NATIONAL-SOCIALIST GERMANY

This course is a history of National-Socialist Germany based to a considerable extent on primary documents. Students will use the documents to reconstruct and analyze the history of the Third Reich and to articulate and assess some of the principal historiographical debates relating to the period.

The course will consider the history of National-Socialist Germany primarily as it was experienced and made by human beings. Particular attention is focused on those aspects of the period that are difficult to confront emotionally and to understand intellectually. Using primary documents and relevant secondary literature, students will attempt to think their way inside the experience of people who, for the most part, supported National Socialism, including especially National-Socialist racism, and of those who carried out or enabled genocide. In addition, the course seeks to teach students how to read and analyze documents historically, how to reconstruct and interpret the records left behind by those who experienced and made the history through which they lived.

Evaluation in the course consists of active and effective participation in class and in Glow discussion, two five-page analytic essays on two of the topics considered in the course, and a final seven-page interpretative essay.

You are expected to abide by the Honor Code. If you are uncertain how the Honor Code applies to your work, please speak with me.

In order to ensure robust discussion of the various discussion topics for each virtual class meeting, students are required to address at least two and occasionally three of the discussion threads for that class meeting, as indicated below in the Class Schedule. Each response to the discussion topic should not exceed 300 words. To encourage you to comment on one another’s threads, please write at least one comment or criticism to the responses of your peers. Comments and criticisms should not exceed 50 words.
Schedule of Classes

1. Friday, 7 February – Course Introduction

2. Tuesday, 11 February – The Failure of the Weimar Republic and the Rise of the NSDAP

   Benz, “Prologue,” *A Concise History of the Third Reich*, 1-19

   Articles of the Versailles Treaty (1919)
   Stefan Zweig, “The World of Yesterday” (1943)
   Lea Grundig, “Visions and History”
   The Program of the NSDAP (1920, with an addendum from Hitler of 1928)
   Gregor Strasser, “Draft of a Comprehensive Program of National Socialism” (1925)
   Adolf Hitler, from *Mein Kampf*
   Carl Schmitt, from *The Concept of the Political* (1927)
   12. Storm Trooper’s Creed
   13. SA Brawl at Opposition Rally (1921)
   “A Meeting Hall Brawl”
   14. Description of a Nazi Party Rally (1923)
   37. Goebbels on the Radicalism and Violence and National Socialism’s Appeal (1927)
   Article in the *Völkische Beobachter* from 1932
   Hitler Speech at the Zirkuskron in Munich (1930)
   60-62. Statistics on the Social Basis of National Socialism

3. Tuesday, 18 February – The Consolidation of National-Socialist Rule

   Wolfgang Benz, *A Concise History of the Third Reich*, 20-59

   Reichstag Fire Decrees of February 1933
   Enabling Act of March 1933
   107. Description of the Passage of the Enabling Act (1933)
   115. Röhm article of June 1933
   117. Hitler Speech of July 1933
   121. Papen Speech of 17 June 1934
   123. Description of the Arrest of SA Leaders at Wiessee
   124. Description of the Death of Röhm
   126. General Bromberg Thanks Hitler on Behalf of the Army
   129. Hitler’s Speech to the Reichstag of 13 July 1934
   133. Oath of the Wehrmacht to the Führer of 20 August 1934
4. Friday, 21 February – The Hitler State

The film, *Triumph of the Will* (150 min.), to be viewed on the course’s Glow website

Wolfgang Benz, *A Concise History of the Third Reich*, 83-96

Adolf Hitler, from *Mein Kampf* (1923)
34. Gauleiter Ludolf Haase on the Role of Conflict in the NSDAP
35. Max Amann on the Führerprinzip (1925)
38. Gregor Strasser on the Führerprinzip and Struggle in the NSDAP (1927)
138. Ernst Rudolf Huber, “Führer Power” (1934)
142. Otto Dietrich, Polycracy
145. Fritz Wiedemann on Hitler’s Style of Work
923. Otto Dietrich on Hitler’s Style of Work

5. Tuesday, 25 February – The Creation of the Volksgemeinschaft

Wolfgang Benz, *A Concise History of the Third Reich*, 97-112

Ernst von Salomon, “We and the Intellectuals” (1930)
Hanns Johst, “The Difference Between the Generations” (1934)
26. Gregor Strasser, Nationalism and Socialism (1927)
49. Party Manifesto of 10 September 1930
Joseph Goebbels, “Der kleine abc des Nationalsozialisten”
Joseph Goebbels, “Der Krieg als Weltanschauung,” (1944)
Edith Müller, “Ursel and Her Girls” (1938) reprint
Max Frauendorfer, “Deutscher Arbeitsfront” (1934)
230-32. Strength Through Joy Activities (1938)
233. Strength Through Joy Opens Leisure Opportunities for Working Class
234. Strength Through Joy Transforms Status not Wages
235. Strength Through Joy Changes Status of Working Class
241. Hitler on Reichsarbeitsdienst (1934)
318. Speech to University Students joining Reichsarbeitsdienst
1075. Hermann Althaus, Mission of NSV (1936)
1076. Goebbels’ Speech on NSV (1938)
1077. Hitler Decree on NSV of 22 August 1944

6. Friday, 28 February – The Volksgemeinschaft and the Popularity of National Socialism

Peter Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, 1-75
Richard Evans, “Building the People’s Community,” 413-503

7. Tuesday, 3 March – Youth in the Third Reich
Peter Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, 96-108
Alexander von Plato, “The Hitler Youth Generation,” 210-16
Dagmar Reese, “The BDM Generation,” 227-40

296. Adolf Hitler on Nazism’s Claim on Youth (1935)
297. Adolf Hitler on Nazism’s Claim on Youth (1938)
Rudolf Ramelow, “Can Youth be National Socialist?” (1933)
Baldur von Schirach, “The Hitler Youth” (1934)
Parental Concerns about the Hitler Youth (1938)
Political Education in the BDM
Melita Maschmann, from *Fazit*
304. Melita Maschmann, from *Fazit*
307. Reminiscences of Hitler Youth Leader
Two Documents on Youth in the Third Reich

8. Friday, 6 March – Women in the Third Reich

Elizabeth Heineman, from *What Difference does a Husband Make?* 17-43

Adolf Hitler, “The Tasks of Women” (1935-36)
Alfred Rosenberg, “Emancipation from the Emancipation Movement” (1930)
Joseph Goebbels, “The Female Bird” (1929)
“The Blond Craze” (1937)
“Right Conduct” (1933)
“The Mother’s Cross” (1938)
“The Woman Student” (1935)
Engelbert Huber, “Against the Political Woman” (1933)
Adolf Hitler, Speech at 1934 Nuremberg Party Rally
NSDAP Guidelines for the National-Socialist Frauenschaft (1933)
327. Marriage Loans Decree of 1 June 1933
331. Supplementary Decree Regarding Marriage Loans of 20 June 1933
1138. DAF Yearbook on Women’s work (1940/41)
New Career Opportunities for Women of February 1943
Lebensborn Directive to SS of 13 September 1936
1154. Himmler Directive to SS on Lebensborn of 15 December 1939

9. Tuesday, 10 March – Nazi Culture – Please Read My Class Notes on Glow

Wolfgang Benz, *A Concise History of the Third Reich*, 60-82

266. Joseph Goebbels on Propaganda Ministry (1933)
270. Joseph Goebbels on the Role of Radio (1933)
271. Announcing a Speech by the Führer (1934)
“The Winter Program of the German Radio” (1936)
“The Film Public is not so Stupid” (1934)
Jacob Graf, “Heredity and Racial Biology for Students” (1935)
Gerhard Krüger, “The Renovation of the Academic Community” (1933)
Martin Heidegger, “The End of Academic Freedom” (1933)
Philipp Lenard, “German Physics” (1938)
Adolf Hitler, Speech at the Opening of the House of German Art” (1937)
Joseph Goebbels, “Freedom and Organization” (1937)
Joseph Goebbels, “Goebbels Forbids Art Criticism” (1936)
Catalog of the Decadent Art Exhibition (1937)

10. Friday, 13 March – Class Cancelled

11. Tuesday, 17 March – Class Cancelled

12. Friday, 20 March – Nazi Terror -- Class Cancelled

Spring Break

13. Tuesday, 7 April – National-Socialist Racism

Peter Fritzsche, Life and Death in the Third Reich, 76-96

Ernst Haeckel, “Die Welträtsel” (1900)
Richard Wagner, “Judaism in Music” (1850)
Houston Stewart Chamberlain, from Foundations of the Nineteenth Century (1899)
Karl Pearson, from National Life from the Standpoint of Science (1901)
Heinrich Class, “If I Were Kaiser” (1912)
Adolf Hitler, “Nation and Race,” Mein Kampf (1923)

Discussion Threads (students must contribute to at least TWO threads):
1) The Logic of Social Darwinism
2) Social Darwinism and the Aryan Race
3) Social Darwinism, Racism, and the Jew

Optional: The film, Jud Süss (90 min.), to be viewed on the course’s Glow website

Discussion Threads for the Optional Nazi Image of the Jew:
1) Discussion of Power Point Slide Show and/or the Film, Jud Süss

14. Friday, 10 April – The Persecution of Jews Before the War

Wolfgang Benz, A Concise History of the Third Reich, 131-54
391-92. Percentage of Jews by Occupation and in Population in 1933
The Reich Citizen Law of 1935
“First Regulation to the Reich Citizenship Law” (1935)
“Law for the Protection of Blood and Honor” (1935)
“2nd Decree Implementing the Law Concerning the Change in Family Names” (1938)
Boycott of Jewish Businesses
423-426. Documents on Kristallnacht
Documents on Kristallnacht
Restrictions on Jews during the Third Reich

Discussion Threads (students must contribute to at least TWO threads not including the slide show):
1) Discussion of the Power Point Slide Lecture (optional)
2) Discussion of How the Holocaust Came About in Relation to Kristallnacht
3) Discussion of Memories of Kristallnacht
4) Discussion of the Meeting of Goebbels, Goering, and Heydrich after Kristallnacht
5) Discussion of the Anti-Jewish Ordinances

15. Tuesday, 14 April – Popular German Anti-Semitism

Wolfgang Benz, A Concise History of the Third Reich, 155-70
Peter Fritzsche, Life and Death in the Third Reich, 119-42
David Bankier, The Germans and the Final Solution, 67-88
Ian Kershaw, “Reactions to the Persecution of Jews,” 151-96

Discussion Threads (students must contribute to their assigned thread and to the final discussion thread):
1) Discussion of Peter Fritzsche’s View:
Bleiberg; Chan; Corrigan; Gerson; Jones; Lewis; Nykorhchuck; Small; Yoshimura
2) Discussion of David Bankier’s View:
Beauchamp; Coakley; Donka; Gaddes; Hughes; Newton; Shuck; Yang
3) Discussion of Ian Kershaw’s View:
Boutet; Delcompare; Gillis; Gudenus; Kanja; Olson; Rader; Song
4) Discussion of which Historian is Right

16. Friday, 17 April – The Euthanasia Program

Peter Fritzsche, Life and Death in the Third Reich, 108-19
Wolfgang Benz, A Concise History of the Third Reich, 171-78 [through euthanasia]

Karl Binding, “Legal Explanation” (1920)
Alfred Hoche, “Medical Explanation”
“Law for the Prevention of Genetically Diseased Offspring” (1933)
Sterilization Order for Mentally Deficient Children
719. Hitler on Eliminating the Weak (1929)
720. Schwarze Korps on Mercy Deaths (1937)
724-725. Interior Ministry Circular to State Governments, 18 August 1939
727. Visit to Asylum in Egelfing-Haar on 16 February 1940
731. Who is to be Euthanized (1939)
733. A Physician Opted Out (1940)
737. Assessment Forms (10 March 1941)
739. Dr. August Becker on use of gas in euthanasia (January 1940)
744. Experience of a “Burner” at an Asylum
749. Letter to Next of Kin
751. Report of Nursing Sister at Post War Trial
752. Letter from a Patient to Father
753. Her Brother Explains the circumstances of her death
“Testimony of Nurse Berta Netz” (1962)
757-762, except 760

Discussion Threads (students must contribute to at least TWO of the threads not including the slide show):
1) Discussion of Power Point Slide Show (optional)
2) Discussion of the Nazi Justification of Euthanasia
3) Discussion of the Participants in the Euthanasia Program
4) Discussion of Bishop Galen’s Sermon

17. Tuesday, 21 April – The Nazi Imperium

Wolfgang Benz, A Concise History of the Third Reich, 178-89
Peter Fritzsche, Life and Death in the Third Reich, 143-86

Adolf Hitler, “Eastern Orientation or Eastern Policy” from Mein Kampf (1923)
Adolf Hitler, From his “Second Book” (1928) and his “Table Talk (1942)
Heinrich Himmler, Speech to Nazi Gauleiter of 3 August 1944
Maps of the Nazi Empire
645. Hitler’s Plans for Poland Recorded by Rosenberg of 27 September 1939
647. Heydrich’s Instructions to Security Police and SD of 7 September 1939
648. Heydrich’s Policy on Poland of 27 September 1939
700. Hitler to Frank of 2 October 1940.
660. Directive on Germanization of Polish Families, 1942
668. Regulations for Poles in West Prussia of 27 October 1939
680. Meeting of Reich Defense Committee of 2 March 1940
683. Frank on Dreams for Poland of 16 December 1941

Discussion Threads (students must contribute to at least TWO of the threads):
1) Discussion of Hitler’s Musings on the Need to Secure Lebensraum in the East
2) Discussion of Himmler’s Speech to Nazi Gauleiter on 3 August 1944
3) Discussion of Rosenberg’s Interview of 27 September 1939 and Himmler’s Memo of 15 May 1940
4) Final Discussion

18. Friday, 24 April – Implementing the Final Solution

Wolfgang Benz, *A Concise History of the Third Reich*, 213-33
Peter Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, 186-202

Adolf Hitler, “Reichstag Speech of 30 January 1939”
Alfred Rosenberg, “The Jewish Question as a World Problem” (1941)
Joseph Goebbels, “The Jews are To Blame!” (1941).
851. Hitler Speech on the End of European Jewry of 30 January 1942
817. Report of Karl Jäger on *Einsatzgruppen* in Lithuania of 1 December 1941
818. Report of Einsatzgruppe C of 3 November 1941
819. Field Marshal von Reichenau to AOK on 11 October 1941
Number of Jews killed by Einsatzgruppen in the Soviet Union
828. Jewish Star Ordinance of 1 September 1941
837. RSHA Ordinance Prohibiting Jewish Emigration
838. Deportation of the Jews of Württemberg
839. Edict from Jewish Kulturgemeinde of Württemberg of 17 November 1941
848. Hans Frank Speech to his Cabinet in Krakow of 16 December 1941
849. Eichmann’s Minutes of the Wannsee Conference of 20 January 1942
850. Eichmann’s Gloss on the Conference in Jerusalem

Discussion Threads (students must contribute to at least TWO of the threads):
1) Discussion of Public Nazi Pronouncements
2) Discussion of the Activities of the Einsatzgruppen in Eastern Europe
3) Discussion of the Documents relating to the Deportation of the Jews of Germany
4) Discussion of the Wannsee Conference

19. Tuesday, 28 April – German Popular Complicity in the Final Solution

Peter Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, 202-66
David Bankier, *The Germans and the Final Solution*, 116-38
Ian Kershaw, “Popular Opinion and the Extermination of the Jews,” 197-209
Ian Kershaw, “Popular Opinion and the Jewish Question, Further Reflections,” 210-34

Discussion Threads (students must contribute to their assigned thread and to the final discussion thread)
1) Discussion of Ian Kershaw’s View:
   Beauchamp; Coakley; Gaddes; Hughes; Newton; Shuck
2) Discussion of David Bankier’s View:
3) Discussion of Peter Fritzsche’s View:
   Boutet; Delcompare; Gillis; Kanja; Olson; Song
4) Discussion of Otto Dov Kulka’s View:
   Chan; Donka; Gudenus; Lewis; Rader; Yang
5) Discussion of the Relation of the German People to the Holocaust

20. Friday, 1 May – The Psychology of the Perpetrators I

   362-63. Himmler to SS on SS Mentality (1937)
   366. Himmler on SS Values and Principles of Selection (1935)
   Himmler’s Speech to the S.S. Generals at Posen on 4 October 1943
   909. Himmler’s Speech to SS Generals in Sonthofen on 5 May 1944
   822. David Ehof, Description of the Liquidation of the Borissov Ghetto in October 1941
   823. Hermann Graebe’s Description of massacre of Jews in USSR (October 1942)
   911. Letter from member of Einsatzkommando of 5 May 1942
   912. Letter from member of Einsatzkommando of 21 June 1942
   Into that Darkness, Interview with Franz Stangl, 200-202
   913. Willy Just’s Report on Inadequacies of Gassing Equipment of 5 June 1942
   893. SS Rottenführer Pery Broad on Arrival of a Transport in Auschwitz
   894. Andre Lettich Description of Gassing in Auschwitz
   896. Siegismund Bendel Description of Gassing in Auschwitz
   914. Diary Entry of SS Hauptsturmführer, Dr. Johann Kremer of 18 November 1942
   915. Testimony from Postwar trials
   916. Testimony from Postwar Trials
   Rudolf Höss, from his Memoirs

   Discussion Threads (students must contribute to at least TWO of the threads):
   1) Discussion of Heinrich Himmler on the SS Mentality
   2) Discussions of the Killing Actions
   3) Discussion of Rudolf Hoess’ Memoir
   4) Concluding Discussion

21. Tuesday, 5 May – The Psychology of the Perpetrators II

   Christopher Browning, from Ordinary Men
   Daniel Goldhagen, from Hitler’s Willing Executioners
   I deleted the reading by Thomas Kühne from the assignment

   Discussion Threads (students must contribute to at least TWO of the threads):
   1) Discussion of the Browning-Goldhagen Debate
   2) Discussion of Welzer’s Article, “On Killing and Morality”
   3) Concluding Discussion
22. **Friday, 8 May – Total War**

Wolfgang Benz, *A Concise History of the Third Reich*, 190-212  
Peter Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, 266-96

1277. SD Report on Reaction to Elser Assassination Attempt 10 November 1939  
1285-1287. SD Reports on Reaction to Invasion of USSR (1941)  
1243. Goebbels’ Article “What’s it all for?” (31 May 1942)  
1297. SD Report on Reaction to Stalingrad (28 January 1943)  
1247. Goebbels, “Speech in the Berlin Sportpalast” (1943)  
1299. SD Report on Reaction to “Total War” Speech (22 February 1943)  
1330. SD Report of Grim Determination (30 March 1944)  
1365. Reaction to July Plot of 1944 (20 August 1944)

**Discussion Threads (students must contribute to at least TWO of the threads):**

1) Discussion of Popular Morale during the Period of Military Success  
2) Discussion of Goebbels’ “Total War” Speech  
3) Discussion of the Popular Response to the Failed Plot to Assassinate Hitler  
4) Concluding Discussion

23. **Tuesday, 12 May – Resistance to National Socialism**

The film, *Sophie Scholl: The Last Days*, (116 min.) to be viewed on the course’s Glow website

Wolfgang Benz, *A Concise History of the Third Reich*, 234-49

Leaflets of the White Rose

**Discussion Threads (students must contribute to at least TWO of the threads):**

1) Discussion of the Pamphlets of the White Rose  
2) Discussion of the film, The Last Days of Sophie Scholl  
3) Discussion of the Plot to Assassinate Hitler of July 1944  
4) Concluding Discussion

24. **Friday, 15 May – The Collapse of the Third Reich**

The film, *Downfall* (156 min.), to be viewed on the course’s Glow website

Wolfgang Benz, *A Concise History of the Third Reich*, 250-81

1392. Speer’s Response to Hitler’s order (29 March 1945)  
1398. Hitler, “Will and Testament” and “Political Testament” (29 April 1945)
Discussion Threads (students must contribute to at least ONE of the threads):
1) Discussion of Hitler’s “Destruction Order” and of his “Will and Testament” and “Political Testament”
2) Discussion of the movie, Downfall

Optional Discussion Thread: Final Thoughts about Nazi Germany

Saturday, 23 May – Final Essay Due by 5 pm