

# History of Modern Germany

## Syllabus

**Instructor:** Mason Tattersall

**Office hours:** TBA

**E-mail:** tattersm@oregonstate.edu

**Course Website:**

**Required Texts:** Tipton, Frank. *A History of Modern Germany Since 1815*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

### Other Required Readings:

Additional readings will be made available as handouts, and electronic documents.

**Course Goals and Objectives:** This course is a survey of modern German history from the late eighteenth century to the present day. We will explore the roots of the modern German state, its long and troubled history, its cultural products, and its place within Europe and the broader world. We will cover all of the key historical moments from the 1848 revolutions, to the formation of the German Empire, the Great War, the Nazi era and Holocaust and their lasting effects throughout twentieth-century history, the divided Germanies of the Cold War, Reunification, and Germany's place within the current world system. We will approach this history from a number of different angles, employing a number of different methods. We will examine social, political, and economic history, as well as cultural, intellectual, and artistic movements, with particular focus on questions of identity, nation, ideology, and gender.

**Format:** The class will meet twice a week for lectures and discussion [based on the 4-credit, 2-hour per lecture system at OSU].

**Grades:** Your final grade will be constituted in the following manner:

- 1) Document Responses: 10%
- 2) Essay 1: 25%
- 3) Midterm: 10%
- 4) Essay 2: 30%
- 5) Attendance & Participation: 5%
- 6) Quizzes: 10%
- 7) Final Exam: 10%

A: 100-93

B-: 82-80

D+: 69-67

A-: 92-90

C+: 79-77

D: 66-63

B+: 89-87  
B: 86-83

C: 76-73  
C-: 72-70

D-: 62-60  
F: 59 or below

**Written assignments:** 2 essays, 2 document responses

**Midterm Exam:** (10% of the grade) Short answer questions from lectures and readings, and a short essay.

**Quizzes:** There will be in-class quizzes throughout the term, worth 10% of your total grade

**Final Exam:** (10% of the grade) Same format as Midterm.

**Document Responses:** 2 (10% of your grade total) One page each. One response is due in each half of the term. See instructions below:

### **Document Response Guidelines**

For each document response pick one of the primary documents that you have read from this half of the term (Weeks 1-5 for Document Response 1; Weeks 6-10 for Document Response 2) and provide a 1-page analysis. Put the document into its historical context. What does it tell us about the historical situation from which it arises? Why is this document significant? What can we learn from it?

The goal of the document responses is *analysis*. This means that you will have to think about and comment on such issues as the *significance*, *context*, and *meaning* of the document: what are the broader issues, what seems to be the intent behind this document, what other texts does it seem to relate to, etc. will be the type of questions you will need to answer. ***Do not merely summarize what you have read.*** We will discuss this further in class.

**Essays:** 2 (55% of your grade total). See instructions below:

### **Essay 1: “Making Germans”**

(6-8 Pages)

Due: Week 5

This Essay is Worth 25% of your final Grade.

After Italian unification in 1871 Massimo d’Anzeglio famously wrote in his memoirs: “We have made Italy. Now we must make Italians.” Your first essay focuses on the years directly following German unification. In what ways did the German state, political parties, artists, and the press attempt to “make Germans”? You will choose from two sets of materials (one set focusing on the *Kulturkampf* and the other focusing on the arts) and write an essay that examines attempts to culturally unify the Empire. See the handout for more information, and materials. We will also discuss this assignment in class.

## Essay 2: “The German as Symptom”

(6-8 Pages)

Due: Week 10

This Essay is Worth 30% of your final Grade.

In the 1920’s, Austrian novelist Robert Musil attempted to sum up some of his thoughts on the crisis of modern culture, on the nature of “the German” and of human nature. For your second essay you will read Musil’s essay “The German as Symptom,” place it in its historical context, and comment on his analysis in light of what you have learned about German history in the course. What light does Musil’s essay shed on German history? Do you agree with his analysis? You may focus on one or two of his main arguments or deal with the essay as a whole. See the handout for more information. We will also discuss this assignment in class.

**Internet Sources:** The internet is full of good information and bad information. One of the practical things we will discuss is how to tell the difference. For the purpose of your assignments *please check with me if you have any questions about a source.*

**Late papers:** Late papers will be accepted but with a penalty for each day past the due date. Please inform me immediately if you think you will not be able to hand your paper in on time.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated. We will discuss ways to avoid plagiarism in class. You can also look at OSU’s student conduct page for more information:  
<http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/plag.htm>

**Please turn off cell phones!!**

**Disabilities:** Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know of, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term.

### Schedule & Readings List

**Due Dates:**

- X - Document Response 1 due
- X - Essay 1 due
- X - Midterm Exam
- X - Document Response 2 due
- X - Essay 2 due

# X

## - Final Exam

### Weekly Topics & Readings:

#### Week 1

*The Pre-History of Modern Germany*

The Ancient World & the Middle Ages

Geography

The Reformation & Its Aftermath

*Ideas, Art, & Ideals at the Turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*

Enlightenment, Classicism, & Romanticism

Kant, Goethe, Schiller, Fichte, Novalis, & the Brothers Schlegel

Readings: Tipton: Preface, Chapters 1 & 2

Luther: Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation:

<http://history.hanover.edu/texts/luthad.html>

Luther: The German Mass and Order of Divine Service:

<http://history.hanover.edu/texts/luthserv.html>

#### Week 2

*Napoleon & His Aftermath*

The Napoleonic Wars and their Effects

Fichte Revisited

Hegel

The *Vormärz* period

The Religious Landscape

*The Revolutionary 1840s & The Reactionary 1850s*

The Social and Economic World of the German States before the Revolutions

The Revolutions of 1848

Reactionary Politics

Economic Changes

Religious Revivals

Readings: Tipton: Chapters 3 & 4

Kant: What is Enlightenment:

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/kant-what-is.asp>

Friedrich Schlegel: German Romanticism in Philosophy:

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/schlegel-romanticism.asp>

Fichte: Address to the German Nation

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1807fichte1.asp>

### **Week 3**

*The Birth of the German Empire*

“Realism” in Politics

The German States, Austria, and Prussia

Internal & External Politics

The Customs Union

The “Wars of German Liberation”

Readings: Tipton: Chapter 5

Documents of German Unification:

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/germanunification.asp>

Ernst Mortitz Arndt: The German Fatherland:

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/germanunification.asp>

Bismarck: Memoirs (Selections):

<http://history.hanover.edu/texts/bis.html>

### **Week 4**

*The German Empire to 1914*

The Social & Economic Worlds

The Cultural World

The Intellectual World

German Liberalism & the *Kulturkampf*

Revolutions in the Arts

Readings: Tipton: Chapters 6 & 7

Maurice Leudt: A Day with Kaiser Wilhelm II, 1898:

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1898wilhelm2.asp>

Mrs. Alfred Sidwick: Student Life at the German Universities, 1900

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1900germanstudents.asp>

### **Week 5**

*The Great War*

Causes & Contexts

The Progress of the War

The Great War and/as Modernism

Dada & Expressionism

The Impact of the War & of Defeat

Readings: Tipton: Chapter 8

Sassoon: Selections (1. Prelude, 2. Counter-Attack, 5. Attack, 7. How to Die, 17 Suicide in the Trenches):

<http://www.bartleby.com/136/index1.html>

Remarque: All Quiet on the Western Front:

<http://web.archive.org/web/19980116133459/http://pluto.clinch.edu/history/wciv2/civ2ref/aqwf.htm>

Rosa Luxemburg: The War and the Workers:  
<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1916luxemburg-junius.asp>

## **Week 6**

*The Interwar Period*

“A Dance Between the Flames”

Political & Economic History of the Interwar Period

The Arts during the Weimar Republic: Dada & Expressionism Continued, New Objectivity

Berlin as Metropolis

“Politics in a New Key”

Readings: Tipton: Chapters 9 & 10

Freud: Civilization & Weltanschauung:

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1918freud-civwelt.asp>

Spengler: The Decline of the West (Selection):

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/spengler-decline.asp>

## **Week 7**

*The Third Reich*

A History of Anti-Semitism in Modern Germany

The Rise of the Nazi Party and the End of the Weimar Republic

The Politics & Economics of the 1930s

The Second World War

The Holocaust

Readings: Tipton: Chapters 11 & 12

25 Point Programme of the Nazi Party, 1920:

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/25points.asp>

Bruno Heilig: Why the German Republic Fell (1938):

<http://history.hanover.edu/courses/excerpts/111heil.html>

Selections from Der Stürmer:

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/stuermer00.asp>

Hitler: The Obersalzberg Speech:

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/hitler-obersalzberg.asp>

Wannsee Conference Minutes, 1942:

<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/holocaust/h-wannsee.htm>

## **Week 8**

*The Aftermath & the Divided Germanies*

Occupied Germany & the Beginning of the Cold War

The German Democratic Republic & The Federal Republic of Germany

East & West Germany & Confronting the Nazi Past

The 1960s & 1970s

The New Generation

Readings: Tipton: Chapter 13

Churchill: Iron Curtain Speech:

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/churchill-iron.asp>

Federal Republic of Germany Basic Law:

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/CONST-DE.asp>

Constitution of the German Democratic Republic:

[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Constitution\\_of\\_the\\_German\\_Democratic\\_Republic\\_%281949%29](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Constitution_of_the_German_Democratic_Republic_%281949%29)

USA & USSR Exchange Notes on the Berlin Wall:

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1961berlin-usa-ussr.asp>

The “Sit-In” at the Free University Berlin:

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=891](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=891)

## **Week 9**

*The 1980s, The End of the Cold War, & Reunification*

Berlin as an “Island Culture”

Squatters & the Artistic Movements of the late 1970s and 1980s

The Politics of the 1980s to the End of the East German State

Reunification

Readings: Tipton: Chapter 14

Berlin Commune 1968:

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=896](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=896)

An Paenhuysen & Wolfgang Müller: Interview:

<http://www.movementresearch.org/criticalcorrespondence/blog/?p=4378>

Wolfgang Müller: Texts:

[http://www.martin-schmitz-verlag.de/Wolfgang\\_Mueller/Texts.html](http://www.martin-schmitz-verlag.de/Wolfgang_Mueller/Texts.html)

## **Week 10**

*Germany Reunited, Europe, & the Contemporary World*

Post-Reunification Challenges: Economic, Political, & Cultural

The New Germany & Europe

The New Germany & the World

Readings: Tipton: Chapter 15

The Unification Crisis:

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=3103](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=3103)

GDR Nostalgia:

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=3107](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=3107)

Reflections on the Love Parade:

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=3558](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=3558)

Havel: The Federal Republic in Central & Eastern Europe (1995):

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=3722](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=3722)

Are Women the Losers of Unification? (1999):

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=3811](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=3811)

Johannes Rau: Call for Globalization Policy (2002):

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=3961](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=3961)