

Hessen: ISU Course Outline

German History and Politics of the 20th Century

CLASS HOURS

20 contact hours

PROFESSOR

Academic Director:

Prof. Dr. Holger Ehrhardt, Endowed Chair for the Work and Impact of the Brothers Grimm at the Department for Language and Literature, University of Kassel

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Lecturer:

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Gieler, Professor for Intercultural and International Studies University Istanbul/Turkey.

Teaching since 2008 as visiting professor at Kassel University as well as at the University of Uyo/Nigeria (1988-89), University of Innsbruck/Austria (2000-2001), University of Minsk/Belarus (2001-2002), University of Bahrain/Bahrain (2008), and University of Saratov/ Russia (2009).

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1) INFORMATION ON THE COURSE CONTENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students will analyze the specifically German elements of 20th Century History. How was it possible that a “Kulturnation”, a people who brought forth outstanding results in music, philosophy, literature, and science, initiated the worst known crime in history, the Holocaust? Was there an especially German approach to dealing with the challenges of modern and post-modern societies? How were questions of gender inequality and racial minorities answered in 20th Century Germany? How did German identity develop, change, invent, and re-invent itself from 1871 to present? How did defeat in two world wars, division of the country into two hostile blocs, successful reunification of the two Germanies, integration into the European Union, and the pressures of global capitalism lead to the German nation as we experience it today?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- The course will use a mixture of lecture and seminar-style method. Students will read primary and secondary sources. The content will be usually presented via power point presentation and class discussion. The class will explore historical sites in Kassel and will visit the former Nazi concentration camp in Breitenau.
- The participants will gain insight into the significance of cultural and historical events in German history.
- They will be able to exhibit awareness of cultural and historical differences between the culture of German-speaking countries and the student's native culture.

COURSE MATERIALS

The following titles will be provided during the course (in excerpts):

Volker Berghahn, Modern German: Society, Economy and Politics in the 20th Century. Cambridge University Press 1988, 2nd Edition.

Christopher Browning. Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland. Harper Collins 1992.

Mary Fulbrook. Divided Nation: A History of Germany 1918 – 1990. New York OUP 1992.

Daniel S. Hamilton and Joseph P. Quinlan: Germany and Globalization. Washington, DC: Center for Transatlantic Relations, 2008

Donald S. Gochberg (Ed.). The Twentieth Century. Classics of Western Thought. Volume IV. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publisher. Orlando 1980.

Mark Mazower. Dark Continent. Europe's Twentieth Century. Random House. New York 1998.

Alison Owings. Frauen. German Women Recall the Third Reich. New Brunswick, New Jersey, London. Rutgers University Press 2005.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Session (4 hours)	Topic	Assignment given	Assignment due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Road to World War I: 1871 – 1918. The Question of German national identity. • The Road to World War I. 1914, the watershed year. Definition of “Zeitgeschichte” or Contemporary History. The European Trauma. 	Find an article and report on “Zeitgeschichte”	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weimar Republic and the Rise of Hitler and the NSDAP. The first German democracy. A time of extreme political tensions: communist, fascist, center. • Weimar culture, The Roaring Twenties, German women in the 1920s. 	Find an article and report on “A democracy without democrats”?	Synopsis of article presentation
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World War II, Capitulation of Nazi-Germany and new beginnings in 1945. War of Aggression. German industry and technology. Fortress Europe. • A divided nation. Communist East and re-emergence of democracy in West Germany. The Marshall Plan. Beginnings of the European Union. • Excursion to Breitenau, former monastery, Nazi education and labour camp, today museum (Guided tour in English) 	15 minute in-class writing assignment	Writing assignment

4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Two Germany during the Cold War Era. 1949 - 1989. • German economical miracle in the Sixties. Integration into the European Union. Era of Willy Brandt. The collapse of communism. The Fall of the Wall on November 9th, 1989. 		presentations
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German Reunification and Beyond. 1990 to present. Chances and risks. Traditions and changes in German society. Reunited Germany's role within the EU. Germany's present role in the era of globalization. Pressures of global capitalism. 	Final Project Assignment	

2) INFORMATION ON CLASS PARTICIPATION, ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

ASSIGNMENTS

regular attendance, active participation, in-class presentation, homeworks

EXAMS

40% – Final Report – written, individual

20% – In-class presentation – oral, individual

40% – Other homework and in-class assignments

PROFESSIONALISM & CLASS PARTICIPATION

attendance lists, contribution to discussions and a presentation is expected

MISSED CLASSES

No more than 10% of the contact hours can be missed for successful completion of the class.

3) INFORMATION ON GRADING AND ECTS

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Upon successful completion, 3 ECTS will be awarded for the class.

According to the rules of ECTS, one credit is equivalent to 25-30 hours student workload.

GRADING SCALE:

Description of the grading scale

Percentage	Grade		Description
90-100%	15 points	1.0	very good: an outstanding achievement
	14 points		
	13 points	1.3	
80-90%	12 points	1.7	good: an achievement substantially above average requirements
	11 points	2.0	
	10 points	2.3	
70-80%	9 points	2.7	satisfactory: an achievement which corresponds to average requirements
	8 points	3.0	
	7 points	3.3	
60-70%	6 points	3.7	sufficient: an achievement which barely meets the requirements
	5 points	4.0	
0-60%	4 points	5.0	not sufficient / failed: an achievement which does not meet the requirements
	3 points		
	2 points		
	1 point		
	0 points		

This course description was issued on: December 18, 2015. Program is subject to change.