

SYLLABUS

HISTORY OF NAZI GERMANY (403)
MWF 11:30 – 12:20
ZACH 227A

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
(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 Friday, April 5th. 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 in 209 Koldus for more information (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: “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>. Consequences could ensue.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Introduction to Germany

January 14, 16, 18, 23

World War I And TRAUMA

January 25, 28, 30, February 1
Read Remarque’s All Quiet on the Western
Front
Weimar; Versailles; Inflation

Rise of the Nazis

February 4, 6, 8

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”)

***Movie: “Triumph of the Will” Wednesday, February 6, 7:00-9:30 pm.
Room 410 LRD, Library Annex, tel. 5-2316***

Propaganda

February, 11, 13

The Jews in Nazi Germany February 15, 18, 20. Read Browning, Ordinary
Men

***Movie: “Conspiracy” and “Night and Fog” Wednesday, February
20, 6:30 9:00 pm. Room 410 LRD, Library Annex***

The Jews and the Holocaust

February 22, 25, 27, March 1, 4
Spielvogel Text: pp. 255-287 (“The
Holocaust”)

Wednesday, March 6 – MIDTERM EXAM

* Walk - March 8 *

SPRING BREAK -- MARCH 11 - 15

Youth, Women, and Family Life

March 18, 20
Social Organizations. Spielvogel Text: pp.
146-178 (“Culture & Society”)

Resistance

March 22.

***Movie: “Swing Kids” Wednesday, March 20, 7:00- 9:00 pm. Room 410
LRD, Library Annex***

Army and the SS

March 25, 27,
Overturning Versailles; Autarky and
Rearmament; Spielvogel Text: pp. 182-254
(“Hitler’s War”)

The Road to War and WW II

April 1, 3, 5 Research paper due today, **8, 10**
Spielvogel Text: ("Nazi Germany in Wartime").
Read Omer Bartov, Hitler's Army, if available.

Movie: "Das Boot" Wednesday, April 3, 6:30-9:00. Room 410. LRD, Library Annex.

Guest Lecture by Elizabeth Ellis April 12

Hitler: Man and the Myth

April 15, 17, 19, 22

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

Lessons Large and Small

April, 24, 26, 29

FINAL EXAM – WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 10:30 – 12:30.

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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