

Introduction to Modern German History – From the 1848 Revolutions to 1968

Prof. Stefan Ihrig

Office hours by appointment

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Thursdays, 14.00-16.00

This course looks at the course of German history from the mid-19th century until the first decades of the post-World War II order. The course will seek to give an overview to many of the themes and aspects of German history that influence many debates and topics still today. We will discuss the ideas of a special German path in modern history, the causes and effects of World War I, the rise of Nazism, World War II and the Holocaust.

The seminar aims for a lively debate and an inspiring presentation of the various topics. While seminar sessions will include a short introductory lecture, they will also include discussions of the assigned reading in the group and where possible a discussion of source materials. Where feasible we will also take a look at other media, such film materials (both documentary and artistic), as well as other material.

The course is also open to advanced BA students.

Reading assignments

Extensive reading is a must for this course. However, texts will be assigned and split across the group (A, B, C) in order to manage the reading load and to stimulate debate. Reading the core texts for each week is an essential component of the seminar (requirements), as is active participation which will, at a minimum, involve regularly presenting to the group one of the assigned texts in very short form as well as thoughts and criticisms regarding these texts. Core texts that are required reading for all are marked with an *.

Texts will be available on the course's moodle platform as pdfs.

Writing assignments and grading/credit options

Each student will have to hand in one **response paper** in relation to the reading. These papers will be assigned as we go along. Additionally, depending on the chosen format (by the student), there are **three grading options**, depending on the credit points needed by the student: 1. a seminar paper (about 25-30 pages; using primary materials; topic and outline subject to discussion and approval in the course of the seminar; deadline for submission of seminar papers: beginning of semester bet); 2. a short final paper (“Referat“; about 10 pages; using secondary sources; deadline for submission:

beginning of semester bet); or 3. a grade given for the on-going assignments (such as the response paper and active participation in the seminar).

It is the students' responsibility to choose his/her assignments out of the three and update the course convener.

Key books

David Blackbourn, *History of Germany, 1780-1918 – The Long Nineteenth Century* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997)

Richard J. Evans, *The Coming of the Third Reich* (London: Allen Lane, 2004)

Richard J. Evans, *The Third Reich in Power* (London: Allen Lane, 2005)

Richard J. Evans, *The Third Reich at War* (London: Allen Lane, 2008)

Mary Fulbrook, *A History of Germany, 1918-2014 – The Divided Nation*, Fourth edition (Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2015)

James Retallack (ed.), *Imperial Germany, 1871-1918* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008)

Hagen Schulze, *The Course of German Nationalism – From Frederick the Great to Bismarck, 1763-1867* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991)

Helmut Walser Smith (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Modern German History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015 (2011))