

Nazi Germany – Rise and Fall

14 June – 9 July 2021

CATEGORY Social Sciences, Politics & History

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course content is equivalent to an on-site course offering 45 contact hours. The study time includes:

- virtual classroom lessons with the lecturer and the fellow students (50%)
- group exercises (25%)
- assignments and self-study (25%)

TRACK B – WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF VIRTUAL CLASSROOM LESSONS

- Course days: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- Time: TBA – each session will last 2.15h and will take place within the time frame of
 - 12.30 pm – 6.30 pm (Berlin time, UTC+2)
 - 6.30 pm – 0.30 am (Beijing time, UTC+8)
 - 8.30 pm – 2.30 am (Sydney time, UTC+10)
 - 5.30 am – 11.30 am (Chicago time, UTC-5)

COURSE LANGUAGE

This course is taught in English, including the readings. For the understanding of the texts and the discussions in class, language-level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.

TARGET GROUP

International undergraduate students of all relevant subjects with a strong interest in the course topic.

CREDITS = 5 ECTS

All courses are accredited according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Fully functional device (laptop, tablet, PC)
- Stable internet connection
- Software: Zoom (video/audio)

- Registration on Moodle (HU's e-learning platform)
- Recommended hardware: external headset for better sound quality

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Learning extends beyond your virtual course! As a participant in HUWISU, you are invited to join cultural, social, and academic programs. Cultural activities are designed to help students meet fellow international students, learn more about Berlin, and practice German language abilities. Apply what you learn in class, share your extracurricular interests, and expand your social network beyond your course through these programs!



VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES

With the support of the online format, HUWISU introduces new cultural and social activities. The cultural activities will be both synchronous and asynchronous.

Our scheduled live meetings might include games, cooking/baking together, or a trivia night. You still have the unique opportunity to build community across time zones and meet your fellow international students through synchronous programming. More information about the specifics is TBA.

Learn and read about Berlin history or German culture in between classes! No matter your field of study or interests, Berlin has artistic, political, and cultural significance. Take a look at the eBook "Perspectives on Berlin". It will include an extensive collection of digital resources about Berlin. Although you may be oceans away from Germany, connecting ourselves to Humboldt-Universität's culturally and historically rich location is still incredibly valuable.

EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

Preparation for lively discussions in the virtual 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 the schedule including handing them over to the lecturer.

Commitment in online-class: pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers).

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.

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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In two World Wars, Germany tried to dominate the globe in the first half of the 20th century, and all major decisions were 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 millions 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 online 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 through virtual tours on which the events between 1933 and 1945 took place.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND 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 German finally lost the war

and to reflect on the results of World War II:

- as decolonization and the Cold War
- and the fiction of Nazis in contemporary pop culture

READINGS

Reading materials will be available via Moodle during the course.

ASSIGNMENT INFO

In order to be granted 5 ECTS, participants will be asked to actively attend all sessions (you may not miss more than one synchronous session), and to hand in weekly assignments as well as an academic paper (5 pages) on the topic. Submission deadline: last course day.

The final grade will be composed of weekly assignments and active participation in class (50%) and the final academic paper (50%).

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 and the Cold War Era
- Nazi-Germany – Rise and Fall
- German Social Market Economy – A better Capitalism?

COURSE SCHEDULE

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
4. 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 “people’s 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 centralized government.

4. Plans for Berlin as the "Capital of the World" (Germania)

Exclusion and death for the other:

1. Imprisonment of opposition and pogroms (Reichskristallnacht) against Jews
2. Defining who is German, who is not: The racist Nuremberg Laws
3. The "Final Solution" to kill "inferior races" (social Darwinism)
4. The system of the concentration camps

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 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 decolonization
4. Neo-Nazis today
5. Nazis in popular culture: Iron Sky, Marathon Man, Inglorious Basterds, Death Snow etc.
6. Summary: Making sense of the past? (Shmuel Eisenstadt)
7. Wrap-up and Evaluation

The course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: 06 April 2021