

History of Modern Germany
Monday/ Wednesday 6.00-6.50 pm
AS 100.233 – Winter 2018
Victoria Harms

There is more to Germany than beer, BMWs, and Bayern Munich. In this class, we will explore the history of Germany since 1860. We will interrogate the relationship between politics, culture, economics and society to understand Germany's position within Europe and the world throughout the last 160 years. The class focuses on the following periods: the German Empire and its collapse in World War I, the interwar period and the short-lived Weimar Republic, National Socialism and the Third Reich, World War II and the Holocaust, the two Germanies (East and West) during the Cold War, the Berlin Republic since 1989 and its role in shaping the affairs of the European Union today. We will not take a parochial national approach but investigate German history in relation to its European neighbors and its friends and foes around the world.

Apart from reading secondary literature, students are expected to engage in class discussions and work with primary sources (written and visual), movies, and short documentary films and conduct their own online research.

General Reading:

Mary Fulbrook. *A History of Germany 1918-2014. The Divided Nation*. Fourth edition. Wiley Blackwell, 2015. (Book store and reserve shelf)

Learning objectives:

- ✓ Assessing secondary literature
- ✓ Analyzing and interpreting primary sources
- ✓ Critical use of feature and documentary films
- ✓ Critical inquiries into the representation of history in museums, memorials, cityscapes
- ✓ Approaches to comparative and entangled histories
- ✓ Informed online research

Schedule

Aug 30 (instead of Sept 3): Introduction

Sept 5: Out of Many One

- [Introduction](#) by Jonathan Sperber to “From Vormärz to Prussian Dominance (1815-1866),” in *German History in Documents and Images* (GHDI).
- [Carlsbad Decrees](#): Confederal Press Law (September 20, 1819) in GHDI.
- The Democrats: Gustav von Struve: [Motion in the German Pre-Parliament](#) (March 31, 1848) in GHDI.
- The Liberals: [Founding Program of the German Progressive Party](#) (June 9, 1861) in GHDI.

Sept 10: The Making of the German Empire

- William W. Hagen, “Freedom and Voice, ‘Iron and Blood’ (Eisen und Blut). Liberalism and Nationalism, 1815-1914,” in *German History in Modern Times. Four Lives of the Nation*, pp. 129-152. Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- “[The Nightmare of Coalitions](#)”: Bismarck on the Other Great Powers (1879/1898) in GHDI.
- [Secret Reinsurance Treaty](#) with Russia (June 18, 1887) in GHDI.

Sept 12: World War I

- William W. Hagen, “*Krieg*: The Prussian-German Monarchy’s Sudden Death in War and Revolution, 1914-1920,” in *German History in Modern Times. Four Lives of the Nation*, 227-240. Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Check the official French website for the [centenary](#) of the end of World War I. (Instructions to follow)

Sept 17: Weimar Republic

- Mary Fulbrook, “The Weimar Republic: Origins and Orientations,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 15-39.
- *Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung*: “[Enough is Enough!](#) Against the Masculinization of Women” (March 25, 1925) in GHDI.

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- Elsbeth Zander, “Tasks Facing the German Woman,” (January 23, 1926).
- Elsa Herrmann, “This is the New Woman,” (1929).

Sept 19: Discussion Session

Sept 24: The Rise of Fascism in Germany

- Mary Fulbrook, “The Collapse of Democracy and the Rise of Hitler,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 40-56.
- Adolf Hitler, “[Appeal to the German People](#)” (February 1, 1933) in GHDI.
- [Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service](#) (April 7, 1933) in GHDI.

Sept 26: Independent study (no class)

- *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930), directed by Lewis Milestone, based on the novel by Erich Maria Remarque, 133 mins. (**watch at home**)

Oct 1: The Third Reich

- Mary Fulbrook, “A ‘National Community’? State, Economy and Society, 1933-1939,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 57-79.
- Leni Riefenstahl, *Olympia*, 1936. (**watch at home**)

Oct 3: World War II

- Mary Fulbrook, “War, Extermination and Defeat,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 80-110.
- Adolf Hitler, “Speech before the Reichstag,” (September 1, 1939).
- Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of the National Character of the German People, “On the Re-Germanization of Lost German Blood,” (December 1940).
- [Martin Bormann’s Minutes](#) of a Meeting at Hitler’s Headquarters (July 16, 1941) in GHDI.

Oct 8: The Holocaust (Columbus Day)

- William W. Hagen, “*Shoah*. Banned from Nation and Earth: German Jews after 1914, National Socialist ‘Jewish Policy,’ and the Holocaust,” in *German History in Modern Times. Four Lives of the Nation*, 319-352. Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Victor Klemperer (1947), “Reflections on the Meanings of the Yellow Star for Jews in Germany in 1941,” 4 pages.
- Primo Levi. *Survival in Auschwitz* (excerpts, “Initiation” and “Ka-Be,” pp. 39-55, “The Drowned and the Saved,” pp.87-100)

Oct 10: Post-War (Dis-) Order

- Mary Fulbrook, “Occupation and Division, 1945-1949,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 113-141.
- Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin*. (excerpts)

Oct 15: Two Germanies

- Mary Fulbrook, “Crystallization and Consolidation, 1949-1961,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 142-163.
- Neues Deutschland: “[Bill Haley and NATO](#),” (October 31, 1958) in GHDI.
- Emerich Budweis, “[Rhapsody in Blue Jeans](#),” *Twen* 1 (1959), p. 42, in GHDI.
- [Report](#) by the SED Factory Party Organization at the VEB Bergmann-Borsig (December 1, 1955), in GHDI.

Oct 17: The Making of the Bundesrepublik

- Mary Fulbrook, “Transformation and the ‘Established Phase’, 1961-1988,” in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 164-182.
- Rolf Palm, “[A Twen Stroll through Berlin](#)”, *Twen* (June 25, 1960), pp. 64-65, in GHDI.
- DW Documentary: “[The 50th Anniversary of the Turkish-German Guest Worker Treaty](#),” September 23, 2013, 6 mins. (**watch in class**)

Oct 22: 1968

- Klimke, Martin. "West Germany." In *1968 in Europe. A History of Protest and Activism, 1956-1977*, edited by Martin Klimke and Joachim Scharloth, 97-110. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2008.
- Von der Goltz, Anna. "Attraction and Aversion in Germany's '1968': Encountering the Western Revolt in East Berlin." *Journal of Contemporary History* 50, no. 3 (2015): 536-559.

Oct 29: Willy Brandt's Eastern Policies

- Hanhimäki, Jussi M. "Détente in Europe, 1962–1975 Volume 2: Crises and Détente," chap. 10 in *The Cambridge History of the Cold War*, edited by Odd Arne Westad and Melvyn P. Leffler, 198-218: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Egon Bahr, "[Change through Rapprochement](#)," speech delivered on July 15, 1963, at the Evangelical Academy in Tutzing, in GHDI.
- Willy Brandt, [[Two States, One Nation](#) – excerpt from] "Policy Statement from October 28, 1969," 6. Deutscher Bundestag, in GHDI.

Oct 31: Independent study (Halloween)

- *The Lives of Others* (2006), directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (**watch at home**)

Nov 5: The GDR – Consolidated Socialism?

- Mary Fulbrook, "Dissent and Opposition," in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 217-236.
- Traude Ratsch, [Interview with Roland Jahn](#): "Personally, I am not a Pacifist," *tageszeitung* (July 21, 1983) in GHDI.
- Robert J. McCartney, "[East German Police, Rock Fans Clash](#) in Berlin for the Third Straight Night," *International Herald Tribune* (June 10, 1987) in GHDI.

Nov 7: Discussion Session**Nov 12: Neoconservative Revolution in the 1980s (Veterans Day)**

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- Moeller, Robert G. "War Stories: The Search for a Usable Past in the Federal Republic of Germany." *The American Historical Review* 101, no. 4 (October 1996): 1008-1048.
- Richard von Weizsäcker, [speech in the Bundestag](#) on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II, May 8, 1985.
- Chancellor Kohl Justifies the [Creation of a German Historical Museum](#) (October 29, 1987) orig. Helmut Kohl, "Berlin Remains the Focal Point of the German Question," *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, October 29, 1987, in GHDI.

Nov 14: 1989: Germany Unites

- DW Documentary: [German Reunification - a Short History](#), January 13, 2017, 43 mins. (**watch at home**)
- Timothy Garton Ash, "Berlin: Wall's End," in *The Magic Lantern*. New York: Vintage, 1999 (orig. 1990), pp. 61-77.

**** November 16 at 11.59 pm: Deadline Primary Source Analysis**

Nov 19 & 21: Thanksgiving Break

Nov 26: The Berlin Republic

- Mary Fulbrook, "The Berlin Republic," in *A History of Germany 1918-2014*, pp. 283-300.
- DW Documentary: "[Twenty Years after the German Capital Moved](#) from Bonn to Berlin," June 17, 2011, 6 mins. (**watch at home**)
- DW Documentary: "[Berlin: Traces of the Former Wall](#)," November 23, 2013, 6 mins. (**watch in class**)

Nov 28: German Memory

- Knischewski, Gerd, and Ulla Spittler. "Remembering in the Berlin Republic: The Debate About the Central Holocaust Memorial in Berlin." *Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe* 13, no. 1 (2005): 25-42.

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- Check the official website of the [Association](#) of Supporters of the Central Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin. Pay particular attention to “The Memorial” and “The Association.” (Instructions to follow)

Dec 3: Guestworkers, *Ausländer* and EU Enlargement

- DW Documentary: “[Afro.Germany. Being Black and German](#),” March 29, 2017, 42 mins. (**watch at home**)
- DW Documentary: “The Turkish-German Guest Worker Treaty: [Integration Successes and Failures](#),” September 30, 2011, 6 mins. (**watch in class**)

Dec 5: Germany and Europe: New Challenges

- Euronews: “[Germany: Europe’s Growth Engine](#),” September 11, 2013, 12 mins. (**watch at home**)
- DW Documentary: “[The EU and the Refugee Crisis](#),” January 9, 2018, 28 mins. (**watch at home**)

***** December 10 at 11.59 pm: Deadline Essay**

Assignments:

Class Participation:

Make sure to come to class prepared and on time. You are expected to engage with the assigned material as well as in discussions with your fellow students. Common rules of courtesy apply.

Quizzes:

We will write six pop quizzes in the course of the term. The lowest grade will be dropped. The quizzes will contain one or two questions about the assigned reading for that week or feature pictures that from the readings or a previous class and have to be explained. You will be able to complete each quiz in 5-8 minutes.

Primary Source Analysis:

Pick a primary source from the list provided on Blackboard and analyze it. Make sure to properly introduce the source and author. Pay attention to the potential target audience, the author’s intention, possible biases and message. Be very clear about the historical context in which the source has been produced. Carefully differentiate between the per-

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history and the aftermath/ consequence/ the history that came after the source had been created the source.

Write three pages max., double-spaced.

Deadline: November 16, 2018, at 11.59 pm.

Essay:

Pick any one year between 1871 and 2018 and explain its relevance for German history. What does it stand for? What makes it special and/ or representative for German history at large? What do you learn from this one year about modern German history in general?

Compose a convincing, well-structured argument using references to material assigned and discussed in class.

Write three to four pages, double-spaced (plus bibliography and (optional) cover page).

Deadline: December 10, 2018 ,at 11.59 pm.

All Written Assignments:

- Margins 1” all around, 12 pt. font size.
- Submit by email.
- Add page numbers
- Add your name etc. [cover page, header or top of p.1]

Grading:

20% Class Participation

30% Quizzes

20% Primary source analysis

30% Essay

The following statement is provided by JHU:

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. See Ethics Board Web Site (<http://ethics.jhu.edu>) for more information.