

## SYLLABUS

HISTORY OF NAZI GERMANY (403)  
TTh 2:20 – 3:35  
ZACH 227A

PROF. A. KRAMMER  
Office hours: Wed. 1:30-2:30 or after  
class or by appointment  
History Building 215 tel. 845-7108  
[apkrammer@tamu.edu](mailto:apkrammer@tamu.edu)

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  
(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," "Failure of the German Luftwaffe,"

“the Mexican Nazi Party,” “Nazi Roots in Ancient Rome,” 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.

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

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. Your paper must make a case, it tries to prove something

History Department’s Nine Commandments for Writing Papers:

1. Papers must be typed in standard-size and font (12-point, New Times Roman), double-spaced, and with one-inch margins on all sides. No exceptions!
2. Proofread your papers carefully for spelling, and proper sentence and paragraph structure. Poor spelling and grammar will lower your grade significantly.
3. Avoid using the First Person – e.g. “In my opinion,”
4. Keep it within the limit of 10-11 pages.
5. Write simply, concisely, and interestingly. Remember that someone will be reading your paper. Imagine if it would interest you – if not, it probably won’t hold the readers’ interest for long.
6. Use the Past Tense – after all, this is a history paper.
7. Be 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.
8. Your paper must be well supported. General knowledge does not need to be footnoted. Quotes do. Be sure to provide footnotes or endnotes whenever you quote from a primary or secondary source, together with the page number, and to include a bibliography/works cited list at the end of your paper.

9. Please do not use Wikipedia or other online encyclopedias.

**The final paper is due in class on November the 12th. Hard copy only! As noted earlier, all papers must be typed, double-spaced, with 1" margins and Times/ Times New Roman 12 point font. They must also be spell-checked and edited for spelling and grammar. 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](mailto:pms@tamu.edu)) or Ms. Robyn Konrad ([robyn-konrad@tamu.edu](mailto:robyn-konrad@tamu.edu)), in Room 105, Glasscock Building or the Career Advisor for Liberal Arts, Tricia Barron in 209 Koldus for more information ([patriciab@careercenter.tamu.edu](mailto:patriciab@careercenter.tamu.edu)).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME:

Through this course, students will be able to:

- 1) evaluate and synthesize primary and secondary historical writings.
- 2) express your own ideas effectively in written and oral form.
- 3) identify historical and social contexts that created diversity in past and present human cultures.
- 4) apply knowledge about the human condition- in the past and present- to your personal lives and studies.

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: Do not plagiarize! As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of turning in as one's own ideas and words which belong to another. According to this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own. Penalties are severe, including failing the course and expulsion from the university. 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**

#### **Introduction to Germany**

**August 27, 29**

#### **World War I**

**September 3, 5, 10 12**

**Read Remarque's All Quiet on the Western Front**

#### **And Trauma**

**September 17, 19**

**Weimar; Versailles; Inflation**

#### **Rise of the Nazis**

**September 24, 26,**

Milton Meyer, They Thought They Were Free

Spielvogel Text: pp. 10-41 ("Beginnings").

Spielvogel Text: pp. 45-81 ("Growth of

Nazism") and pp. 83- 118 ("The Nazi State")

### **Tuesday October 1 – MIDTERM EXAM**

**Movie: "Triumph of the Will" Wednesday, October 2, 7:00-9:00 pm. Room 410 LRD, Library Annex, tel. 5-2316**

#### **Propaganda**

**October 3, 8**

#### **Jews in Nazi Germany**

**October 10, 15** Read Browning, Ordinary Men

Spielvogel Text: pp. 255-287

("The Holocaust")

**Movie: "Conspiracy" and "Night and Fog" Wednesday, October 16, 6:30 9:00 pm. Room 417C LRD, Library Annex**



## 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.

## Turnitin.com

1. Howdy Portal
2. Go to “eLearning” at Top Line
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