) Text: excerpts from Friedrich Meinecke, <i>The German Catastrophe</i>
Monday, January 14	Recovering Germany Text: excerpts from Friedrich Meinecke, <i>The German Catastrophe</i>
Wednesday, January 16	Economics Text: excerpts from Bernd Widdig, <i>Culture and Inflation</i>
Section 2: Birth of Weimar Germany	
Friday, January 18	Building Weimar Text: excerpts from Eric Weitz, <i>Weimar Germany</i>
Monday, January 21	Art & Culture Image + Video: DADA & excerpts from <i>Babylon Berlin</i>
Wednesday, January 23	Babylon Video: excerpts from <i>Babylon Berlin</i>
Early Anti-Semitism	Beer Hall Putsch Text: William Shirer, "Versailles, Weimar, and the Beer Hall Putsch"
Friday, January 25	Early Anti-Semitism Text: Doris Bergen, "Dry Timber"; Bertha Pappenheim, Letter on Antisemitism (1923)
Monday, January 28	Freedom and Organization Text: Joseph Goebbels, "Freedom and Organization"
Wednesday, January 30	Gender Text: Helen Boak, excerpts from <i>Women in the Weimar Republic</i>
Friday, February 1	Cabaret Text: Peter Jelavich, excerpts from <i>Berlin Cabaret</i>

Section 3: Decline of Weimar Germany

Monday, February 4 Hitler Myth
Text: Ian Kershaw, "Hitler Image in the Weimar Era"

Wednesday, February 6 Conspiracy Theories
Text: excerpts from "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

Friday, February 8 Consolidation
Text: William Shirer, "Road to Power"

Monday, February 11 Last Days
Text: William Shirer, "Last Days of the Republic"

Wednesday, February 13 National Socialist Germany
Text: Doris Bergen, "Leadership and Will"

Friday, February 15 Hitler's Rise to Power
Video: Hitler's Rise to Power

Section 4: Birth of the Third Reich

Monday: holiday

Wednesday, February 20 Nazification
Text: Doris Bergen, "From Revolution to Routine"

Friday, February 22 Fascism
Text: excerpts from David Clay Large, *Between Two Fires*

Monday, February 25 Night of the Long Knives
Text: Ernst Röhm, "A Soldier Believes in Plain Talk"

Wednesday, February 27 Propaganda
Text: Kurt Karl Eberlein, "What is German in German Art?";
"Joseph Goebbels Forbids Art Criticism";
Heinrich Zillich, "The Poet Summoned by History"

Friday, March 1 Spectacle
Film: Leni Riefenstahl, "Triumph of the Will"

Section 5: Fascism in Nazi Germany

Monday, March 4 Law
Text: Carl Schmitt, "Public Law in a New Context"

Wednesday, March 6	Imagery Text: Malcolm Quinn, excerpts from <i>The Swastika</i>
Friday, March 8	Sports Text: excerpts from David Large, <i>Nazi Games</i>
Monday, March 11	Education Text: excerpts from George Mosse, <i>Nazi Culture</i>
Wednesday, March 13	Art Text: excerpts from George Mosse, <i>Nazi Culture</i>
Friday, March 15	Cult of Hitler Text: Ian Kershaw, "Charismatic Leadership"
<i>spring break Mar 18-22</i>	
Section 6: World War II	
Monday, March 25	"Anschluss" Text: Doris Bergen, "Open Aggression"
Wednesday, March 27	"Blitzkrieg" Text: William Shirer, "The Launching of World War II"
Friday, March 29	Resistance Text: excerpts from Peter Hoffmann, <i>History of German Resistance</i>
Monday, April 1	Holocaust Text: excerpts from Doris Bergen, "Brutal Innovations"; "War and Genocide"
Wednesday, April 3	Holocaust Film: Steven Spielberg, <i>Schindler's List</i>
Friday, April 5	Holocaust Film: Steven Spielberg, <i>Schindler's List</i>
Section 7: Fall of Nazi Germany	
Monday, April 8	"Götterdämmerung" Text: William Shirer, "Last Days of the Third Reich"
Wednesday, April 10	Totalitarianism Text: excerpts from Hannah Arendt, <i>On Totalitarianism</i>

Friday, April 12

Fascism and us

Text: Kevin Passmore, "Fascism and us"