“Germany? But where is it? I don’t know how to find such a country.”

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1797)

“All oppressed people are citizens of Berlin.”

- Barack Obama (2013)
COURSE DESCRIPTION

At the end of the eighteenth century, the poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe commented that, given the diversity of the many German states, the notion of a unified German nation was absurd. Only a hundred years later, citing many of these figures as spiritual inspiration, the Prussian statesman, Otto von Bismarck managed to unite the varied German states in a powerful German empire. This course takes as its starting point the late and contested nationalization of Germany to explore the major themes of modern German history from the events of the mid-nineteenth century to the present day. How did this process of nationalization occur? What was the relationship between the center and the periphery in the process? Between Germany and the rest of the world? And did Germany follow a “special path” (Sonderweg) that diverted from the rest of Western industrialized society as a result?

Despite its unification in 1871, Germany remained deeply divided by conflicts between social classes, men and women, religious denominations, and regions. This course analyzes the tension between the process of nationalization and the realities of social and political division through the following historical developments: the wars of national unification, World War I and the Weimar experiment in democracy, the Nazi state, the Second World War and the Holocaust, the consolidation of democracy in the Federal Republic of Germany, the collapse of the German Democratic Republic and communism, and the successes and frustrations of national reunification in the European Union.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

History Department, in general

1. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods.

2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
Course specific

1. Increase your understanding of modern German political, cultural, economic, and social relations and their role in a European and global context.

2. Familiarize yourself with approaches in the study of modern German history

3. Make judgments in scholarly debates about modern German history by weighing different arguments against primary documents.

REQUIRED READINGS

Book for purchase:
Frank Tipton, A History of Modern Germany Since 1815 (Univ. of California Press, 2003)
Bertolt Brecht, Three Penny Opera (Penguin, 2007)
Jana Hensel, After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next (Public Affairs, 2008).

Online:
Selected readings from German History in Documents and Images (GHDI) a project of the German Historical institute and edited by Uta Poiger and Volker Berghahn. The entire project is the winner of the American Historical Association’s 2010 James Harvey Robinson Award for the best educational resource in any media in any field of History.

Documents marked as GHDI are online at http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/home.cfm.

Additional online or scanned readings marked by an *

Film, in class: The Murderers Are Among Us (1946)

SYLLABUS

Week 1: Why Germany? What is Germany?

T, 8/20: Introduction to the course

In class, a tour of Germany through images

Reading:

Recommended, Tipton, 2–23
TR, 8/22: (Belated) Industrialization and Socio-Economic Change in the German Lands

Reading:

Tipton, 61-66, 94-99.
Railway Construction (1850-1873) [GHDI: Vol. Vol. 4 Sec. 1 No. 7].
The Economic and Social Significance of Gas Motors (1870s) [GHDI: Vol. 4 Sec. 1 No. 11].

Week 2: Revolutions from Above and Below, 1848–1871

T, 8/27: From Democracy to Realpolitik

Reading:

Tipton, 90-93, 111-120
The Liberals: Heppenheim Program of the Southwest German Liberals (October 10, 1847) [GHDI: Vol. 3 Sec. 7]

TR, 8/29: The Founding of the German Reich, 1864–1871

Reading:

Tipton, 120-128.
Excerpts from Bismarck’s “Blood and Iron” Speech (1862) [GHDI: Vol. 3 Sec. 1 No. 13].
Bismarck, Bismarck's Letters to His Wife, pp. 20-23.
*online: http://archive.org/stream/bismarckmanstate01bismiala#page/22/mode/2up

Week 3: Germany is made

T, 9/3: Bismarck’s Germany

Reading:

Tipton, 129-144, 156-170.
August Bebel, Reichstag Speech of November 8, 1871 [GHDI: Vol. 4 Sec. 5 No. 26]
Association of German Catholics, Founding Manifesto (July 8, 1972) [GHDI: Vol. 4 Sec. 7 No. 5].
Bismarck’s Speech to the Prussian House of Delegates on the “Polish Question” (1886) [GHDI: Vol. 4 Sec. 7 No. 7].

TR, 9/5—CLASS CANCELLED
Week 4: Making Germans, Making Others at Home and Abroad

T, 9/10: From Bismarck to Wilhelm II: Domestic affairs

**Reading:**

Tipton, 144-155.
Socialist “Revisionism”: The Immediate Task of Social Democracy (1899) [GHDI: Vol. 5 Sec. 5 No. 14].
Socialist “Radicalism”: Rosa Luxemburg’s “Social Reform or Revolution” (1899) [GHDI: Vol. 5 Sec. 5 No. 15].
From Alfred Kelly, *German Worker*, “Doris Viersbeck” “Moritz Bromme” and “Max Lotz” pp. 230-251, 351-369.*

TR, 9/12: From Bismarck to Wilhelm II: Foreign affairs

**Reading:**

Friedrich Fabri, *Does Germany Need Colonies?* (1879) [GHDI: Vol. 4 Sec. 6 No. 17] · Wilhelm II, “Hun Speech” (1900) [GHDI: Vol. 5 Sec. 5 No. 3] · *Caligula: A Study in Roman Imperial Insanity* by Ludwig Quidde (1894) [GHDI: Vol. 5 Sec. 5 No. 6]

**Due: Friday September, 13:** Primary Source Evaluation, hardcopy outside Dr. Levine's office, MHRA 2117.

Week 5: Insiders and Outsiders

T, 9/17: Jewish Life in Central Europe

**Reading:**

Helmut Walser Smith, "Konitz, 1900: Ritual Murder and Antisemitic Violence" (29 pp.)*
Memorandum from the Ministry of State of the Duchy of Nassau (1822) [GHDI: Vol. 3 Sec. 3 No.2 ] ·
A Jewish Child”s Memories of His Family”s “Conversion” from Orthodox to Reform Practice (1880s) [GHDI: Vol. 4 Sec. 4 No. 6]
TR, 9/19: The first genocide?

**Reading:**

**Due: Friday September, 20: Secondary source analysis, hardcopy outside Dr. Levine’s office, MHRA 2117.**

**Week 6: World at War**

T, 9/24: The war front

Tipton, 249-293.
Soldiers Describe Combat II: Sophus Lange [GHDI: Vol. 5 Sec. 7 No. 4].
Erich von Falkenhayn’s “Christmas Memorandum” (December 1915) [GHDI: Vol. 5 Sec. 7 No. 9].

TR, 9/26: The home front

Tipton, 293-322.
Rationing in Practice: Queuing for Food (October 1917) [GHDI: Vol. 5 Sec. 9 No.5] · Dancing the Polonaise (1916) [GHDI: Vol. 5 Sec. 9 No. 6].

**Week 7: Germany’s Experiment with Democracy**

T, 10/1: The German Revolution of 1918/19 and the Creation of the Weimar Republic

**Reading:**
Brecht, *Three Penny Opera*, Introduction and Act I

TR, 10/3: Crisis and Stabilization A Moral History of Inflation

**Reading:**
Tipton, 326–334
Brecht, *Three Penny Opera*, Act II

**Week 8: From Weimar to National Socialism**

T, 10/8: Cabaret and a Constitution

**Reading:**
Tipton, 363–369; 391–400
Finish Brecht, *Three Penny Opera*, Act III

**In Class: Work on group projects**

TR, 10/10: Reversion to Authoritarianism and End of German Republic

**Reading:**
Tipton, 401–419

**In class: Present group projects on Brecht’s *Three Penny Opera***

**Week 9: Nazi Germany and the Question for a “New Order”, 1933-1945**

**T, 10/15: NO CLASS—UNCG FALL BREAK**

TR, 10/17: Racial state

**Reading:**
Tipton, 420-456.
The Reich Citizenship Law (September 15, 1935) and the First Regulation to the Reich Citizenship Law (November 14, 1935) [GHDI: Vol. 7 Sec. 5 No. 5] · American Consul Samuel Honaker's Description of Anti-Semitic Persecution and Kristallnacht and its Aftereffects in the Stuttgart Region (November 12 and November 15, 1938) [GHDI: Vol. 7 Sec. 5 No. 6] · Klemperer, *I Will Bear Witness, 1942-1945*, pp. 60-66, 273-282*

**Week 10: Racial War and Genocide**

T, 10/22: World War II: The war experience

Tipton, 457–486.
Directives for the Treatment of Political Commissars ("Commissar Order") (June 6, 1941) [GHDI: Vol. 7 Sec. 6 No. 12] · Excerpt from Goebbels’s Speech at the Sports Palace in Berlin (February 18, 1943) [GHDI: Vol. 7 Sec. 11 No. 5]

TR, 10/24: World War II: The Holocaust

**Reading:**
Tipton, 486-495.
Major General Bruns”s Description of the Execution of Jews outside Riga on
December 1, 1941, Surreptitiously Taped Conversation (April 25, 1945) [GHDI: Vol. 7 Sec. 5 No. 13] · 
The Wannsee Protocol (January 20, 1942) [GHDI: Vol. 7 Sec. 5 No. 14]

**Week 11:** Confronting the Nazi Past: Race, Gender, and Representations of Nazism in Early Post-War German Cinema and Society

T, 10/29: “Coming to terms with the past”

**Reading:**
Tipton, 547-557, 600-613.
Control Council Directive No. 38 (October 12, 1946) [GHDI: Vol. 8 Sec. 2 No. 2] · 
The Editor-in-Chief of Die Zeit on the Nuremberg Trials (January 22, 1948) and the American Response (February 12, 1948) [GHDI: Vol. 9 Sec. 2 No. 3]

TR, 10/31: Film, in class: “The Murderers are Among Us”

**Reading:**

**In class film:** “The Murderers are Among Us” (1946) 85 min.

**Week 12: Two Germanies in the Cold War, 1945/49–1990**

T, 11/5: Dividing Germany

**Reading:**
Tipton, 496-507.
Stuttgart Speech (“Speech of Hope”) by James F. Byrnes, United States Secretary of State (September 6, 1946) [GHDI: Vol. 8 Sec. 1 No. 9]
Announcement of the Impending Establishment of the German Democratic Republic (October 7, 1949) [GHDI: Vol. 8 Sec. 4 No. 9]

TR, 11/7: Wirtschaftswunder in the West and surveillance state in the East

**Reading:**
Tipton, 507-539, 545-547.
The Five-Year Plan for 1951-1955 (1950) [GHDI: Vol. 8 Sec. 7 No. 3]
Statement by the Government of the GDR (June 17, 1953) [GHDI: Vol. 8 Sec. 7 No. 10]
Start Hensel, After the Wall,
Due: Friday, November 8: Film Analysis, hardcopy outside Dr. Levine’s office, MHRA 2117.

Week 13: The Germanies and the Cold War– From the Wall to Ostpolitik

T, 11/12: Dueling Moderns

Tipton, 540-547, 558–573
A Neutral’s Description of the Building of the Wall (August 14, 1961) [GHDI: Vol. 9 Sec. 1 No. 2]
Two States, One Nation (October 28, 1969) [GHDI: Vol. 9 Sec. 1 No. 5]
Hensel, After the Wall
Experiences of a GDR Citizen Buying a New Wartburg (April 14, 1989) [GHDI: Vol. 9 Sec. 3 No. 13]
Motorization in the FRG and the GDR (1960-1990) [GHDI: Vol. 9 Sec. 3 No. 14]
Hensel, After the Wall, 1–42

In class, view:

John F. Kennedy, “Ich bin ein Berliner” (June 26, 1963)

TR, 11/14: Fighting the Man– Social Protest and Opposition in the Germanies

Ulrike Meinhof Calls for a Move from Protest to Resistance (May 1968) [GHDI: Vol. 9 Sec. 6 No. 8]
A Communist Idealist Criticizes the "Real Existing Socialism" of the GDR (1977) [GHDI: Vol. 9 Sec. 16 No. 4]
Hensel, After the Wall, 43–79

Week 14: New Germany, Old Germany

T, 11/19: The 1989 Revolutions in Eastern Europe

Reading:

Tipton, 614-648.
Hensel, After the Wall, 80–end

Due: Worksheet on Hensel

TR, 11/21: The Collapse of the GDR and the Rush to Unification

Reading:
Survey Results on German Reunification (1951-89) [GHDI: Vol. 9 Sec. 13 No. 15]
The Storming of the Stasi Headquarters (January 16, 1990) [GHDI: Vol. 9 Sec. 2 No. 2]
Week 15

T, 11/26: A *multi-kulti* Germany?

**Reading:**
Tipton, 648-667.
The Onset of Turkish Labor Migration (1961) [GHDI: Vol. 8 Sec. 4 No. 1]
A Plea by Second-Generation Immigrants for Mutual Acceptance (May 13, 1982) [GHDI: Vol. 8 Sec. 4 No. 13]
Zafer Senocak, “But the Heart Still Beats Turkish?” [GHDI: Vol. 10 Sec. 7 No. 10]
Dirk Kurbjuweit, “Germany, A Summer Fairy Tale” (World Cup 2006) [GHDI: Vol. 10 Sec. 6 No. 14]

TR, 11/28: NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

T, 12/3: UNCG READING DAY

FINAL EXAM—TAKE HOME TBD

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Source Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary Source Analysis</td>
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<td>Group Presentation</td>
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<td>Film Analysis</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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**RULES AND PROCEDURES**

**Late Work**
*No late work is accepted.* All students are required to complete all assignments for the course on the due date specified.

**Attendance**
*Attendance at class is mandatory.* You may miss up to three classes throughout the semester without penalty. After you miss three classes, you lose a point for every class missed from your participation grade (see below). I reserve the right to withdraw you from the course if you miss six or more classes.

In accordance with new statewide regulations, students are permitted a minimum of two excused absences due to religious observance. If you plan to be absent due to religious observance, please notify me in advance by email.
Punctuality
It is imperative that you come to class on time. The lecture starts at the beginning of the hour and ends ten minutes before the hour on the dot. If you arrive late, you miss vital information about assignments given at the beginning of class. Similarly, it is also appreciated if you do not pack up your things until after the lecture is complete. **In an effort to encourage punctuality, three late arrivals will constitute one absence, and therefore, the removal of one participation point, as described above.**

Cell phones & Laptops
**There are no laptops permitted in this classroom.** Students are encouraged to take notes on paper and transfer your notes to laptops during your exam preparation.

Your cell phone must be turned off before class begins and remain out of view. **If your phone is viewable or goes off in the classroom, you will receive a failing grade for participation/attendance on that day and you will be asked to leave.**

**Students who abuse technology in the classroom risk earning a failing grade for participation/attendance and being removed from the course.**

Name Cards
You will receive a name card on the first day of class. It is your responsibility to keep the name card and bring it to class. You must keep the name card in front of you at all times and should expect to be “cold called” for discussion.

Academic Integrity
All students are expected to abide by the UNCG Honor Code. Please visit the following link: Academic Integrity Policy: [http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/](http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/). Depending on the severity of the offense, students risk receiving a final grade of F for the course or being expelled from the university.

Adverse Weather Conditions
If you think that the university might be closed due to weather, either call the UNCG Adverse Weather Line at (336) 334-4400 or check the university’s website ([www.uncg.edu](http://www.uncg.edu)). If the university is open, I will hold class.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Office hours will be held on Thursdays from 3:30–5:30 pm. They are an open time when you are welcome to come visit the instructor with questions about the readings and class discussion. You are encouraged to see the instructor, in particular, if you are having difficulty with the readings or speaking in class, or in anticipation of an upcoming paper. If you cannot make the regularly scheduled office hours, please feel free to make another appointment.