

**HIS 376G-HITLER, NAZISM AND WORLD WAR TWO.**  
**Spring, 2012**

Professor David F. Crew

**THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:**

How was an obscure, unemployed Austrian, who never rose above the rank of corporal in the German army, able to become the leader of a mass political movement which overthrew the most democratic political system Germany had ever known? Why did Germany begin the most devastating and brutal war in world history just two decades after having lost the First World War? Why did the Nazi state systematically murder 6 million Jews? How did the implementation of Nazi plans for a "racial empire" affect the lives of millions of Europeans during the Second World War? And what is the legacy of the Third Reich, for Germany today? These are the primary questions addressed by this course.

**PREREQUISITES:**

This course is open only to students who have already been accepted into the Normandy Scholar Program on World War Two

**REQUIRED BOOKS:**

Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

David F. Crew, *Hitler and the Nazis. A History in Documents* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005)[also available on-line as an e-book]

J. Noakes and G. Pridham(editors), *Nazism. A History in Documents and Eyewitness Accounts, 1919-1945* (University of Exeter Press Edition: Volumes 2 &3)

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

We are also going to be working with the images at these two web-sites:

<http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/> and <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/>.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING**

A distinctive feature of this course is the fact that we will be working extensively with original documents, in translation. This will give you a more direct and immediate connection to the past, will allow you to experience, at first hand, the language and ideas of the period. It will also allow you to engage directly in the process of interpretation. Rather than simply ingesting the arguments of historians who write about the Nazi period, you will have the opportunity to analyze the "raw materials" with which historians themselves work. The first and second document essays will ask you to comment on the meaning and significance of several documents(or parts of documents) assigned for the class. You will be given a copy of the document(s) which will be clearly identified for you (i.e. author, date, place). These are, therefore, not identification quizzes; your job is rather to write an essay in which you show why the particular documents are important in terms of the larger history of the period from which they derive and what they tell us about that particular phase in the rise or development of Nazism.

Your general participation in class discussions (i.e. attendance + involvement) counts for 20% of the overall grade. There will be a take-home mid-term document essay (5-6 pages, 20% of the final grade). There is no final exam per se but you will have a second take-home document essay (5-6 pages, 20% of the final grade). You will also be asked to write one short essay on any one of the books by Remarque, or Levi (4-5 pages, 20% of final grade). Finally, you will be asked to write **two** brief (2-3 page) analyses of the visual evidence (photographs, propaganda, election posters, etc.) discussed in class and/or those that are available on the web-sites listed above. Each of these two assignments is worth 10% of the final grade. Due dates for each of the written assignments are listed at the end of this syllabus.

The schedule of classes is as follows:

<u>Class Meetings</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment/Reading</u>
January 17,19	Introduction-Germany, 1871-1918	Lecture
January 25,26	The Legacy of World War I (hereafter:Crew)+ Remarque	Crew, <i>Hitler and the Nazis</i>
January 31,February 2	The Weimar Republic & the Rise of Nazism	Crew
February 7,9	The Rise of Nazism	Crew
February 14,16	The Nazi State,1933-1939 (hereafter N&P)+ Crew	Noakes and Pridham
February 21,23	Anti-Semitism and Racial policy before the War	N&P+Crew
February 28 & March 1	<i>Volksgemeinschaft: A Nazi Social Revolution?</i>	N&P +Crew
March 6, 8	Foreign Policy and the Origins of World War Two	N&P
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<b>March 11-16</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
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March 20,22	The <i>Blitzkrieg</i> ,1939-41	N&P +Crew
March 27,29	Occupation and Resistance	N&P
April 3,5	Racial Policy during the War	N&P
April 10,12	The Holocaust	Crew+Levi+Film: “Night and Fog”

April 17,19	Total War and Defeat,1941-45	N&P+Crew
April 24,26	Occupied Germany, 1945-1949	Crew
May 1,3	The Burden of the Nazi Past	Crew

**LAST CLASS DAY-May 4**

**DUE DATES:**

February 10-Book Essay on Remarque

March 10-First Visual Essay

March 23- First Document Essay

April 24-Second Visual Essay

April 27-Book Essay on Levi

TBA when final exam schedule published-Second Document Essay

Please note: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities, the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (E-mail: [ssd@uts.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:ssd@uts.cc.utexas.edu))

**SCHOLASTIC HONESTY**

University guidelines with regard to Academic Integrity will be applied in this course.

Standards for Academic Integrity are posted at

[http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint\\_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php)

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

Absences for observance of religious holidays are accommodated as per University policies.