

History 410: Modern Germany, 1870 to the Present
Fall 2008, 1641 Humanities
Lecture: TR2:30-3:45; Discussion: W, 9:55, 11, 2:25, 3:30
Instructor: Dr. Koshar (rjkoshar@wisc.edu); 265-2578
Office Hours: 4101 Humanities, TR4-5, and by appt.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the philosopher and poet Friedrich von Schiller asked "Germany? But where is it? I cannot find any such country." The premise of this course is that such questions were applicable for the entire period we are studying. We will spend the course exploring how the search for meaning, in the broadest sense, has shaped a "German" history marked by supreme accomplishment as well as unprecedented violence, national unity as well as fragmentation. All required reading, will be available for purchase at the Underground Textbook Exchange. Required reading will also be on reserve at Helen C. White.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend all lectures and discussion sections. Attendance and participation in discussion sessions will be graded. Assignments consist of one four-page paper (due Oct. 2) and one six-page paper (Nov. 6). There is also a take-home final exam (Dec. 16; maximum ten pages). Papers and exams will be responses to pre-circulated questions. There may be additional short writing assignments as part of the discussion grade. Grading is determined as follows: Discussion=20%; Four-page paper=20%; Six-page paper=25%; Take-home final=35%

Required Reading

James Retallack, ed., *Imperial Germany 1871-1918*. Oxford University Press.
Herman Hesse, *Demian*. HarperPerennial.
Peter Gay, *Weimar Culture: The Outsider as Insider*. W.W. Norton.
George L. Mosse, ed., *Nazi Culture: A Documentary History*. University of Wisconsin Press.
Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*. HarperCollins.
Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin: Eight Weeks in the Conquered City*. Picador.
Ulrich Plenzdorf, *The New Sufferings of Young W.* Waveland Press.
Gunter Grass, *Two States--One Nation?* Harcourt.

Course Schedule

Preliminaries

Sept. 2	Introduction
Sept. 4	Germany? But where is it? Reading: Retallack, 1-17, 264-75

Imperial Germany

Sept. 9/11	The Contingent Appearance of "Germany," 1850-71 Reading: Retallack, ch. 1-3
Sept. 16/18	National Unification and Anxiety, 1871-90

	Reading: Retallack, ch. 4-6
Sept. 23/25	Powerhouse on the Edge, 1890-1914 Reading: Retallack, ch. 7-9
Sept. 30/Oct. 2	Origins of World War I Reading: Retallack, ch. 10-11
Oct. 2.	First paper due
World War I and the Weimar Republic	
Oct. 7/9	Storm of Steel: World War I Reading: Hesse, entire
Oct. 14/16	Weimar Republic: Hot and Cool Reading: Gay, ch. 1-3
Oct. 21/23	Weimar Republic: Small Successes, Big Failures Reading: Gay, ch. 4-6
Nazism and the Holocaust	
Oct. 28/30	Hitler's Will to Power Reading: Mosse, chs. 1-5
Nov. 4/6	The National Socialist Dictatorship Reading: Mosse, chs. 6-11
Nov. 6	Second paper due
Nov. 11/13	Ordinary Men and Willing Executioners: The Holocaust Reading: Browning, entire
Germany? But what is it?	
Nov. 18/20	Germany Dismembered and Occupied Reading: <i>A Woman in Berlin</i> , 1-133
Nov. 25	Cold War Division and Reconstruction Reading: <i>A Woman in Berlin</i> , 134-261
Nov. 27-30	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec. 2/4	Two Germanys, at least... Reading: Plenzdorf, entire
Dec. 9/11	Reunification? Reading: Grass, entire
Dec. 16	Take-home Final Exam Due, 10-12