

**Special Topics: The Third Reich**  
**HIST 5485**  
**CRN 80814**  
**Fall 2007**  
**T/Th 9:30-10:45**  
**Pafford 208**

Professor: Dr. Tim Schroer  
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Office hours: Tues. 1:30 – 3:00 pm  
Wed. 8:30 – 12:00, 1:00-2:00 pm  
Thurs. 1:30 – 5:00 pm  
or by appointment

**Course Description**

In this course we will study the growth of National Socialism in Germany, the nature of the Third Reich, and the place of Nazism in German history more broadly. We will consider fundamental questions such as: the origins of Nazism; how the party came to power; the means by which the regime obtained the consent and the cooperation of the German people; the origins and nature of World War II; and the Final Solution. Somewhat less familiar issues that have increasingly occupied historians will also receive attention: everyday life in Nazi Germany, law in the Third Reich, and developments in the arts.

**Learning Outcomes**

This course is designed to provide students actively engaged in the learning process with:

- A understanding of the history of the Third Reich;
- An understanding of the methods used in the historical discipline; and
- The opportunity to improve reading and writing skills.

**Required Materials:**

Spielvogel, Jackson J. *Hitler and Nazi Germany: A History*, 5th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ, Pearson, 2005. ISBN 0-13-189877-9.

Sax, Benjamin, and Dieter Kuntz, ed. *Inside Hitler's Germany: A Documentary History of Life in the Third Reich*. Lexington, Mass.: D. C. Heath and Co., 1992. ISBN 0-669-25000-7.

Fritzsche, Peter. *Germans into Nazis*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1998. ISBN 0-674-35092-8.

There will also be a number of additional readings on reserve and on the internet.

**Grading**

Class Participation:	10 percent
Quizzes:	5 percent
Leading class discussion:	15 percent

Book review:	10 percent
Midterm Examination:	15 percent
Research Paper:	25 percent
Research presentation:	5 percent
Final Examination:	15 percent

There will be a midterm examination on October 9 and a final examination on December 13. The heart of each exam will consist of responses to essay questions. Part of the final examination will cover the entire course.

The book review is a 3-4 page review of a scholarly historical monograph published within the last twenty years by a university press. Students should select a book that is relevant to their research paper. The instructor must approve the book to be reviewed. The review is due September 20.

Each student will write a research paper from 20-25 pages in length examining some subject of interest related to the course. The paper will be based on research in primary and secondary sources. The paper must make proper use of footnote citation in accordance with the *Chicago Manual of Style*. The paper is due December 4.

The book review and paper will be graded on the basis of the quality of the analysis and the writing, including organization, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and conformity with proper citation format.

Each student will be responsible for leading discussion of assigned readings for about thirty minutes in one class meeting during the semester. Discussion should not focus on Spielvogel's textbook.

In the research presentations, each student will describe the paper's argument and supporting evidence to the class in a ten-minute talk. Students should not simply read excerpts from their paper. Students will then answer questions from the group. Grades will be based on the quality of the oral presentation of the paper's argument and evidence and responses to questions posed.

Thoughtful contributions made in class discussions will be credited in the class participation grade. Behavior (such as tardiness) that impedes other students' learning will be penalized.

There will be occasional quizzes to be taken at the beginning of class on the readings for that day's class. Upcoming quizzes will be announced during the class meeting before the quiz.

It generally takes me one week to grade a set of papers or exams. No extra credit will be offered.

## **Policies**

I expect each student to understand and to comply with the University of West Georgia's policies on Academic Honor and Academic Dishonesty. They may be found in the Student Handbook, on the web at <http://www.westga.edu/documents/catalogs.php>.

Academic honesty prohibits taking credit for someone else's work. Justice requires that punishment fit the infraction. Egregious academic dishonesty will result in failing the course and may also bring additional penalties imposed by the university.

I encourage any student who has questions or needs help with the course to come to my office hours or send me an email to set up a time to talk. In addition, students may wish to consult with the Writing Center (<http://www.westga.edu/~writing>).

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and university policy, I will make reasonable accommodation for any recognized disability. Students should contact me during the first three weeks of the course and present documentation from the University's Student Development Center.

Late assignments will be penalized by deducting one letter grade for each day the assignment is late.

I expect graduate students to attend every class. In case of absence, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain notes from a classmate covering what was missed. I do not penalize students for absences, but students receive no credit for participating or on any tests or quizzes on missed class days. A student who does not take a quiz or test in class with the rest of the class receives a zero. I do not permit students to take any test, quiz, or other graded work at any time other than in class as administered except in rare cases of prior approval by the instructor or with a physician's note.

Papers written in the course must be original work undertaken for this course. Student papers should represent the work of the student. Do not obtain assistance in writing a paper from anyone other than the writing center.

Students should regularly check their University of West Georgia email account.

## **Course Schedule**

Aug. 16        Introduction

Aug. 21        World War I  
Readings:     Spielvogel, 1-9  
                  The Kaiser speaks

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=815](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=815)

Ludendorff admits defeat

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=814](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=814)

Aug. 23        The birth of the Weimar Republic  
Readings:     *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 1-50

Spielvogel, 10-20

Aug. 28            The origins of the Nazi Party  
Readings:        *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 60-75  
                      Spielvogel, 21-36

Aug. 30            The failed putsch and afterward  
Readings:        *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 75-89  
                      Spielvogel, 36-50

Sep. 4             The end of Weimar  
Readings:        *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 53-59  
                      Spielvogel, 50-65

Sep. 6             The "Seizure of Power"  
Readings:        Spielvogel, 65-69  
                      *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 90-123

**Statement of question to be addressed in the research paper and monograph to be reviewed due**

Sep. 11            How did it happen?  
Readings:        Fritzsche, *Germans into Nazis*

Sep. 13            To the Enabling Act  
Readings:        *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 124-39  
                      Spielvogel, 69-74  
                      The Enabling Act

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=1496](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1496)

Sep. 18            The consolidation of power  
Readings:        Spielvogel, 74-81  
                      *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 139-58

Sep. 20            The Nazi state  
Readings:        Spielvogel, 83-153  
                      *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 158-76, 366-80  
                      Kershaw, "Working Towards the Führer" (Reserve)

**Book review due**

Sep. 25            The National Community  
Readings:        *Inside Hitler's Germany*, ch. 177-203, 252-74, 381-82  
                      Groß on Nazi Racial Policy  
                      <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/gross.htm>

Sep. 27            The National Community's enemies  
Readings:        Spielvogel, 269-77

- Inside Hitler's Germany*, 210-17, 393-422  
Peukert, "The Genesis of the 'Final Solution'" (Reserve)
- Oct. 2            Everyday life in the Third Reich  
Readings:        *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 274-80, 285-301, 474-81  
                     Spielvogel, 178-92
- Oct. 4            *Triumph of the Will*
- Oct. 9            **Midterm examination**
- Oct. 11          Fall break: No class
- Oct. 16          Youth  
Readings:        Spielvogel, 168-78  
                     *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 302-12, 314, 316-25, 458-74  
                     Peukert, "Young people" (Reserve)
- Oct. 18          The arts and film  
Readings:        Spielvogel, 154-67  
                     *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 218-37  
                     Massaquoi excerpt (Reserve)  
                     Film
- Oct. 23          Law and normality in the Third Reich  
Readings:        Cabinet discussion of the Reichstag fire  
[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=1495](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1495)  
                     Reserves
- Oct. 25          German foreign policy, 1933-1939  
Readings:        *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 327-53  
                     Spielvogel, 193-212
- Oct. 30          The early war, 1939-1941  
Readings:        Spielvogel, 212-18  
                     *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 422-23, 486-95  
                     "Hitler's Reichstag Speech, January 30, 1939" (Reserve)  
                     The euthanasia order  
<http://www.h-net.org/~german/gtext/nazi/euthanasia-eng.html>  
                     Himmler "Some Thoughts on the Treatment of the Alien Population in the  
                     East" (Reserve)  
                     Excerpt of Galen's Sermon  
[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=1572](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1572)
- Nov. 1          No class

- Nov. 6            The year of decision, 1941  
 Readings:        Spielvogel, 218-22  
                      Reserves  
                      The Commissar Order  
[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=1548](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1548)
- Nov. 8            War of Annihilation  
 Readings:        Nazi pamphlet collecting soldiers' letters  
<http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/feldpost.htm>  
*Inside Hitler's Germany*, 382-92
- Nov. 13          The Final Solution  
 Readings:        Spielvogel, 277-304  
                      *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 426-58  
                      Himmler's speech at Posen  
<http://www.nizkor.org/hweb/people/h/himmler-heinrich/posen/oct-04-43/ausrottung-transl-imt.html>
- Nov. 15          From Stalingrad to July, 1944  
 Readings:        *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 353-65, 496-510  
                      Spielvogel, 223-29, 233-68
- Nov. 20          Defeat  
 Readings:        *Inside Hitler's Germany*, 510-13  
                      Spielvogel, 229-32
- Nov. 27          Occupation and denazification  
 Readings:        Spielvogel, 305-309  
                      Reserve
- Nov. 29          The place of the Third Reich in German history  
 Readings:        Niven (Reserve)
- Dec. 4            Conclusion  
                      Graduate presentations

**Research papers due**

**Mandatory Final Examination**

**Thursday, December 13    8:00 – 10:00 am**