

**HIEU 171/271:  
Nazi Germany**

Spring Quarter 2005  
Instructor: Frank Biess  
Time: Wed. 9-12  
Room: HSS 3086

**Course Description**

This seminar introduces students to the history of Nazi Germany from the rise of Hitler to the Holocaust. Our specific focus is on the Nazi racial utopia and its meaning for ordinary people. What were the attitudes of ordinary Germans toward the Nazi regime? How and why did they participate in the regime's policies of exclusion, discrimination, and genocide? How did the victims of Nazism (both Jewish and non-Jewish) react to persecution and "social death"?

**Course Requirements:**

(1) Regular attendance, participation, one oral presentation. The success of this seminar will largely depend on classroom discussion. This is why it is essential to come to class and be prepared to discuss the readings. Each student will also be responsible for introducing one week's reading.

(1) Six response papers of 1-2 pages on readings in Weeks Two to Seven. The papers should (a) summarize the main argument of the readings and (b) discuss one aspect of the readings that seems particularly important, noteworthy, or surprising.

(2) The major written assignment is a research paper. The paper should draw and expand on one week's reading. I will distribute possible paper topics at the beginning of the quarter. Students may also choose their own topic in consultation with me. Students are required to submit a topic with a bibliography by Week 6. Week 9 and 10 will be devoted to peer review of the essay drafts.

Grading: Participation and Oral Presentation (30%), Response Papers (30%), Research Paper (40%)

**1) March 30: Introduction**

**2) April 6: The Rise of Nazism**

William Sheridan Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power*

**3) April 13: Hitler and the Germans.**

Ian Kershaw, *The Hitler-Myth. Image and Reality in the Third Reich*

**4) April 20: The Germans and Hitler**

Robert Gellately, *Backing Hitler. Consent and Coercion in Nazi Germany*

Decide on Topic for Research Paper

**5) April 27: A Nazi Conscience?**

Cladia Koonz, *The Nazi Conscience*

Proposal and Bibliography Due

**6) May 4: Jews in Nazi Germany**

Marian Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*

Victor Klemperer, Diaries (excerpts)

**7) May 11: Social Outsiders**

Robert Gellately and Nathan Stolfuss, eds., *Social Outsiders in Nazi Germany*

**8) May 18: Having Fun: Cinema in Nazi Germany**

Eric Rentschler, *The Nazi Ministry of Illusions* (Introduction, Chaps 4,6, Epilogue)

Sabine Hake, "At the Movies: Film Audiences and the Problem of Spectatorship"

**9) May 25: Waging War: Soldiers in the Racial War of Annihilation**

Omer Bartov, "The Conduct of War. Soldiers and the Barbarization of Warfare."

Theo Schulte, "Korück"

Michael Geyer, "'There is a Land Where Everything is Pure.' Some Observations on Catastrophic Nationalism"

Discussion of Paper Drafts

**10) June 2: Becoming Perpetrators**

Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men*

Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners* (excerpts).

Discussion of Paper Drafts

Research Paper Due June 9th, 4pm.