

**Graduate Seminar on Modern Germany
History 729**

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Office hours: By appt.

This course will focus on some of the major themes of Germany's recent history. The readings are organized both chronologically and thematically by the debates that are now current among scholars of German history. Topics for discussion include Germany's experience with modernity, the nature of Nazi Germany, and the legacy of the Holocaust and military defeat. Students are expected to come to class having the readings well-read and digested. Written assignments are expected to reflect the conventions of scholarly historical writing. Informal or colloquial expressions are unacceptable. Formatting, including footnotes, should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

Computation of the Final Grade for MA students:

1. Seminar Participation:	20%
2. Book Review or Review article:	20%
3. Two essays:	60%

Explanation of assignments as listed above:

1. Contributions to weekly discussion will be evaluated by the depth of understanding and the coherency of argumentation. Speaking frequently does not guarantee a high mark for participation. Absences are not acceptable. Illnesses and emergencies should be relayed to the instructor in advance of class.
2. Each student will submit a six-page single book review or review article (discussing 3 articles) related to the theme of one week's readings. The book or articles will be chosen by the student. They should be recent contributions to the scholarly literature. Reviews will be submitted at the start of class on the week in which the related topic is discussed. Students will share their work with the class in a brief oral presentation.
3. MA students will submit two, 15-page essays. Ph.D. students' essays should be 20-pages in length. All late papers will be penalized 3% per day. Due dates will be set in class. Topics will be chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. Those who can read German are encouraged to do so.
4. PhD students will also take a final exam. Their grade breakdown is: Participation 20%, Book review 15%, Two essays 50%, Final exam 15%.

Email Policy:

It is the policy of the Faculty of Humanities that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University email account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. Instructors will delete emails that do not originate from a McMaster email account.

Academic Integrity and Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresenting by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. Graduate Students are expected to know what constitutes plagiarism, and are not given any leniency on a first offense. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy located at: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/>

The following illustrate only three of the various forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Texts to be purchased:

Helmut Walser Smith, *The Butcher's Tale*
Robert Beachy, *Gay Berlin*
Eric Weitz, *The Weimar Republic: Promise and Tragedy*
Monica Black, *Death in Berlin*
Peter Fritzsche, *Life and Death in the Third Reich*
Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men*
Atina Grossman, *Jews, Germans, and Allies*
Paul Betts, *Within Walls*
Edith Sheffer, *Burned Bridge*

Articles and Book chapters:

Book excerpts will be left in the box marked 729 in CNH 619. Students may take them to an inexpensive copy center or read them on site. Procuring assigned journal articles will be the responsibility of the student.

PhD students will receive a list of additional readings from the instructor.

Theme 1: Imperial and Weimar Germany

Jan 9: *Introduction to Seminar*

Jan 16: *Antisemitism and Daily Life in 1900*
Helmut Walser Smith, *The Butcher's Tale*

Jan 23: *Science, Sexuality, and the Metropolis*
Robert Beachy, *Gay Berlin*

Jan 30: *Republicans and Reformism*

Eric Weitz, *The Weimar Republic*

Nikolas Wachsmann, "Between Reform and Repression" in *Historical Journal*

Theme 3: The Nazi Dictatorship and Holocaust

Feb 6: *Forging the Racial Community*

Peter Fritzsche, *Life and Death in Nazi Germany*

Feb 13: *'Ordinary' Germans and Genocide*

Chris Browning, *Ordinary Men*

Feb 20: No classes, reading week.

Feb 27: *Historicizing Death*

Monica Black, *Death in Berlin*

Theme 4: Living with the past

Mar 6: *Occupation*

Atina Grossman, *Jews, Germans, and Allies*

Mar 13: *Reconstruction*

Elisabeth Heineman, "The Hour of the Woman" in *AHR*

Frank Biess, "Moral Panic in Post-war Germany: The Abduction of Young Germans into the Foreign Legion" in *JMH*

Mar 20: *Sex after the Holocaust*

Dagmar Herzog, *Sex after Fascism*

March 27: *A Second German Dictatorship?*

Paul Betts, *Within Walls*

April 3: 'The Wall' on land and in minds

Edith Sheffer, *Burned Bridge*

April 10: Final Exam for PhD students