

Course Title	: HISTORY OF MODERN GERMANY
Course Code	: HST2363
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional approach
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	: Elective
Prerequisite(s)	: None
Co-requisite(s)	: None
Exclusion(s)	: None
Exemption Requirement(s)	: None

Brief Course Description

This course will survey the course of German history since unification. In particular, it will discuss unification, industrialization, the two World Wars, the Cold War, re-unification, and Germany's role in the European Union. It will discuss political, social, and cultural developments, including the experience of totalitarianism and the emergence of democracy; the post-1945 critical engagement with the Holocaust; and the development of consumer society.

Aims

To assist students to understand the course of modern German history, both as a means of understanding contemporary Germany in its historical context and as a means of understanding selected aspects of modernity in a focused national context.

Learning Outcomes

Through taking this course, students should

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic chronology and themes of German history since the nineteenth century;
2. Demonstrate the ability to understand and analyze difficult primary sources (including fiction) within their historical context;
3. Demonstrate the ability to synthesize information from various sources in order to construct, and evaluate an historical argument;
4. Demonstrate the ability to discuss primary and secondary texts orally;
5. Demonstrate the ability to write clear and well-organized essays.

Indicative Content

- I. Before there was “Germany”
 - A. Introduction
 - B. Background, 1648-1815
 - C. 1848 Revolution
- II. The Making of Germany and its challenge to the European order
 - A. Unification
 - B. Bismarck’s Germany
 - C. Fin de Siècle culture
 - D. The Anglo-German Antagonism, Empire, and Foreign Policy
- III. Germany’s “Place in the Sun”, Defeat and its Consequences
 - A. World War I
 - B. Total Defeat: The early Weimar Republic
 - C. The 1920s
 - D. The collapse of Weimar and the rise of Hitler
- IV. Nazi Germany
 - A. The nature of Nazi Germany
 - B. World War II
 - C. The Sonderweg thesis
 - D. The Holocaust
- V. Germany: Division and renewal
 - A. Overview of 20th-century Austria
 - B. The Cold War and the Creation of 2 Germanies
 - C. Overview of the Cold War
 - D. The German economic “miracle”
 - E. Adenauer’s West Germany
 - F. Society in East Germany
- VI. Germany Reunification and European leadership
 - A. Helmut Kohl’s West Germany
 - B. The collapse of the Cold War
 - C. Germany in the 1990s
 - D. Into the 21st century

Teaching Method

This course will employ a combination of lectures and seminar discussions.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- a) Two quizzes testing understanding of the basic chronology and themes of German history;
- b) Essay assignments that require analyzing and synthesizing primary or secondary texts (or both);
- c) Regular class discussions that focus on primary and secondary sources within the context of the basic chronology and themes of modern German history.

LO	Essays	Quizzes	Class Participation
1		X	X
2	X		X
3	X		X
4			
5	X		

Assessment

The course grade will be based on 100% continuous assessment, subdivided as follows:

Three essays @ 16%	48%
Two quizzes @ 16%	32%
Class Participation	20%

Required/ Essential Readings

Hans Falada, *Little Man, What Now*, Melville (2009), ISBN 9781933633640

Heinrich Böll, *The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum*, Penguin Classics (1994), ISBN 0140187286

Various shorter readings (primary and secondary works)

Recommended/ Supplementary Readings

Berghahn, V.R., *Modern Germany: Society, Economy and Politics in the Twentieth Century*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987).

Blackbourn, David, *History of Germany, 1780-1918: The Long Nineteenth Century*, 2nd ed. (London: Wiley, 2008).

Blackbourn, David and Geoff Eley, *The Peculiarities of German History: Bourgeois Politics and Society in Nineteenth-Century Germany* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984).

Blanning, T.C.W., *The French Revolution in Germany* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1983).

- Browning, Christopher, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*, New ed. (London: Penguin, 2001).
- Browning, Christopher, *The Origins of the Final Solution: The Evolution of Nazi Jewish Policy, September 1939-March 1942* (Winnipeg: Bison Books, 2007).
- Burleigh, Michael, *The Racial State: Germany 1933-1945* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993).
- Carr, William and Mark Allinson, *A History of Germany, 1815-2002*, 5th ed. (London: Hodder Arnold, 2006).
- Chickering, Roger, *Imperial Germany and the Great War, 1914-1918*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004)
- Craig, Gordon A., *Germany, 1866-1945* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1978).
- Fritzsche, Peter, *Germans into Nazis* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999).
- Fulbrook, Mary, *A Concise History of Germany* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990)
- Fulbrook, Mary, *Germany 1918-2000: The Divided Nation* (London: Wiley, 2002)
- Fulbrook, Mary, *The People's State: East German Society from Hitler to Honecker* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2006).
- Gay, Peter, *Weimar Culture: The Outsider as Insider* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2001).
- Goldhagen, Daniel Jonah, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust* (New York: Vintage, 1997).
- Haffner, Sebastian, *The Rise and Fall of Prussia* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1980).
- Hamerow, Theodore S., *Restoration, Revolution, Reaction* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1966).
- Hamerow, Theodore S., *The Social Foundations of German Unification, 1858-71* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969).
- Heneghan, Tom, *Unchained Eagle: Germany after the Wall* (London: Pearson Education, 2000).
- Kershaw, Ian, *The Nazi Dictatorship* (London: Edward Arnold, 1985).
- Kershaw, Ian, *Popular Opinion and Political Dissent in the Third Reich* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1983).
- Koonz, Claudia, *The Nazi Conscience* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005).
- Maier, Charles S., *The Unmasterable Past: History, Holocaust, and German National Identity* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1988).
- Maier, Charles S., *Dissolution: The Crisis of Communism and the End of East Germany* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999).
- Peukert, Detlev, *Inside Nazi Germany: Conformity, Opposition and Racism in Everyday Life*

- (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1987).
- Peukert, Detlev, *The Weimar Republic* (London: Hill and Wang, 1993).
- Patton, David, *Cold War Politics in Postwar Germany* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 1999).
- Schissler, Hannah, *The Miracle Years: A Cultural History of West Germany, 1949-1968* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001).
- Sheehan, James, *German Liberalism in the Nineteenth Century* (London: Methuen, 1982).
- Smith, Helmut Walser, *The Butcher's Tale: Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town* (New York: Norton, 2002).
- Smith, Helmut Walser, *German Nationalism and Religious Conflict: Culture, Ideology, Politics, 1870-1914* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995).
- Stephenson, Jill, *Women in Nazi Germany* (London: Longman, 2001).
- Stern, Fritz, *Einstein's German World* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999).
- Stern, Fritz, *The Politics of Cultural Dispair: A Study in the Rise of Germanic Ideology* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1974).
- Turner, Henry A, *German Big Business and the Rise of Hitler* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985).
- Turner, Henry A., *Hitler's Thirty Days to Power, January 1933* (Reading, MA: Addison Wesley, 1996).
- Wehler, Hans-Ulrich, *The German Empire, 1871-1918*, 2nd ed. (London: Berg, 1997).

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.