Rationale:
This seminar examines how we study modern German histories in the twenty-first century. In an era of contestation over neo-liberal economics, Europeanization, and “transnationalism,” nationalist discourses have demonstrated not only their limits but also their powers of endurance. Most historians of the German experience no longer rely on a univocal narrative of “German history.” But what combination of narratives might replace older, notionally more coherent “national” story lines? How do multiplicity and complexity also raise questions of narrative strategies? Does German history consist of fragmented and discontinuous pasts? Or are there broader continuities and coherences—cultural, economic, political, social, emotional—that demand historical attention? Where should we (should we) look for the global in the national, and the national in the global? How do such questions interplay with the study of other social identities—class, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, locale, region, generation? And what of history’s relation to the increasingly strident voices of ethno-national memory and anti-European affect?

Required Reading:
In addition to a substantial number of scholarly articles available for download from the course web site (see course schedule), we’ll read and discuss the following books:

Peter Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich* (2008)
Mary Fulbrook, *The People’s State: East German Society from Hitler to Honecker* (2005)

Discussion—Each week students discuss a common set of readings designed to highlight key issues in the literature. For seminar meetings, by noon of the day before we meet, each student should submit (via email to all class participants) three discussion questions pertaining to weekly readings. These questions among others will be the basis of seminar discussions.

Research—Students may complete either a research paper of 18-20 pages, using primary sources, on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor; or a historiographical essay of similar length that builds on our weekly readings and discussion. The latter option may be especially useful for students who plan to prepare a prelim field in modern German history. Students will preview their end-of-semester project in a brief presentation in seminar during the last class meeting.
Course Schedule
Jan 17: Introduction

Jan. 24: Shattered Pasts
Reading: Jarausch and Geyer

Jan. 31: Wilhelmine Germany: Contingency and Possibility
Reading:

Feb. 7: Weimar: Gauging the Weimar Republic
Reading:
Canning, *Weimar Publics/ Weimar Subjects*, 1-28

Feb. 14: Weimar as Postwar History
Reading:


**Feb. 21: New Citizens/ New Subjectivities in Weimar Republic**

Reading:


Andrea Meissner, “Against ‘Sentimental’ Piety: The Search for a New Culture of Emotions in Interwar German Catholicism,” *German History* 32, 3 (2014): 393-413.


**Feb. 28: Weimar Symbols, Rituals, Discourses of Democracy**

Reading:


**Mar. 7: Weimar Publics, Publicity and Mass Culture**
Reading:

**Mar. 14: Nazism**

**Mar. 17-26: Spring Recess**

**Apr. 4: Life and Death in Nazi Germany**
Reading: Fritzsche

**Apr. 11: Postwar Germany (mostly West)**
Reading:

**Apr. 18: German Democratic Republic**
Reading:

**Apr. 25: GDR as People’s State**
Reading: Fulbrook

**May 2: Discussion of Research Papers**


