



CIEE Global Institute – Berlin

Course name:	German History 1871 to the Present (in English)
Course number:	HIST 3001 BRGE (ENG)
Programs offering course:	Berlin Open Campus, Berlin Global Architecture and Design, Berlin Global Internship
Open Campus Track:	Language, Literature and Culture
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2020

Course Description

This course covers the eventful and tumultuous decades of German history after the founding of the federal monarchy in 1871. Students study the Prussian and German Empires, World War I, the collapse of the monarchy, and the promise and failings of the Weimar Republic accompanied by the rising political extremes of Communism and Fascism that gave way to the terror of Hitler and the Nazi Party. The course analyzes World War II, including the Holocaust and complete defeat of Germany, and the 40 years of occupation and division of the country during the Cold War. Finally, the course examines the 1989 “peaceful revolution,” the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the reunification of Germany.

Learning Objectives

By participating in this course, students will:

- Practice posing and answering critical and analytic questions
- Gain methodological skills for analyzing primary and secondary sources
- Learn to form arguments and defend them in class discussion and written assignments
- Develop skills in presenting arguments with clarity and precision in written and oral contexts

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

This course is taught through lecture, discussions, small group and / or individual assignments. The material used in this course will include a combination of primary sources (speeches, laws, images, videos, works of philosophy and fiction), secondary sources (articles or book chapters), films, and site visits. Students will have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of a specific



event / period through the final project, which is an historical analysis of a cultural-historical artifact.

In this course, we will focus on the political, social / cultural, and military trends that led to the two World Wars and culminated in Germany's absolute defeat – and how the two post-war German states responded to, accounted for, and attempted to move away from their destructive history. How and why did Germany end up unleashing catastrophic violence in Europe and the world not once, but twice, by the middle of the 20th century? Topics to be discussed include: liberalism, conservatism, political parties, imperialism, anti-Semitism, nationalism, revolution, and memorialization. We will also consider the theoretical stances that underlie different narratives of German history, e.g. continuity vs. rupture, the ideas of causality and contingency. For just as it is insufficient to claim that one cannot comprehend how, for example, the Holocaust happened, it is just as insufficient to argue that it was bound to happen.

Assessment and Grading

1. Participation:	20%
2. Midterm Exam:	20%
3. Response Papers:	20%
4. Abstract and Rough Draft of Final Paper:	10%
5. Final Paper (final version following peer review):	20%
TOTAL:	100%

Course Requirements

Midterm Exam

Each exam will consist of short ID questions and an essay. The short IDs will be in-class; the essay will be a timed, out-of-class assignment. Students may not collaborate on the essays.

Response Papers

Students will complete four short writing assignments (of 400 words each) related to a primary source. In some weeks these will be print sources or images; in other weeks they will be site-related. Specific instructions will be distributed for each assignment.

Final Paper

For their final paper, students will select a cultural-historical artifact such as a novel, a building, a memorial site, a film, a work of art, or a museum or part thereof (or another source, in consultation with the instructor). In approximately 1500 words (double-spaced, Chicago Style



citations), students will analyze their chosen artifact with regard to the themes covered in the course, bringing it into dialogue with historical scholarship (including at least 3 scholarly sources). Students must submit a proposal for this project no later than the end of the second week of the course. We will spend class time discussing writing strategies, style, and form, as well as proper use of citations; we will also spend class time workshopping drafts. Drafts and peer review all count toward the final grade. In the final class session, students will have the opportunity to give a brief presentation on their project. Further instructions (including examples of artefacts) will be distributed separately; the paper will be due in Week 5. Students will abide by the CIEE policy on academic integrity. All written work submitted as part of this course is expected to be the student's original work, which has not been submitted for a grade at CIEE or at the student's home institution. Plagiarism may result in a failing grade for the assignment.

Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, unexcused absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for personal



travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Unexcused absences will lead to the following penalties:

<i>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</i>	<i>Equivalent Number of Open Campus Semester classes</i>	<i>Minimum Penalty</i>
Up to 10%	1 content classes, or up to 2 language classes	Participation graded as per class requirements
10 – 20%	2 content classes, or 3-4 language classes	Participation graded as per class requirements; written warning
More than 20%	3 content classes, or 5 language classes	Automatic course failure , and possible expulsion

Weekly Schedule

NOTE: this schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to take advantage of current experiential learning opportunities.

Week 1 Introduction

Class 1:1 Introduction

Topics: Course and Syllabus review; German Unification, the culture wars, and the Wilhelmine state.

Reading:

John Breuilly, "The national idea in modern Germany history," in *The State of Germany: The national idea in the making, unmaking, and remaking of a modern nation-state*. Ed. John Breuilly (London: Longman, 1992). If you've never read it before: *The Communist Manifesto*

Class 1:2 The German Empire and Realpolitik
 Topics: Realpolitik, its failure, and German overseas colonialism

Reading:

Isabel Hull, *Absolute Destruction* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005) Introduction, Chapters 4 (Military Culture), 6 (Standard Practices) 7 (Doctrines of Fear and Force) 8 (Stopping the Process), and Conclusion.

Week 2 Industrialism and War

Class 2:1 World War I
 Topics: Role of nationalism, industrialization in international politics prior to WWI

Reading:

Ernst Jünger, *Storm of Steel* (transl. M. Hoffmann) (Stuttgart: JG Cotta'sche Buchhandlung Nachfolger GmbH, 1920; New York: Penguin, 2004)

Class 2:2 Writing Workshop

Mid-Term Exam

Week 3 The Weimar Republic

Class 3:1 The Weimar Republic I
 Topics: Modernization and its tensions

Reading: Eberhard Kolb, *The Weimar Republic* (New York: Routledge, 2005), pp. 3- 51;

Detlev Peukert, *The Weimar Republic* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1992) pp. 81-85

Class 3:2 Co-Curricular Excursion
 Reichstag Building

Week 4 Modern Anti-Semitism, National Socialism, and World War II

Class 4:1 National-Socialist Ideology

Topics: Structure and development of the Nazi State; role of individuals in massacres and round-ups of Jews for deportation to death camps

Reading:

Michael Geyer, "The State in National Socialist Germany," in Bright and Harding, eds. *Statemaking and Social Movements* (1984), 193-232
Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men* (New York: Harper, 1992). Pp xv-48; 55-77; 159-189

Class 4:2 Nazi Persecution of the Jews

Topics: Jewish life in Germany

Reading:

Marion Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998). Chapters 1, 7, and 8.

Week 5 Total War – “Hour Zero”?

Class 5:1 World War II

Topics: The end of the war and the founding of the post-war states

Reading:

Mary Fulbrook, *The People’s State* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005), Chapters 1, 2, 8, 13

Class 5:2 Co-Curricular Excursion

Hohenschönhausen Stasi Memorial

Week 6 Remembering the Past, Looking to the Future

Class 6:1 Ripples in the Social Fabric

Topics: Memory, Pluralism, and Violence in Post-WW2 Germany

Reading:

Hanna Schissler, ed., *The Miracle Years* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001) Chapters 1, 7, 8. Arden Pennell, “Why are they all so happy?”



Class 6:2 Conclusion
Final discussion and presentation of final paper topics
Final Paper Due

Readings

John Breuilly, "The national idea in modern Germany history," in *The State of Germany: The national idea in the making, unmaking, and remaking of a modern nation-state*. Ed. John Breuilly. London: Longman, 1992.

Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men*. New York: Harper, 1992, pp. xv-48; 55-77; 159-189.

Mary Fulbrook, *The People's State*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005, Chapters 1, 2, 8, 13.

Michael Geyer, "The State in National Socialist Germany," in Bright and Harding, eds. *Statemaking and Social Movements*, 1984, pp. 193-232.

Isabel Hull, *Absolute Destruction*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005, Introduction, Chapters 4, 6, 7, 8 and Conclusion.

Ernst Jünger, *Storm of Steel* (transl. M. Hoffmann). New York: Penguin, 2004.

Marion Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998, Chapters 1, 7, and 8.

Eberhard Kolb, *The Weimar Republic*. New York: Routledge, 2005, pp. 3- 51.

Arden Pennell, "Why are they all so happy?" *telos* Vol. 2008, No. 144, pp. 95-105.

Detlev Peukert, *The Weimar Republic*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1992, pp. 81-85.

Hanna Schissler, ed., *The Miracle Years*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001, Chapters 1, 7, 8.