

HIS 411B-01: Seminar in Historical Research & Writing “Germany in the Modern World”

Spring 2022, Seminar, 3 credit hours
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30-1:45pm, MHRA 2208

Professor Information

Dr. Teresa Walch
Office: MHRA 2117
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00pm (and by appointment)
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Course Description

Why do so many people around the world celebrate Oktoberfest? How did the “love bug” (the German-manufactured Volkswagen Beetle) become an iconic symbol in 1960s American counterculture? Why does the United States still have military bases in Germany? This course will examine German history in the twentieth century from a global and transnational perspective. We will examine Germany’s global linkages in several historical eras during the past century: the German Empire, Weimar Germany, Nazi Germany, divided Germany in the Cold War, and reunified Germany. Throughout all these eras, Germany maintained economic, political, cultural, and ideological networks with the wider world. This course is designed to introduce students to global and transnational history through the lens of German history. Students will design and write a research paper of their own on a related topic.

Student Learning Outcomes

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. read primary sources critically and effectively by contextualizing their historical context.
2. identify and evaluate historiographical debates in modern German history in the world and critique scholarly arguments in secondary sources.

3. conduct original research to develop a plausible argument of their own in a research paper based on evidence from secondary and primary sources.
4. present research findings effectively in written and oral assignments.

Required Books

1. William Kelleher Storey, *Writing History: A Guide for Students*, 6th ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021). ISBN: 9780190078416.
 - also available as a hard copy on reserve at Jackson Library

You may purchase the required book via the [UNCG bookstore](#), online, or elsewhere. Please purchase the edition specified by the ISBN number listed above. All other required readings and materials will be available on Canvas.

Assignments & Grading

Participation (SLOs 1, 2 & 3) – This is the capstone course of your History major here at UNCG. Your regular attendance and active participation is vital to your grade, your success in this course, and your enjoyment thereof. As advanced undergraduate students, it is your task to come to class prepared. Your careful reading of the assigned texts and attention to the assigned lectures and videos will allow us to dig deeper into the course themes.

Each student is allowed up to two excused absences from the course. However, Covid-19 unfortunately continues to affect our lives and may necessitate additional absences if you get sick. If you test positive for Covid-19, there will be an option to attend the class virtually (if you're feeling well enough) while you complete your quarantine, as mandated by UNCG. Any additional missed classes (or unexcused absences) can negatively affect your grade. The most important thing is to *stay in regular contact with me* about any absences so I can help you succeed in this course in this tumultuous time.

Citation Practice (SLO 4) – The purpose of this assignment is to help you apply some of the tools you have acquired after we have discussed how to analyze primary sources. Working together in pairs, you will analyze several primary sources on your own that have differing perspectives on the same event.

Research Paper (SLO 1, 2, 3 & 4) – The main assignment for this course is to identify and conduct an original research project on a topic related to the course theme of "Germany in the World." This research paper is scaffolded into multiple assignments that you will complete throughout the semester. Please refer to the separate handout for details on the research paper and its various components.

Your grade for HIS 411B will be assessed as such:

- Participation – 15%
- Citation Practice – 5%
- Research Paper – 80% – broken down as follows:
 - Secondary Source Identification – 5%
 - Annotated Bibliography + Research Question – 10%
 - Primary Source Analysis – 5%
 - Research Proposal – 10%
 - Rough Draft & Peer Review – 10%
 - Presentation – 10%
 - Final Paper – 30%

Comment regarding due dates: The assignments in this class all build upon one another in pursuit of the final research paper. The course is designed this way so that you complete the research paper step-by-step and are not overwhelmed by it at the end of the semester. For this reason, it is critical that you meet the deadlines for each of these assignments. If you think you will have any difficulty meeting a specific deadline, please contact me as soon as possible.

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

Assignment Submission and Format

You will submit all assignments in this course electronically on Canvas, either as a text entry, as a Word document, or other (as indicated on the specific assignment). No assignments will be accepted either by email or on paper. Your papers and final exam will be submitted via Turnitin.

Communication

I will be in contact with you regularly throughout 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 on Canvas or an *email* to your UNCG email account. Please check both your Canvas inbox and your UNCG email daily.

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

- 1. Office Hours** – This semester, I will be offering office hours every Wednesday from 1:00-3:00pm (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're able, 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 hours. I will respond to emails received Friday-Sunday the following Monday. If you email me about a matter that is already addressed in the syllabus or on Canvas, I will refer you to those places to find the answer. And if your question is relevant for the whole class, I will ask you to post it on the General Discussion Board.

Technical Support

I am unable to 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 spring 2022, all students, faculty, and staff are required to uphold UNCG's culture of care by actively engaging in behaviors that limit the spread of COVID-19. These actions include, but are not limited to:

- [Following face-covering guidelines](#)
- 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

Instructors will have seating charts for their classes. These are important for facilitating contact tracing should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19. Students must sit in their assigned seats at every class meeting. Students may move their chairs in class to facilitate group work, as long as instructors keep seating chart records. Students should not eat or drink during class time.

A limited number of disposable masks will be available in classrooms for students who have forgotten theirs. Face coverings are also available for purchase in the UNCG Campus Bookstore. Students who do not follow masking requirements will be asked to put on a face covering or leave the classroom to retrieve one and only return when they follow the basic standards of safety and care for the UNCG community. Once students have a face covering, they are permitted to re-enter a class already in progress. Repeated issues may result in conduct action. The course policies regarding attendance and academics remain in effect for partial or full absence from class due to lack of adherence with face covering and other requirements.

For instances where the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) has granted accommodations regarding wearing face coverings, students should contact their instructors to develop appropriate alternatives to class participation and/or activities as needed. Instructors or the student may also contact OARS (336.334.5440) who, in consultation with Student Health services, will review requests for accommodations.

Spring 2022 Course Delivery: This course is scheduled to be taught in-person and all participants are required to wear face coverings in the class at all times. Students are strongly encouraged to wear three-layer surgical-style face coverings in class which are available at [designated on-campus locations](#). No

food or drink (including water) is allowed in the class. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may require changes to our meeting plan. If I need to change the format of the course temporarily due to outbreaks of illness, I will announce this via email and the course Canvas page.

Students who test positive: Students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to [self-report](#) and isolate per [university guidelines](#).

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](tel: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. Your papers and final exam will be submitted via Turnitin. If you have any questions, I encourage you to visit UNCG's webpages on [plagiarism](#) and [academic integrity](#). Please also carefully read UNCG Writing Center's handout on "[Avoiding Plagiarism](#)."

What is Plagiarism?

Representing the words, thoughts, or ideas of another, as one's own in any academic exercise. Plagiarism may occur on any paper, report, or other work submitted to fulfill course requirements. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:

- submitting work done by another, whether a commercial or non-commercial enterprise, including the Internet, as one's own work
- failure to properly cite references and/or sources
- submitting, as one's own, work done by or copied from another including work done by a fellow student, work done by a previous student, or work done by anyone other than the student responsible for the assignment
- Plagiarism also occurs in a group project if one or more members of the group does none of the group's work and participates in none of the group's activities, but attempts to take credit for the work of the group.

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 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 – Exploring: Introduction to Topic and Research Methods

Week 1 – Introduction to Germany in the Modern World: Terms & Methodologies

Tuesday, January 11 – Welcome & Introduction to Germany in the Modern World

Thursday, January 13 – Introduction to Global & Transnational Histories

- Sebastian Conrad, *What is Global History?* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016), 37-61. (chapter 3)
- Jürgen Osterhammel, “Global History in a National Context: The Case of Germany,” *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaften* 20, no. 2 (2009): 40-58.

Week 2 – Imperial & Weimar Germany

Tuesday, January 18 – Empire

- Birthe Kundrus, “German Colonialism: Some Reflections on Reassessments, Specificities, and Constellations,” in *German Colonialism: Race, the Holocaust, and Postwar Germany*, 29-47
- primary sources (on Canvas)

Thursday, January 20 – Politics

- Kasper Braskén, “Communist Antifascism and Transnational Fascism: Comparisons, Transfers, Entanglements,” in *Fascism without Borders*, 288-311
- primary sources (on Canvas)

Week 3 – Nazi Germany

Tuesday, January 25 – Race

- S. Jonathan Wiesen, “American Lynching in the Nazi Imagination: Race and Extra-Legal Violence in 1930s Germany” *German History* 36, no. 1 (2018): 38-59.
- primary sources (on Canvas)

Thursday, January 27 – Library Workshop

***** meet in Library Lab 177A**

CITATION PRACTICE ASSIGNMENT due on Canvas by Wednesday, January 26 @ 11:59pm

Week 4 – Postwar Germany

Tuesday, February 1 – Occupation

- Adam R. Seipp, “‘This Land Remains German’: Requisitioning, Society, and the US Army, 1945-1956,” *Central European History* 52, no. 3 (2019): 476-495.
- primary sources (on Canvas)

Thursday, February 3 – Refugees & Migrants

- Lauren Stokes, “The Permanent Refugee Crisis in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1949–,” *Central European History* 52, no. 1 (2019): 19-44.
- primary sources (on Canvas)

SECONDARY SOURCE IDENTIFICATION due on Canvas by Wednesday, February 2 @ 11:59pm

Week 5 – Cold War Germany

Tuesday, February 8 – Commodities

- Bernhard Rieger, “From People’s Car to New Beetle: The Transatlantic Journeys of the Volkswagen Beetle,” *The Journal of American History* 97, no. 1 (2010): 91-115.
- primary sources (on Canvas)

Thursday, February 10 – Networks

- Quinn Slobodian, *Foreign Front: Third World Politics in Sixties West Germany*, 17-77 (chapters 1 & 2)
- primary sources (on Canvas)

UNIT 2 – Crafting: Preparing a Research Project

Week 6

Tuesday, February 15 – Asking Good Questions

Thursday, February 17 – Writing the Research Proposal

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY + RESEARCH QUESTION due on Canvas by Wednesday, February 16 @ 11:59pm

Week 7

Tuesday, February 22 – Individual Meetings

Thursday, February 24 – Individual Meetings

REQUIREMENT – Meet with me during Week 7 to discuss topic & annotated bibliography

Week 8

Tuesday, March 1 – Writing the Research Proposal

Thursday, March 3 – No Class Meeting

RESEARCH PROPOSAL due on Canvas by Wednesday, March 2 @ 11:59pm

UNCG Spring Break (March 5-13)

Week 9

Tuesday, March 15 – Individual Meetings

Thursday, March 17 – Individual Meetings

REQUIREMENT – Meet with me during Week 9 to discuss research proposal

Week 10

Tuesday, March 22 – Writing a Rough Draft

Thursday, March 24 – No Class Meeting

UNIT 3 – Writing: Drafting & Polishing the Final Paper

Week 11

Tuesday, March 29 – No Class Meeting

Thursday, March 31 – No Class Meeting

ROUGH DRAFT due on Canvas by Wednesday, March 30 @ 11:59pm

Week 12

Tuesday, April 5 – No Class Meeting

Thursday, April 7 – Rough Draft Peer Review

PEER REVIEW of Rough Drafts due on Canvas by Wednesday, April 6 @ 11:59pm

Week 13

Tuesday, April 12 – No Class Meeting

Thursday, April 14 – No Class Meeting

Week 14

Tuesday, April 19 – Presentations

Thursday, April 21 – Presentations

Week 15

Tuesday, April 25 – Concluding Questions

FINAL DRAFT due on Canvas by Wednesday, April 26 @ 11:59pm