

History 867 Seminar in European Social and Intellectual History  
Spring Semester 2012  
W 11-1, 5257 Humanities  
Instructor: Koshar (rjkoshar@wisc.edu)  
Office: 4101 Humanities, TR 4-5 & by appt.

History 867 explores the nexus in recent European and German historical scholarship between modern social and intellectual history. Starting with two broader statements on late modern history—Dan Diner’s *Cataclysms*, and Konrad Jarausch and Michael Geyer’s *Shattered Past*—we consider an array of topics, including imperialism and commercialism in Imperial Germany; the intellectual biography of Max Weber; body culture during the Weimar Republic; sexuality and politics in the Third Reich and postwar Germany; German intellectuals and memory of the Nazi past; consumer culture in East German Communism; anti-Nazi resistance; and images of the Holocaust.

The course is structured as a readings and research seminar. In the first eleven weeks of class, we investigate a number of common readings (and one documentary film). Each week two student will be responsible for a short overview of the assigned book and for posing a series of discussion questions. (Discussants are encouraged to draw from the supplementary reading lists; these lists include books placed on reserve and several on-line resources, marked with asterisks.) In the last three class meetings, students will have the chance to make twenty-minute presentations of research projects they have developed in the course of the semester. Research papers are due at 11am on May 9. Discussion and in-class presentation account for half of a student’s final grade, the research paper for the other half.

**Required Reading (all books on reserve)**

Dan Diner, *Cataclysms: A History of the Twentieth Century from Europe’s Edge* (Wisconsin)  
Konrad Jarausch and Michael Geyer, *Shattered Past: Reconstructing Germany Histories* (Princeton)  
David Ciarlo, *Advertising Empire: Race and Visual Culture in Imperial Germany* (Harvard)  
Fritz Ringer, *Max Weber: An Intellectual Biography* (Chicago)  
Erik Jensen, *Body by Weimar: Athletes, Gender, & German Modernity* (Oxford)  
Anne Nelson, *Red Orchestra: The Story of the Berlin Underground and the Circle of Friends Who Resisted Hitler* (Random House)  
Dan Porat, *The Boy: A Holocaust Story* (Hill & Wang)  
Dagmar Herzog, *Sex after Fascism: Memory and Morality in Twentieth-Century Germany* (Princeton)  
A. Dirk Moses, *German Intellectuals and the Nazi Past* (Cambridge)  
Eli Rubin, *Synthetic Socialism: Plastics & Dictatorship in the German Democratic Republic* (North Carolina)

## Course Schedule

January 25 Course Basics

### Part I: Long Views

February 1 Writing history from the periphery  
Reading: Diner

February 8 Leave it broken or repair it?  
Reading: Jarausch and Geyer

Supplementary:

Geoff Eley, *Forging Democracy: The History of the European Left in Europe, 1850-2000* (Oxford)

Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century* (Vintage)

\*Jan Palmowski and Kristina Spohr Readman, eds., "At the Crossroads of Past and Present—'Contemporary' History and the Historical Discipline," *Journal of Contemporary History*, Special Issue, 46, 3 (July 2011).

### Part II: Imperial Germany

February 15 On the evil of images in the *Kaiserreich*  
Reading: Ciarlo

February 22 Is the intellectual biography dead? Max Weber, for example  
Reading: Ringer

Supplementary:

Matthew Jefferies, *Imperial Culture in Germany, 1871-1918* (Palgrave)

Suzanne Marchand and David Lindenfeld, eds., *Germany at the Fin de Siècle: Culture, Politics and Ideas* (Louisiana State).

### Part III: Weimar and Nazism

February 29 Body culture and politics in Weimar  
Reading: Jensen

March 7 Exploring the popular history of Nazism  
Reading: Nelson  
Also view "Wisconsin's Nazi Resistance" on WPT website

March 14 What's in a picture? Holocaust Images  
Reading: Porat

Supplementary:

Doris Bergen, *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust* (Rowman & Littlefield)  
 Shareen Blair Brysac, *Resisting Hitler: Mildred Harnack and the Red Orchestra* (Oxford)  
 Ian Kershaw, *Popular Opinion and Political Dissent in the Third Reich: Bavaria, 1933-45* (Oxford)  
 \*Eric Kurlander, "Violence, *Volksgemeinschaft* and Empire: Interpreting the Third Reich in the Twenty-first Century," *Journal of Contemporary History* 46, 4 (2011): 920-34.  
 Hans Mommsen, *The Rise and Fall of Weimar Democracy* (North Carolina)  
 Detlev Peukert, *The Weimar Republic* (Hill & Wang)  
 \*Eric Weitz, "Weimar Germany and its Histories," *Central European History* 43, 4 (2010): 581-91.

#### **Part IV: Beyond Fascism?**

March 21 Fascism and the history of sexuality  
 Reading: Herzog

March 28 Stigma and structure  
 Reading: Moses

March 31- April 8 Spring Recess

April 11 The East Germans had a thing about plastic...  
 Reading: Rubin

Supplementary:

\*Uta Balbier, et al, eds., "East German Material Culture and the Power of Memory," Special Theme Issue, *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute* (Supplement 7, 2011).

Richard Bessel and Dirk Schumann, eds., *Life after Death: Approaches to a Cultural and Social History of Europe During the 1940s and 1950s* (GHI/Cambridge)

Mary Fulbrook, *German National Identity after the Holocaust* (Cambridge/Polity)

Idem, *The People's State: East German Society from Hitler to Honecker* (Yale)

Robert G. Moeller, *War Stories: The Search for a Usable Past in the Federal Republic of Germany* (California)

Jan-Werner Müller, ed., *Memory & Power in Postwar Europe* (Cambridge)

Katherine Pence and Paul Betts, eds., *Socialist Modern: East German Everyday Culture and Politics* (Michigan)

Corey Ross, *The East German Dictatorship* (Arnold)

#### **Part V: Student Presentations**

April 18 Research presentation

April 25      Research presentations

May 2         Research presentations

May 9         **Research paper due**