

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester II Year 1979

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
572-001	Weimar Germany and the Rise of Hitler	Mr. Koehl

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a seminar designed for undergraduate majors in history. A small number of first year graduate students may be admitted. Applicants should have had at least a semester survey of nineteenth and twentieth century Europe (e.g. History 120) and have received a grade of B or better. Readings and introductory lectures will examine the influence of the war and the defeat on the political, social and cultural fabric of Wilhelmine Germany, the nature of the revolution of 1918-19 and the new "republic without republicans" set up at Weimar in 1919; the impact of the inflation reparations, the Dawes and Young Plans, the recrudescence of cultural creativity and rapid social and economic change in the mid-twenties, the "false start" of the Bavarian Nazis in 1923, the clumsy and imperfect mastery of electoral politics by the NSDAP 1925-29, the problems of proportional representation and coalition cabinets, the split of socialists and communists, the rural crisis and then the world depression, the electoral success of the Nazis, and their internal rifts and purges. The course concludes with the collapse of the Weimar system in 1932. Students take turns leading discussions on the assigned readings and reporting on their research the first 7-8 weeks, followed by the defense of formal 10-15 page papers against a critic and the rest of the class. Papers will be placed on file in the History Department Library one week in advance of the presentation, with copies for the critic and instructor. Students will be expected to revise this version for a final grade. Papers must be thoroughly supported with citations, paragraph by paragraph.

LECTURES There will be 7-8 lectures, one each evening during the first 7-8 weeks. These will deal with fundamental aspects of Weimar Germany and the National Socialist movement before 1933.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Each student will write and defend orally a 10-15 page scholarly paper on a carefully defined and circumscribed topic. Each student will also criticize another student's paper in detail (orally and in writing). All papers must be re-written for final submission at the end of the course. Topics and bibliography must be approved by the instructor.

GRADING SYSTEM

Term paper and defense thereof 50%
Oral participation, attendance and critique 50%
Attendance is of the utmost importance, as is weekly preparation, including reading the papers prepared by fellow students.

REQUIRED READINGS Common Readings: Peter Gay, WEIMAR CULTURE (Harper)
Dietrich Orlow, History of the Nazi Party 1919-1932
H.C. Meyer, editor THE LONG GENERATION (Harper)
Remarque, Eric Maria ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT
(any paper back)

Additional books on reserve in Helen White
Each student will need to read 8-12 books in preparing the term paper. These books may include some of the above works, depending on the topic. Most of the books for the term paper will be library books suggested by the instructor. While reading knowledge of German is unnecessary, students should realize that many topics do not lend themselves to research exclusively in English.