

HIS 574: MODERN GERMANY – SELECTED TOPICS

(Germany: Division and Reunification: 1945-1990s)

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Office Hours: MWF 9:30-10:45 AM
MW 1:00-2:00 PM

Required Texts:

Gordon A. Craig, *The Germans* (1991)
Henry Jackson Turner, Jr., *Germany from Partition to Reunification; The Two Germanies since 1945* (rev.ed., 1992)
Corey Ross, *The East German Dictatorship; Problems and Perspectives in the Interpretation of the GDR* (2002)

Basic Reference Sources:

Modern Germany: An Encyclopedia of History, People and Culture, 1871-1990, 2 vols., eds., Dieter K. Bose, and Juergen C. Doerr, (1998). [Jackson Library Reference Room]

Important Websites: (Check them out)

German Historical Institute (Washington, D.C.) <ghi-de.org>
American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (Johns Hopkins University) www.aicgs.org
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (a leading German daily newspaper) link to English edition
www.faz.de/
Die Zeit (Germany's most prestigious weekly newspaper) www.zeit.de/
Der Spiegel (a weekly news magazine with occasional English language articles) www.spiegel.de/

Course Description:

For almost fifty years after its defeat in World War II, Germany was both the pawn and the cockpit of a Cold War between the world's two superpowers, the United States of America and the Soviet Union. We begin this course by examining the massive defeat of Germany in 1945 which is sometimes referred to as the "Zero Hour" of modern German history, a time representing a complete rupture with its past.

The next focus will be on the Allied occupation of Germany after the war and upon the tensions between the Allies that produced the Cold War and the subsequent division of Germany into two states. Much of Germany's post-war history bears the stamp of either being "Made in Washington" or "Made in Moscow." We proceed by tracing political and social/cultural developments in the FRG (West Germany) and the GDR (East Germany) and conclude with an examination of how Germany came to be reunited in 1990.

Special emphasis will be placed upon examining the burden that the Nazi past has placed upon post-war Germany development.

Each student is expected to become "expert" in one aspect of German development during these years. This expertise will provide the basis for class reports, discussions and the final paper.

Course Assignments:

Each student will be expected to deliver a series of oral reports on her/his growing area of "expertise," participate extensively in class discussions, and produce a final paper based upon research into that area of "expertise." The area of expertise is to be negotiated with the instructor.

Undergraduate students are required to submit an *8-10 page paper* on a topic to be selected in consultation with the instructor.

Graduate students are required to submit a *15-20 page paper* on a topic to be selected in consultation with the instructor.

Grading Policy: There will be no mid-term or final examination. The final grade will be based on the quality of the oral report, participation in class discussions and the final paper. 50 % of the grade will be based on the oral reports and participation in discussions; the second 50 % will be based on the quality of the final paper.

Attendance Policy: Regular class attendance is absolutely essential., especially so because we will be teaching each other. Any absence will require an excuse.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. explain how Nazi Germany's "unconditional surrender" in 1945 paved the way for a major transformation in German political, social, economic, and cultural life.
2. analyze how German developments after 1945 were shaped by the Cold War between the U.S. and the USSR.
3. explain how Germany was the major pawn in the Cold War
4. explain how Germans have attempted to come to terms with the horrors associated with the immediate Nazi past, aka the problem of German memory.
5. explain how a democratic West Germany (FRG) could emerge from the ashes of 1945.
6. explain how American popular culture influenced German culture in the post-war period
7. explain how a communist dictatorship in East Germany functioned and how its weaknesses led to the collapse of 1989.
8. explain the international diplomacy that preceded German reunification in 1990.
9. analyze Germany's economic and political role in the emergence of a European Common Market and a European Union.
10. discuss in general terms the permutations of the what is called "the German Question" both in domestic and international terms.

Course Outline:

- I. 1945-1949: Occupation and the Emergence of Two Germanies
 - A. 1945 – The "Year Zero"?
 - B. Potsdam Conference
 - C. Allied Occupation Policies
 - D. Failure to Conclude a Peace Treaty (1946-47)
 - E. The Berlin Blocade (1948)
 - F. Marshall Plan
- II. 1949-1961: One Nation and Two States
 - A. Making of the FRG
 1. Konrad Adenauer and "Chancellor Democracy"
 2. The Basic Law
 3. Ludwig Erhard: Germany's Economic Miracle
 - B. 1955: Achieving Sovereignty
 1. FRG and NATO
 2. Hallstein Doctrine
 - C. 1957-1961: Second Berlin Crisis
 1. Making of the Berlin Wall
 - D. Making of the GDR
 1. Walter Ulbricht

2. Communist Revolution? In Germany
 3. Totalitarian Dictatorship?
 4. Marcus Wolf and the Stasi
 5. A Socialist Identity for Germany?
 6. The “Other Side” of the Wall
- III. Willy Brandt Era and the SPD Ascendancy, 1969-1974
- A. *Ostpolitik*
 - B. Student Radicalism/ Baader-Meinhof
 - C. ICBMs/ Germany in the Middle
- IV. 1989 – The German Revolution
- A. Dissent in the GDR – Role of the Churches
 - B. Gorbachev and *Glasnost*
 - C. Fall of the Berlin Wall
 - D. 2 + 4 Talks
- V. 1990- Unification and its Discontents
- A. Resistance to Unification; -- the Thatcher Conference
 - B. Finally: A Peace Treaty/ The Moscow Treaty
 - C. Undoing a communist society: *Treuhandstelle*
 - D. The *Historikerstreit*
 - E. Right-Wing Extremism
 - F. A New German Identity?
 1. *Leitkultur*
 - 2.. 2006: Germany and the World Cup