



Course Title	Nazi Germany – Rise and Fall
Category	History & Culture
Class Time	Session I Track B Weekly schedule Monday: 9 am – 10.30 am & 11 am – 12.30 pm Wednesday: 9 am – 10.30 am & 11 am – 12.30 pm Thursday: 1.30 pm – 3 pm & 3.30 pm – 4.15 pm
Course Level & Target Group	Undergraduate students of all subjects with an academic background and a strong interest in the various aspects of German History, and Culture.
Course Language	This course is taught in English, including readings in English. For the understanding of the texts and the discussions in class a language level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.
ECTS	5 ECTS (45 contact hours)
Instructor	Dr. Jochen Hille

Course Description

In two World Wars Germany tried to dominate the globe in the first half of the 20th century and all major decisions had been made in the capital Berlin:

Why was Germany such an aggressive power until 1945? How did Hitler manage to gain and keep power? Why were many Germans Nazis and deeply racist? How was the life of ordinary people during the war? Why did the Nazis kill million of Jews and other innocent people in concentration camps? What were the long term effects of World War II? What happened to the Nazis after the war?

The course will provide answers to such questions via readings of texts from political science, sociology and history, while also taking the opportunity to explore the grounds on which the events between 1933 and 1945 took place.

The aim of the course is to introduce participants to the history of Nazi Germany. After a brief introduction to the historical and ideological backgrounds which led to the rise of the Nazi Regime we will turn to a detailed analysis of the event history which led to World War II. The course will answer the question why Germany was such an aggressive power and how the Nazi movement managed to gather broad public support within the majority of the German population until the end; while causing war and the death of millions of Jews, opponents etc. at the same time. Finally, we will discuss the effects of World War II, on world history; e.g. the Cold War, European Integration and decolonisation.

PART I: Historical background/overview (10 lectures)

1. Introduction and course outline
2. Mapping Germany, Europe, and the World in and after World War I
3. Historical and ideological backgrounds: Militarism, racism, anti-democratic tradition and late nation building, weak central power (Georg Lucács, Karl Mannheim, Eric Hobsbawn, Benedict Anderson)
4. Excursion: Overview of German history 1914 – 1945, Permanent Exhibition in the German Historical Museum
5. German national mythology: “Stab in the back” (“Siegfried the dragon slayer”, Film 1924, Fritz Lang)
6. The 1920th: The unstable democracy: Street fights between communists and national socialists in Berlin (Horst Wessel song vs. Bertholt Brecht)
7. Deep economic crisis: high inflation and mass unemployment

PART II: Hitler´s path to power (5 lectures)

1. Founding of the Nazi Party
2. Organs of the party: SS, SA, Gestapo etc.
3. Election of Hitler in a democratic election in 1933
2. Eliminating the external opposition (“Enabling Act of 1933“) and within the Nazi Party (“night of the long knives“)

PART III: What life in Nazi Germany was like: inclusion for the Germans; exclusion and death for the other (15 lectures)

Inclusion of the Germans

1. The Nazi version of the New Deal: Workfare for the “people`s community” (Volksgemeinschaft): building roads (Autobahnen), the “peoples car” (Volkswagen), maternity protection, new public holidays etc..
2. Nazi culture and propaganda: “The Triumph of the will” (Leni Riefenstahl), movies, radio, TV, music (Zarah Leander)
3. Inventing traditions (Ernest Gellner), mixing old symbols and rituals (“bricolage”, Lévi-Strauss) from ancient India (swastika), Roman Empire (Hitler salute) and medieval German stories and castles with modern technology and (quite) efficient centralised government.
4. Plans for Berlin as the “Capital of the World” (Germania); walk through Berlin

Exclusion and death for the other:

1. Imprisonment of opposition and progroms (Reichskristallnacht) against Jews
2. Excursion: “Topography of Terror” (Museum)
3. Defining who is German, who is not: The racist Nuremberg Laws
4. The “Final Solution” to kill “inferior races” (social Darwinism)
5. Excursion: Walk to “Memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe” and “Concentration Camp Sachsenhausen”

PART IV: World War II (10 lectures)

1. Preparing war and Appeasement
2. The beginning of the war: Early victories (Blitzkrieg) in Poland, France, Norway, etc. Film: “Das Boot” (The Boat)
3. The war against the Soviet Union (Stalingrad)
4. Film: The downfall (Der Untergang)
5. Loss of reality: The dream of the final victory (“Endsieg“)

PART V: After the downfall of Nazi Germany (5 lectures)

1. What to do with the Nazis: Nuremberger Trial and “ratlines”
 2. How to deal with collective shame and guilt?
 3. Political consequences: The Cold War, European Integration and decolonisation
 4. Interviews/Fieldwork with old Berliners
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5. Presentations of interviews in class
 6. Neo-Nazis today
 7. Nazis in popular culture: Iron Sky, Marathon Man, Inglorious Basterds, Death Snow etc.
 8. Summary: Making sense of the past? (Shmuel Eisenstadt)
 9. Wrap-up and Evaluation
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Course Objective & Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to understand:

- why the Nazis were a popular movement
- why the Nazis killed so many people (Jews, Gypsies etc.)
- why Germany finally lost the war

and to reflect on the results of World War II

- as decolonization and the Cold War
 - and the function of Nazis in contemporary pop culture.
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Readings

Required

Reading materials will be distributed at the beginning of the class.

Assignments

Motivation letter: about one page in English

In order to be granted 5 ECTS, participants will be asked to attend actively all sessions, including the case studies and to write a report on the field work.

A minimum of 80% class attendance is required.

Assessment Components

The final grade will be composed of a presentation, a final project and active participation in the class discussion. A minimum of 80% class attendance is required. Failure to fulfil one of the mentioned components results in failure of the class.

Expectations & Policies

Preparation for lively discussions in the classroom: be on time, have at least the required readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

Assignments: complete all assignments according to the specified requirements on schedule including handing over to the lecturer.

Commitment in class: pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits).

Academic guidelines: Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical), especially the academic honor code and the student code of conduct (see *FAQs* on www.huwisu.de).

Attendance policy: No unexcused absences are permitted. Students must contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the HUWISU office (80% class attendance are required).

Field trips: if classes involve a field trip or other external visits, these require attendance as well as appearance in time – transportation difficulties are never valid reasons for an excused absence.

Cultural Extra-curricular Activities

HUWISU offers a fine selection of interesting extra-curricular activities and aims to give all participants an unforgettable stay in Berlin. Your program includes excursions, sport activities and social gatherings providing you the opportunity to get to know the city, the university and your classmates better and to meet students from all parts of the world. The costs for these offers are included in the course fees.

Below you will find examples of previously offered cultural activities. You will be informed about the respective cultural program after your enrolment via email as well as during the course period.

Political and historical guided tours:

- **Federal Chancellery (Bundeskanzleramt):** It's the central coordination point for the entire government policy. The office is in constant contact to departments and other authorities.
- **German Parliament (Bundestag):** As the highest organ of the legislative in Germany it's elected by the German people. In practice Germany is governed by a bicameral legislature, of which the Bundestag serves as the lower house and the Bundesrat equals the upper house.
- **House of Representatives (Abgeordnetenhaus):** It's the state parliament (Landtag) of Berlin and located in the center of the reunified city. Together with the Martin Gropius Bau, the Topography of Terror and the Bundesrat, it presents an arresting contrast to the flair of the new Potsdamer Platz.
- **Topography of Terror:** A permanent exhibition with focus on the central institutions of the SS and police during the "Third Reich" and the crimes they committed throughout Europe. With the help of mostly photographic material, visitors are led through the major themes of the exhibition's five main segments.
- **Political Archive:** As the "memory" of the Federal Foreign Office it preserves the files on German diplomacy since 1867, as well as the international treaties signed by the Federal Republic of Germany and its predecessors in title. The records are preserved, processed and made available for academic research.

Cultural guided tours:

- **Kreuzberg Tour:** Kreuzberg has emerged from its history as one of the poorest quarters in Berlin in the late 1970s to a cultural center of today's Berlin. A unique area and one of the hippest neighbourhoods in Berlin with many bars, pubs and clubs.
- **Berlins Museum Island (Museumsinsel):** was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Status in 1999 and is an ensemble of five museums: Old Museum, New Museum, Old National Gallery, Pergamon Museum and Bode Museum.
- **Berliner Dom:** Berlin's largest and most important Protestant church is located on the Museum Island.
- **Daytrip to Potsdam:** Be inspired by the illustrious attractions of the UNESCO's World Heritage while underway through the city of Potsdam. Immerse yourself in the history and present of Potsdam and discover many palaces, gardens, and historic quarters such as the "Holländisches Viertel" or the "Nikolaikirche".
- **Exhibitions:** Berlin is known for its unique galleries and exhibitions, that is why we will visit at least one during the Winter University.

Social gatherings

- **Welcome Get-Together:** We invite you to meet all participants as well as the HUWISU staff in a relaxed atmosphere.
 - **Boat trip:** Get to know Berlin from a completely new perspective and see Berlin's famous sights while floating along the river Spree.
 - **Beach Volleyball:** A fun outdoor sport activity on long warm summer evenings for those who love to play and everyone who just want to enjoy watching the others play, lying in the sand, meet friends for some drinks, or simply relax in the middle of Berlin.
 - **Biergarten:** You can't leave Berlin without having experienced a Biergarten. The perfect place to finish off your busy day with a cool "Feierabend" drink.
 - **Farewell Party:** At the end of the Summer University we will come together to celebrate the exciting time with HUWISU.
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Your Instructor

Dr. Jochen Hille, born 1972, is a political scientist. His main interests are welfare studies (mainly health and labor market policies), European Integration and the construction of national identity. His regional focus lies on Germany and Norway. He studied and carried out research at Freie Universität Berlin, Philipps University Marburg, Universities of Bergen and Oslo (Norway), ETH Zurich and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Beside the scientific work he is professionally working as a consultant for social policies and as a project manager/social worker in diverse governmental labor market programs. He gained a wide range of teaching skills in governmental programs, in civic education, public schools and by teaching high ranked governmental professionals.

In academia he regularly teaches political sciences and economics on the welfare state at „Berlin School of Economics“, the „University of Cooperative Education Plauen“ and the „University of Applied Sciences for Media, Communication and Management“ and occasionally at Best-Sabel University, HTW and Business School Berlin.

In the HUWISU program he has been teaching since 2013 the courses on:
The Berlin Wall
Nazi-Germany – Rise and Fall
German: Social Market Economy – a better Capitalism?

Please note that the course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: November 2016