

HIS 709-02: Introductory Research Seminar: Germany in the Modern World

Spring 2022

Seminar, 3 credit hours

Time: Thursdays, 2:00-4:50pm

Location: MHRA 3208

Professor Information

Dr. Teresa Walch

Email: tmwalch@uncg.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 (MHRA 2117), and by appointment



Course Description

Within a span of less than fifty years in the early 20th century, Germany perpetrated two genocides and largely instigated two world wars. This incredibly violent history prompted some historians to suggest that Germany followed a “special path” (*Sonderweg*) into modernity. But more recent studies have challenged this interpretation, instead underscoring Germany’s similarities with other Western nations and illuminating a wealth of global linkages between Germany and the wider world. This course will introduce students to methodologies of researching and writing global and transnational histories through the lens of German history. We will examine Germany’s transnational connections—economic, political, cultural, and ideological—in several historical eras during the past century. This approach to history will help students consider when best to center, or decenter, the “nation-state” as an analytic category in historical research. After an introduction to the methodologies and course themes, students will independently design and write an original research paper based on primary sources.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

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

1. critique scholarly arguments in secondary sources.
2. identify and evaluate historiographical debates in modern German history in the world.
3. locate and critique primary sources on a topic related to the course theme.
4. develop an original argument in a research paper based on secondary and primary sources.
5. present research findings effectively in written and oral assignments.

Required Books

1. Kate L. Turabian, *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*, 9th ed. (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2018). ISBN: 9780226430577.
 - also available as a hard copy on reserve at Jackson Library
2. Mary Fulbrook, *A Concise History of Germany*, 3rd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019). ISBN: 9781108407083.
 - also available as a hard copy on reserve at Jackson Library

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. All other required readings and materials will be available on Canvas.

Assignments & Grading

Participation (SLOs 1, 2, 3 & 5) – This is a small, research-intensive seminar. Attendance and active participation are crucial, especially during the first five weeks of regular meetings, but also during the successive research-centered meetings and the peer review process for rough drafts.

Primary Source Database Presentation (SLOs 3 & 4) – For this assignment, you will identify and present a primary source database relevant for topics in “Germany in the World.” Your presentation should be approximately 5 minutes and should cover which documents are available in that database and show/describe a particular document you found of interest within it.

Research Paper (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5) – 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 709 will be assessed as such:

- Participation – 15%
- Primary Source Database Presentation – 5%
- Research Paper – 80%
 - Preliminary Bibliography & Research Question (5%)
 - Literature Review (10%)
 - Primary Source Analysis (10%)
 - Research Proposal (10%)
 - Outline (5%)
 - Rough Draft & Peer Review (10%)
 - Final Paper (30%)

Assignment Submission and Format

You will submit all assignments in this course electronically on Canvas as Word documents. No assignments will be accepted by paper or by email.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance in the seminar is mandatory. Please arrive to class on time each week. Consistent tardiness will lower your grade.

Because Covid-19 unfortunately continues to affect our lives, you may need to isolate if you acquire symptoms or test positive. In either of these cases, you may 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. Please *stay in regular contact with me* about any absences so I can help you succeed in this course in this tumultuous time.

Communication

I will be in contact with you regularly throughout the semester. I will primarily update you via emails sent to your UNCG email address, so please regularly check your email accounts. At any time throughout the semester, you may send me an email with questions or request to schedule an appointment. 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. In general, if you have urgent questions, I encourage you to post your questions to the "General Discussion Board" on Canvas to see if one of your classmates can answer your question.

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](#)).

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

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. Each student is required to sign UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy on all major work submitted for the course. If you have any questions, I encourage you to visit UNCG's webpages on [plagiarism](#) and [academic integrity](#).

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 such scenario. For more information on UNCG's Religious Obligations policy, visit: [UNCG's Religious Obligations Policy](#).

Note on Syllabus Materials & Updates

If the need arises, there may be adjustments to the syllabus and calendar. In such cases, I will notify you in class or via email with an updated syllabus and calendar within a reasonable timeframe to allow you to adjust as needed.

UNIT 1 – Exploring the Topic and Methodologies

Week 1 (January 13) – Methods: Introduction to German History from a Global Perspective

Sebastian Conrad, *What is Global History?* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016), 1-89. (chapters 1-4)

Jürgen Osterhammel, "Global History in a National Context: The Case of Germany," *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaften* 20, no. 2 (2009): 40-58.

Week 2 (January 20) – *Sonderweg?* Challenging Standard Narratives of German History

Mary Fulbrook, *A Concise History of Germany* (entire book)

Jürgen Kocka, "Looking Back on the Sonderweg," *Central European History* 51, no. 1 (2018): 137-142.

H. Glenn Penny, "Reflections: Germany Polycentrism and the Writing of History," *German History* 30, no. 2 (2012): 265-282.

preparatory reading for Primary Source Database Presentation:

- Kate L. Turabian, *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*, 9th ed. (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2018), 25-37. (henceforth: "Turabian")

Week 3 (January 27) – Imperial Germany

PRIMARY SOURCE DATABASE PRESENTATION – present in class on Jan. 27

Sebastian Conrad, *What is Global History?* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016), 115-140. (chapter 6)

Sebastian Conrad, "Rethinking German Colonialism in a Global Age," *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 41, no. 4 (2013): 543-566.

Andrew Zimmerman, "A German Alabama in Africa: The Tuskegee Expedition to German Togo and the Transnational Origins of West African Cotton Growers," *American Historical Review* 110, no. 5 (2005): 1362-1398.

preparatory reading for Preliminary Bibliography & Research Question:

- Turabian, 3-24, 139-141 & 149-168
- Patrick Rael, “How to Ask Good Questions” (online)
- Wayne C. Booth et al., “From Topics to Questions,” in *the Craft of Research*, 4th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press: 2016), 33-46.

Week 4 (February 3) – Weimar and Nazi Germany

PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY & RESEARCH QUESTION due on Canvas by Wednesday, Feb. 2 @ 8:00pm

Kasper Braskén, “Communist Antifascism and Transnational Fascism: Comparisons, Transfers, Entanglements,” in *Fascism without Borders: Transnational Connections and Cooperation between Movements and Regimes in Europe from 1918 to 1945*, ed. Arnd Bauerkämper and Grzegorz Rossoliński-Liebe (New York: Berghahn, 2019), 288-311. (chapter 11)

Heidi J. S. Tworek, “Communicable Disease: Information, Health, and Globalization in the Interwar Period,” *American Historical Review* 124, no. 3 (2019): 813-842.

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.

Dan Stone, “Concentration Camps: A Global History,” in idem., *Fascism, Nazism and the Holocaust: Challenging Histories* (London: Routledge, 2020), 178-194.

Week 5 (February 10) – Postwar Germany

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

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.

Astrid M. Eckert, “Salts, Sewage, and Sulfurous Air: Transboundary Pollution in the Borderlands,” in *West Germany and the Iron Curtain: Environment, Economy, and Culture in the Borderlands* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019), 125-158. (chapter 4)

Daniel Levy and Natan Sznajder, “Cosmopolitan Memory,” in *The Holocaust and Memory In the Global Age*, trans. Assenka Oksiloff (Philadelphia: Temple University Press), 23-38. (chapter 2)

preparatory reading for Literature Review:

- Turabian, 38-50, 358-369
- Anthony Brundage, *Going to the Sources: A Guide to Historical Research and Writing*, 6th ed. (Hoboken: Wiley Blackwell, 2018), 89-109.

UNIT 2 – Crafting a Research Project

Week 6 (February 17) – Analyzing Primary Sources

LITERATURE REVIEW due on Canvas by Wednesday, Feb. 16 @ 8:00pm

preparatory reading for Primary Source Analysis:

- William Kelleher Storey, *Writing History: A Guide for Students*, 6th ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 42-81. (e-reserve)
- Patrick Rael, “How to Read a Primary Source” (online)
- Collection of primary sources (on Canvas)

Week 7 (February 24) – Crafting a Research Proposal

PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS due on Canvas by Wednesday, Feb. 23 @ 8:00pm

preparatory reading for Research Proposal:

- see materials on Canvas

Week 8 (March 3) – No Class Meeting

RESEARCH PROPOSAL due on Canvas by FRIDAY, March 4 @ 8:00pm

UNCG Spring Break (March 5-13)

Week 9 (March 17) – Writing the First Draft

preparatory reading for Outline & Rough Draft:

- Turabian, 51-85
- Patrick Rael, “The Scholarly Voice: Hints on Crafting Historical Prose” (online)

Week 10 (March 24) – No Class Meeting – work on rough draft

OUTLINE due on Canvas by Wednesday, March 23 @ 8:00pm

UNIT 3 – Writing & Polishing the Final Paper

Week 11 (March 31) – No Class Meeting – work on rough draft

Week 12 (April 7) – Rough Draft Peer Review

ROUGH DRAFT due on Canvas by TUESDAY, April 5 @ 8:00pm

preparatory reading for Final Draft:

- Turabian, 102-126

Week 13 (April 14) – No Class Meeting – work on final draft

Week 14 (April 21) – Final Questions

***** FINAL PAPER due on Canvas by Wednesday, April 27 @ 8:00pm**