

HIS 474/574-01: Modern Germany Selected Topics: Weimar Germany

Fall 2022

3 credit hours

Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00-3:15pm

Location: MHRA 1211

Instructor Information:

Dr. Teresa Walch

Email: tmwalch@uncg.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays, 10:00am-12:00pm, and by appointment



Course Description

In the autumn of 1918, soldiers and workers rose up in revolution all across Germany at the end of the First World War. Refusing to continue fighting a war that had already been lost, they toppled the German monarchy and established a constitutional republic, the Weimar Republic. The new state guaranteed unprecedented freedoms for previously oppressed political, ethnic, religious, and sexual minorities in Germany. Many German artists, architects, musicians, actors of this era gained worldwide fame. Visitors from near and far flocked to the modern metropolis of Berlin to witness its achievements up close. But Weimar's progressivism was not loved by all. Many Germans remained deeply bitter about the country's defeat in the First World War, and politicians on the right inflamed these sentiments by propagating potent conspiracy theories that eroded faith in Germany's fledgling democracy. It was these tensions—between progressives and conservatives, international and national, urban and rural, promise and tragedy—that defined the Weimar Republic. At the heart of this history looms a serious question: how and why does a democracy fail?

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

The course has several learning outcomes that are important for both the study of history and for your general education at UNCG. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. describe the major political and cultural developments in Weimar Germany.
2. analyze and critique arguments in secondary sources.
3. identify and explain the major historiographical debates pertaining to Weimar Germany.
4. articulate plausible arguments of their own, based on evidence in discussions and in written assignments.

Required Books

HIS 474 (undergraduate students):

1. Peter Fritzsche, *Germans into Nazis* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998). ISBN: 9780674350922
2. Mark Jones, *Founding Weimar: Violence and the German Revolution of 1918-1919* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016). ISBN: 9781107535527 (available as a [an unlimited user ebook](#) via Jackson Library)
3. Jason Lutes, *Berlin* (Montreal: Drawn & Quarterly, 2018). ISBN: 9781770464063 (available as a [2-user ebook](#) via Jackson Library)
4. Kerry Wallach, *Passing Illusions: Jewish Visibility in Weimar Germany* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2017). ISBN: 9780472053575 (available as [an unlimited user ebook](#) via Jackson Library)

HIS 574 (graduate students):

In addition to the books listed above, required books include:

5. Detlev Peukert, *The Weimar Republic: The Crisis of Classical Modernity* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1992). ISBN: 9780809015566
6. Eric Weitz, *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy*, 2nd ed. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018). ISBN: 9780691183053 (available as [an unlimited user ebook](#))
7. Laurie Marhoefer, *Racism and the Making of Gay Rights: A Sexologist, His Student, and the Empire of Queer Love* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2022). ISBN: 9781487523978 (available as [a 1 user license ebook](#))
8. Julia Sneringer, *Winning Women's Votes: Propaganda and Politics in Weimar Germany* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002). ISBN: 9780807853412 (available as [an unlimited user ebook](#))

You may purchase all required books via the [UNCG bookstore](#), online, or elsewhere. I recommend that you purchase the editions specified by the ISBN number listed above. However, other editions may be more readily available and/or cheaper, so please feel free to order whichever one works best for you.

Copies of all required books are also available via UNCG's Jackson Library, either as an e-book (indicated above) or on reserve as a hard copy in the library. All additional required readings and materials will be available on Canvas.

Assignments & Grading

The following two assignments pertain to BOTH undergraduate and graduate students:

Participation (SLOs 1, 2, 3 & 4) – This is a 400- & 500-level course and organized as a seminar. This means that, rather than lecture-based (like lower-division courses), this course is primarily discussion-

based. Your active participation is vital to your grade, your success in this course, and your enjoyment thereof. It is critical that you come to class prepared, read and completed all assigned texts and materials *before* class. You should be prepared to outline and debate the authors' arguments and to share interesting or thought-provoking passages from the readings. You are also encouraged to pose questions and insights and to challenge and debate arguments that arise in readings and during class discussions – we all learn from your thoughts and from the questions you ask!

Response Papers (SLOs 1, 2, 3 & 4) – You will write three (3) papers in this class that respond to the assigned readings for each unit. Detailed prompts for each paper will be uploaded to Canvas. Undergraduate papers will be 4-5 pages long. Graduate papers will be 6-8 pages long.

The following assignments are DIFFERENT for undergraduate and graduate students:

undergraduate students

Biography Assignment Testimony Assignment (SLOs 1 & 2) – For this assignment, you will select a fictional person from Weimar Germany and create an autobiography for them. You will conduct additional research to identify relevant secondary sources for your biography. You will hand in a preliminary bibliography for this assignment in Week 8.

graduate students

Facilitation of Class Discussion (SLOs 2, 3 & 4) – You will facilitate two class discussions during the semester. We will determine your assigned dates early on in the semester.

Review Essay (SLOs 2, 3 & 4) – You will select 4 books on a topic of your choice (related to Weimar Germany) and write a review essay on them. You may use one of the assigned course books among your chosen four. You will hand in a preliminary bibliography for this assignment in Week 8.

Detailed prompts for the assignments & papers will be posted on Canvas.

Undergraduate Students: your final grade will be assessed as such:

- 30% – *Participation*
- 45% – *Response Papers* (3)
 - 10% – First Paper
 - 15% – Second Paper
 - 20% – Third Paper
- 25% – *Biography Assignment* (5% = preliminary bibliography; 20% = final assignment)

Graduate Students: your final grade will be assessed as such:

- 30% – *Participation*
- 45% – *Response Papers* (3)
 - 10% – First Paper
 - 15% – Second Paper
 - 20% – Third Paper
- 10% – *Facilitation of Class Discussion* (2x)
- 15% – *Review Essay*

Final Grade Scale:

Letter Grade	% points accumulated
A	≥ 93.0
A-	90.0-92.9
B+	87.0-89.9
B	83.0-86.9
B-	80.0-82.9
C+	77.0-79.9
C	73.0-76.9
C-	70.0-72.9
D	60.0-69.9
F	<60.0

Midterm Grades

In keeping with UNCG policy, I will post a midterm grade for you in UNCGenie by the end of Week 6 of the term (September 23). That grade will not appear on your transcript or in your GPA calculations. Instead, it is intended to help you and your academic advisor understand how you are doing in the course up to that point. If you review your midterm grade and find it to be lower than you hoped, I encourage you to talk to me so we can make a plan together for your success.

Assignment Submission and Format

You will submit all assignments in this course electronically by uploading them to Canvas, with one exception. Only the final biography assignment (for undergraduates) will be turned in as a hard copy. No assignments will be accepted via email. Electronically uploaded assignments will be submitted via Turnitin.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is a responsibility and a privilege of university education. It is fundamental to the orderly acquisition of knowledge. Students should recognize the advantages of regular class attendance, accept it as a personal responsibility, and apprise themselves of the consequences of poor attendance. Instructors should stress the importance of these responsibilities to students, set appropriate class attendance policies for their classes, and inform students of their requirements in syllabi and orally at the beginning of each term.

Please notify me *beforehand* if you will need to miss a class. Each student is allowed up to 3 excused absences from class. Any additional missed classes (or unexcused absences) will negatively affect your grade. It is important to notify me of any absences so I can help you succeed in this course.

Policy on Late Work

The penalty for late assignments is 1/3 of a letter grade *for each day an assignment is late* (including weekends). After 10 days late, the maximum grade an assignment can receive is 50%. If you think you will need an extension for any of these assignments, please get in touch with me *ahead of time*.

The final paper must be turned in on time, no exceptions.

Communication

I will be in contact with you regularly throughout the semester. I will primarily update you via the “Announcements” feature in the course Canvas site. Announcements contain information relevant to the whole class. Please check Canvas each time you access the course for new announcements and read them promptly. If I need to contact you about an individual matter, I will send you an individual message via Canvas or an email to your UNCG email account. Please check your UNCG email daily.

If you have a question about the course or assignments, you have three options:

1. Office Hours – You are welcome to visit me during my office hours every Thursday from 10:00am-12:00pm (in MHRA 2117). If this time does not work for you, please contact me, and we can schedule a different appointment.

2. General Discussion Board – The best place to post general questions related to course content, assignments, and materials is the “General Discussion Board” on Canvas. I encourage you to post your questions there, and if you can, to answer any questions you see from your classmates there. I will regularly check the discussion board to reply to any unanswered questions and comments.

3. Email – I will respond to emails sent to me Monday-Thursday within 24-48 hours. I will respond to emails received Friday-Sunday the following Monday.

Technical Support:

I cannot answer or help you resolve any questions regarding technology. Students with technical issues with the course and email should contact 6-TECH for support either by email or phone or chat ([6TECH Help](#)). If you need some additional help and information with Canvas, please refer to this [Canvas Student Guide](#).

UNCG Covid-19 Statement

As we return for Fall 2022, all students, faculty, and staff and all visitors to campus are required to uphold UNCG’s culture of care by actively engaging in behaviors that limit the spread of COVID-19. While face-coverings are optional in most areas on campus, individuals are encouraged to wear masks. All individuals and visitors to campus are asked to follow the following actions:

- Engaging in proper hand-washing hygiene.
- Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Staying home when ill.
- Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to quarantine or isolate if ill or exposed to someone who is ill.
- Completing a [self-report](#) when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, testing positive for COVID-19, or being identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive.
- Staying informed about the University's policies and announcements via the [COVID-19](#) website.

Students who are ill, quarantining, or isolating should not attend in-person class meetings, but should instead contact their instructor(s) so alternative arrangements for learning and the submission of assignments can be made where possible.

As we continue to manage COVID-19 on our campus, we are following the lead of the local health department and we will adjust our plans to balance student success, instructional requirements, and the hallmarks of the collegiate experience with the safety and wellbeing of our campus community.

Health and Wellness Statement

Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/> or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp> or reaching out to recovery@uncg.edu.

Academic Integrity

All the work you submit in this course must be your own. You are expected to properly cite and acknowledge any material that you quote, paraphrase, or summarize. The major assignments in this class will be submitted via Turnitin.

By submitting an assignment, each student is acknowledging their understanding and commitment to the Academic Integrity Policy on all major work for the course. Refer to the following URL: <https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/>.

If you have any questions, I encourage you to visit UNCG's webpage on [plagiarism](#). Please also carefully read the UNCG Writing Center's handout on "[Avoiding Plagiarism](#)."

Accommodations

UNCG seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) in 215 Elliott University Center, 334-5440, oars.uncg.edu.

Religious Holidays

It is expected that instructors will make reasonable accommodations for students who have conflicts due to religious obligations. Please make arrangements with me in advance of any conflict. For more information on UNCG's Religious Obligations policy, visit: [UNCG's Religious Obligations Policy](#).

Note on Syllabus Materials & Updates

The listed readings below constitute only some of the assigned readings and materials. In each module on Canvas, you will find the complete list of materials (all required readings, videos, etc.) for each week, so please refer to each module as the authoritative list. If needed, there may also be adjustments to the

syllabus and calendar throughout the semester. In such cases, I will notify you with an updated syllabus and calendar within a reasonable timeframe.

Course Schedule

UNIT 1 – The Beginnings

Week 1 – Introduction to Weimar Germany

Tuesday, August 16 – Introduction to “Weimar”

Thursday, August 18 – Beginning of World War I

- Fritzsche, 1-82 (Introduction & Chapter 1: “July 1914”)

Week 2 – Beginnings in Defeat

Tuesday, August 23 – End of World War I

- Fritzsche, 83-136 (Chapter 2: “November 1918”)
- **** grad students also read:** Weitz, “Introduction” & “A Troubled Beginning,” 1-40

Thursday, August 25 – “Crisis” in Weimar Historiography

- Rüdiger Graf, “Either-Or: The Narrative of ‘Crisis’ in Weimar Germany and its Historiography,” *Central European History* 43 (2010): 592-615.
- **** grad students also read:** Peukert, entire book

Week 3 – Violence & Postwar Unrest

Tuesday, August 30 – Brutalization Thesis

- Jones, 1-66
- **** grad students also read:** George L. Mosse, “Two World Wars and the Myth of the War Experience,” *Journal of Contemporary History* 21, no. 4 (1986): 491-513.

Thursday, September 1 – In Search of a Postwar Order

- Jones, 67-172

Week 4 – Revolutions & Conspiracies

Tuesday, September 6 – Revolution in Berlin

- Jones, 173-285

Thursday, September 8 – Revolution in Munich

- Jones, 286-338

Week 5 – Democracy & Postwar Reforms

Tuesday, September 13 – Domestic Politics

- Peter C. Caldwell, “The Weimar Constitution,” in *The Oxford Handbook of the Weimar Republic*, ed. Nadine Rossol and Benjamin Ziemann, 119-139 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021).
- Manuela Achilles, “Reforming the Reich: Democratic Symbols and Rituals in the Weimar Republic,” in *Weimar Republics/Weimar Subjects*, ed. Kathleen Canning, Kerstin Barndt, and Kristin McGuire, 175-191 (New York: Berghahn Books, 2010).

Thursday, September 15 – Foreign Politics

- Wolfgang Elz, “Foreign Policy,” in *Short Oxford History of Germany: Weimar Germany*, 50-77
- **** grad students also read:** Erin R. Hochman, “Ein Volk, ein Reich, eine Republik: Großdeutsch Nationalism and Democratic Politics in the Weimar and First Austrian Republics,” *German History* 32, no. 1 (2014): 29-52.

FIRST RESPONSE PAPER due on Canvas by Thursday, September 15 @ 11:59pm

UNIT 2 – The Middle

Week 6 – Women in Weimar

Tuesday, September 20 – Political Mobilization

- Kathleen Canning, “Women and the Politics of Gender,” in *Short Oxford History of Germany: Weimar Germany*, 146-174
- **** grad students also read:** Sneeringer, 1-167

Thursday, September 22 – The “New Woman”

- Renate Bridenthal, “Beyond Kinder, Küche, Kirche: Weimar Women at Work,” *Central European History* 6, No. 2 (June 1973): 148-166.

**** Midterm grades posted by the end of this week.**

Week 7 – Weimar Culture

Tuesday, September 27 – Mass Culture & Weimar Film

- Eric Weitz, “Sound and Image” and “Culture and Mass Society,” in *Weimar Germany*, 207-296

Thursday, September 29 – Weimar Art & Architecture

- Eric Weitz, “Building a New Germany,” in *Weimar Germany*, 169-206

Week 8 – The Body & Sex in Weimar

Tuesday, October 4 – NO CLASS

Thursday, October 6 – The Body & Sex in Weimar

- Robert Beachy, “The German Invention of Homosexuality,” *The Journal of Modern History* 82, no. 4 (2010): 801-838.
- Eric Weitz, “Bodies and Sex,” in *Weimar Germany*, 297-330
- **** grad students also read:** Marhoefer, all

undergraduate students: **PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY for biography assignment due on Canvas by Thursday, October 6 @ 11:59pm**

graduate students: **PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY for review essay due on Canvas by Thursday, October 6 @ 11:59pm**

Week 9 – Berlin was Weimar? Weimar was Weimar?

Tuesday, October 11 – NO CLASS – UNCG Fall Break

Thursday, October 13 – Berlin vs. Weimar

- Benjamin Ziemann, “Weimar Was Weimar: Politics, Culture and the Emplotment of the German Republic,” *German History* 28, no. 4 (2010): 542-571.
- **** grad students also read:** Weitz, “Walking the City,” in *Weimar Berlin*, 41-80

Week 10 – The Ambivalent Place of Jews in Weimar Germany

Tuesday, October 18 – Jewish Inclusion

- Anthoy D. Kauders, “Weimar Jewry,” in *Short Oxford History of Germany: Weimar Germany*, 234-259
- Wallach, 1-95 (Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2)

Thursday, October 20 – Jewish Exclusion

- Wallach, 97-175 (Chapters 3 & 4, Conclusion)

SECOND RESPONSE PAPER due on Canvas by Thursday, October 20 @ 11:59pm

UNIT 3 – The End

Week 11 – Political and Economic Crises

Tuesday, October 25 – Great Depression & Political Deadlock

- Lutes, 5-102
- **** grad students also read:** Weitz, “Political Worlds” & “A Turbulent Economy and an Anxious Society” 81-168

Thursday, October 27 – Great Disappointments

- Lutes, 105-180
- Thomas Mergel, “High Expectations—Deep Disappointment: Structures of the Public Perception of Politics in the Weimar Republic,” in *Weimar Republics/Weimar Subjects*, ed. Kathleen Canning, Kerstin Barndt, and Kristin McGuire, 192-210 (New York: Berghahn Books, 2010).

Week 12 – Conservative Backlash & Mobilization

Tuesday, November 1 – Conservative Mobilization

- Peter Fritzsche, “Presidential Victory and Popular Festivity in Weimar Germany: Hindenburg’s 1925 Election,” *Central European History* 23, no. 2/3 (1990): 205-224.
- **** grad students also read:** Sneeringer, 169-282

Thursday, November 3 – Police & the Courts

- Benjamin Hett, *Crossing Hitler: The Man Who Put the Nazis on the Witness Stand* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), 65-151.

Week 13 – Political Clashes

Tuesday, November 8 – NO CLASS – Election Day

Thursday, November 10 – Political Fissures

- Lutes, 181-209
- Dirk Schumann, “Political Violence, Contested Public Space, and Reasserted Masculinity in Weimar Germany,” in *Weimar Republics/Weimar Subjects*, ed. Kathleen Canning, Kerstin Barndt, and Kristin McGuire, 236-253 (New York: Berghahn Books, 2010).
- **** grad students also read:** Joachim C. Häberlen, “Social Democrats and Communists in Weimar Germany: A Divided Working-Class Movement,” in *The Oxford Handbook of the Weimar Republic*, ed. Nadine Rossol and Benjamin Ziemann, 340-362 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021).

Week 14 – The Ascent of the Nazi Party

Tuesday, November 15 – From 1929-1931

- Lutes, 211-411
- **** grad students also read:** Weitz, “Revolution and Counterrevolution from the Right,” 331-360

Thursday, November 17 – 1932

- Lutes, 414-549

undergraduate students: **FINAL BIOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT due either:**

- **at the beginning of class on Thursday, November 17** (if submitting a **hard copy**)
- **on Canvas by Thursday, November 17 @ 11:59pm** (if submitting a **digital copy**)

graduate students: **REVIEW ESSAY due on Canvas by Thursday, November 17 @ 11:59pm**

Week 15 (& 16) – The Nazis Come to Power

Tuesday, November 22 – January 1933

- Fritzsche, 137-214 (Chapter 3: “January 1933”)

Thursday, November 24 – NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Day

Tuesday, November 29 – May 1933

- Fritzsche, 215-235 (Chapter 4: “May 1933”)
- Peter Fritzsche, “Did Weimar Fail?” (Review Essay), *The Journal of Modern History* 68, no. 3 (1996): 629–56.

THIRD RESPONSE PAPER due on Canvas by Thursday, December 1 @ 11:59pm