

SYLLABUS

HISTORY OF NAZI GERMANY (403)

TTh 9:35 – 10:50

MILS 216

PROF. A. KRAMMER

Office hours: Wed. 1:30-2:30 or after class

History Building 215 tel. 845-7108

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PURPOSE OF THE COURSE: The Nazis held power for only 12 years! We will examine in detail the inner workings of the Third Reich, from its inception in 1933, to final collapse in 1945. In addition, to pursuing our examination chronologically, we will divide the era into its various components:

- **Background and WW I**
- **Propaganda and Education**
- **Jews in Nazi Germany**
- **Youth, Women, and Family Life**
- **Army and the SS**
- **Resistance**
- **Road to War**
- **Hitler: Man and the Myth**

TEXT: Jackson J. Spielvogel and David Redles, Hitler and Nazi Germany: A History (Prentice Hall, Pearson, 6th edition).

OUTSIDE READING: Erich Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front
(If possible) Milton Meyer, They Thought They Were Free
Christopher Browning, Ordinary Men
Jan Gross, Neighbors
(If possible) Omer Bartov, Hitler's Army

MOVIES: We will see four terrific movies at the Library's Learning Resources Center (4th floor of the New Library Annex – 845-2316) on the dates listed. Attendance is required, although the movies will be available on reserve in the LRC, Library Annex, and on-line via 'mediamatrix.tamu.edu' [net ID + password] for those who wish to see them at home or for a second time.

SPEAKERS: We will have a Holocaust survivor, Mr. Al Marks, and Ms. Elizabeth Ellis, a German survivor of the Russia invasion.

RESEARCH PROJECT: This course requires a serious 10 page research paper on an approved subject dealing with Nazi Germany. This is designed to give you an opportunity to explore any topic of particular interest. In the past we have had outstanding student research papers on such topics as "Influence of Sports in Nazi Germany," Nietzsche," "Para 175 against Homosexuality," "Social Engineering," "Holocaust in the U.S. Press," "the Mexican Nazi Party," even "Horse Breeding Under the Nazis."

Choose a different topic that is of special interest to you. Second, you are to draw on at least ONE primary source. TAMU has access to many thousands of interviews in the SHOAH collection. You may want to consider other primary sources (e.g. a movie, a novel, a photograph, a document, etc.). Third, choose at least three secondary sources (scholarly books or articles) that help you develop and support your thesis.

You must organize your paper on the basis of a thesis you will develop. Your introductory paragraph should do two things: introduce your reader to your topic and present your thesis. It is important that you distinguish between your topic – what you will write about – and what you will argue and attempt to prove, which is your thesis.

A good thesis is:

- 1) Argumentative: it makes a case, it tries to prove something.
- 2) Controversial: it means that it has to be possible for an intelligent person to disagree with your thesis. If everyone agrees with your thesis on first sight, your thesis is too obvious.
- 3) Well supported: That's the key to the rest of the paper.

Please do not use Wikipedia or other online encyclopedias.

The United States Holocaust Museum website is very helpful and offers primary sources online: <http://www.ushmm.org/>

Be sure to provide footnotes or endnotes whenever you quote from a primary or secondary source, and to include a bibliography/works cited list at the end of your paper.

The final paper is due in class on Tuesday, November 6th. Hard copy only! All papers must be typed, double-spaced, with 1" margins and Times/Times New Roman 12 point font. They must also be spell-checked.

A second copy is to be submitted online through eLearning to turnitin.com.

GRADING:

- **Mid-term exam (20%)**
- **4 short class quizzes, at the beginning of class following each movie evening. I'll drop the lowest grade (3 x 5% = 15%)**
- **Research Paper (25%)**
- **Final Exam (25%)**
- **Class participation: (15 %)** You cannot make an A without serious class participation. **SILENCE, IN THIS CLASS, IS NOT GOLDEN**

"The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute

that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Koldus Building. The phone number is 845-1637.”

History majors who wish to explore career ideas are encouraged to contact our History Department Undergraduate Advisors, Dr. Philip Smith (pms@tamu.edu) or Ms. Robyn Konrad (robyn-konrad@tamu.edu), in Room 105, Glasscock Building or the Career Advisor for Liberal Arts, Tricia Barron (patriciab@careercenter.tamu.edu) in 209 Koldus for more information.

GENERAL ADVICE: To succeed in learning History, the best means for preparing for class is to read the textbook assignments beforehand. Studies show that your retention and comprehension will improve if you read material in smaller amounts, say, for 1/2 hour the night before each lecture. Try rewriting your notes, or join a study group, or (gasp) check out other books from the library. Repetition is key.

Last but far from least important: “An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.” Anyone who is unsure about the meaning of the Aggie Honor Code or the punishment for violation is recommended to:
<http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

<u>Introduction to Germany</u>	August 28, August 30
<u>World War I</u>	September 4, 6, 11, 13 Read Remarque’s <u>All Quiet on the Western Front</u>
<u>Trauma of Failure</u>	September 18, 20 Weimar; Versailles; Inflation Spielvogel Text: pp. 10-41 (“Beginnings”).
<u>Rise of the Nazis</u>	September 25, 27, October 2 NSDAP before 1933; Path to Power Read: Meyer, <u>They Thought They Were Free</u> Spielvogel Text: pp. 45-81 (“Growth of Nazism”)

Thursday, October 4 - MIDTERM EXAM

Propaganda and Education

October 9, 11

Economic Revival; Culture and Education;
Constructing the New Germany.
Spielvogel Text: pp. 83- 118 (“The Nazi State”)
pp. 146-178 (“Culture & Society”)

***Movie: “Triumph of the Will” Wednesday, October 10, 7:00-9:00 pm.
Room 417B LRD, Library Annex, tel. 5-2316***

The Jews in Nazi Germany

October 16, 18

Read Browning, Ordinary Men
Spielvogel Text: pp. 255-287 (“The
Holocaust”)

Movie: “Conspiracy” and “Night and Fog” Wednesday, October 17, 6:30 9:00 pm. Room 417B LRD, Library Annex

The Jews and the Holocaust

October 23, 25, 30,

Locate and read the article by
Sig Hornshoj-Moller, “*Der Ewige Jude* (1940): Joseph
Goebbels’ Unequaled Monument to Anti-Semitism,”
Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television, 12:1
(1992), pp. 41-67

Read Jan Gross, Neighbors

Youth, Women, and Family Life

November 1

Social Organizations.

Resistance

November 6 :: Research paper due today
Resistance.

***Movie: “Swing Kids” Wednesday, November 7, 7:00-9:00. Room
417B. LRD, Library Annex.***

Army and the SS

November 8,

Overturing Versailles; Autarky and
Rearmament; Bloodless Conquests; Rise of
the SS.

Spielvogel Text: pp. 182-254 (“Hitler’s War”)

The Road to War and WW II

November 13, 15, 20

Expansion and War.

Spielvogel Text: ("Nazi Germany in Wartime")

Movie: "Das Boot" Wednesday, November 21, 6:30-9:00. Room 410. LRD, Library Annex.

THANKSGIVING VACATION – NOVEMBER 22 - 23

Hitler: Man and the Myth

November 27

Spielvogel Text: pp. 121-144 ("The Dictator")

Lessons Large and Small

November 29

FINAL EXAM – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 12:30 – 2:30.

SHOAH

Type in "library.tamu.edu"

1. Select "Databases"
2. Type in "Shoah"
3. Register to create your (free) account

The recollections are in the survivors' original language. Only 48,000 are in English. Choose the language you prefer and select from a variety of experiences (solitary confinement, etc.). Identify any quote you take by the name, date, and page number. Don't try to download any entire file, as some continue for hundreds of pages.

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