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| Online Course Title | Nazi Germany – Rise and Fall |
| Category | Social Sciences, Politics & History |
| Online Course Period | January 6th – January 26th 2021 |
| Course Structure | <p>The course content is equivalent to an on-site course offering 45 contact hours.</p> <p>The study time includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • virtual class room lessons with the lecturer and the fellow students (30%) • group exercises (30%) • assignments and self-study (40%) <p>Weekly schedule of virtual class room lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course days: Monday and Wednesday • 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm (Berlin time, UTC+1) • 11.00 pm – 1.00 am (Beijing time, UTC+8) • 2.00 am – 4.00 am (Sydney time, UTC+11) • 9.00 am – 11.00 am (Chicago time, UTC-6) |
| Technical Requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully functional device (laptop, tablet, PC or smart phone) • Stable internet connection • Software: Zoom (video/audio), Moodle (e-learning platform) <p>Recommended hardware: external headset for better sound quality</p> |
| Course Level & Target Group | International undergraduate students of all subjects with an academic background and a strong interest in the topic. |
| 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 |
| 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 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 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“)

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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

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 German 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

Readings

Reading materials will be available via Moodle during the course.

Assignments

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.

Assessment Components

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

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.

Group exercises, assignments, and self-study: complete all tasks according to the specified requirements on schedule including handing 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 honour 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 lecturer to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the HUWISU office.

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: September 2020