

**MA in Modern German and European Studies**  
**Course Schedule 2019-20**

**Semester A:**  
**Mandatory**

European Law, Regulation and Competition

[No. 216.8010](#)

**Dr. Yariv Ilan & Dr. Hila Nevo**

Tuesday, 12:00-14:00

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

[No. 216.8136](#)

**Prof. Dr. Stefan Ihrig**

Thursday, 14:00-16:00

This course looks at the course of German history from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> 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.

The German Political System

No. 216.8126

**Katharina Konarek**

Thursday, 16:00-18:00

The course provides an overview of the current political system of Germany. It will discuss the German electoral system, introduce German political parties and analyze the legislative, the executive and the juridical division of powers. The course also includes a simulation session and an introduction to the German Basic Law.

*Assignments and Assessment:*

- According to University regulations, students must attend at least 80% of the sessions to graduate from the course.
  - Participation in class 15%
  - 1 Class presentation 15%
  - Participation in simulation 20%
  - Take-home exam 50%

## Electives

A Different Kind of Weapon: Popular Culture in the Cold War in Europe

No. 216.8011

**Dr. Alissa Belotti**

October 29- December 10 2019

Tuesday 14:00-18:00

Did blue jeans, David Bowie, punk, or even David Hasselhoff bring down the Berlin Wall? Scholars of the Cold War agree that Western popular culture played an important role in shaping the conflict, but the precise nature of this role is often frustratingly hard to pin down in scholarly and lay accounts of the Cold War. In this course our objective is to critically examine the ways in which popular culture was used as a weapon of the Cold War in Europe, with a focus on the two German states. We will analyze how, over time, Western foreign policy shifted from supporting highbrow culture to spreading popular culture in an effort to win new generations over to capitalism. We will examine who used new styles and music to rebel and how their strategies changed with the decades. Finally, we will discuss how popular music, styles of dress, dances, films, and behaviors acquired different meanings to individuals in different local contexts. During each meeting we will analyze a set of primary sources, including songs, films, photos, and first-person accounts,

that help us discuss that week's specific theme. Assessment will be based on an at-home essay, in-class presentation, and participation in seminar discussions. Each of these methods of assessment is a chance for students to augment our primarily historical perspective with viewpoints from their own academic disciplines, if they are not historians.

German and European Foreign Policy

[No. 216.8012](#)

**Dr. Steffen Hageman**

December 19, 2019 – January 28, 2020

Tuesday 14:00-18:00

The course is an introduction to the (theoretical and historical) analysis of and debates about German and European foreign policy. In the first part main actors, issues and concepts in German post-war foreign policy are discussed. After a short introduction to the history of German foreign policy and foreign policy analysis, the course will discuss empirical historical as well as theoretical and analytical methodological texts introducing main approaches and major debates in foreign policy analysis and international relations. Domestic, international and cultural forces that have shaped German foreign policy will be investigated. Based on empirical case studies such as Bosnia and Kosovo (1992-1999), the Iraq war (2002/2003), the Libya intervention (2011) and the Ukraine crisis (2014) the course will evaluate the much-debated question as to whether contemporary German foreign policy after unification is marked by continuity or change and how unification has altered the Federal Republic's position in the international arena. In the second part of the course we will discuss Germany's role in the EU but also more in general the role of the EU as an actor in the foreign, security and defense policy fields. The course will examine the institutions of EU foreign and security policy; the future of the transatlantic relationship; and regional challenges.

The course aims to

- introduce students to concepts, theories and methods in Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) and International Relations (IR);
- apply these instruments to the study of German and European foreign policy;
- give students a deeper understanding of the historical context, current challenges and the main driving forces in German foreign policy;
- critically discuss structural and attitudinal changes and continuities in post-unification German foreign policy;
- give students a conceptual understanding of the processes of integration involved in European foreign, security and defence policies

*Assignment and Assessment:*

- prepare for all sessions by preparing the required readings and participate in the discussions in class readings (20 per cent);
- deliver a 15 min presentation (individually or in a small team, usually of two) (30 per cent)

- write a take home exam (50 per cent).

German Media

[No. 216.4514](#)

**Win Schumacher**

Thursday, 18:00-20:00

The media in Germany is going through a time of huge transformation. Europe's biggest newspaper, radio and television landscape is challenged by the new media. Social media and other online news sources have become an integral part of modern society. Apart from an introduction into the history of German media and the current situation of most important newspapers, magazines, television channels and news websites, we will have a closer look on the latest political, social and cultural developments in the German media analyzing breaking news and following discussions in the classical, online and social media.

**Semester B**

**Mandatory**

German Society

[No. 216.8112](#)

**Dr. Adi Hercowitz-Amir**

May 12 – June 23, 2020

Tuesday, 12:00-14:00

The course wishes to offer an in-depth analysis of German society from a sociological perspective dwelling on the post-war and post-reunification eras. These lengthy periods offer a fascinating platform to studying various social, political and cultural processes German society has undergone up until contemporary times. Specifically, we will discuss in the course issues pertaining to social identities of "East and "West" in the post-war period; social and political complexities following the re-unification in 1989; Germany and its continuous relationship with the memory of the Holocaust; social and political movements and their role in German society; and nowadays policy and attitudes towards immigration. As time allows we will also touch upon in the course on the German sociology contribution to the development of sociological intellectual thought, especially that by Max Weber and Karl Marks.

The course grade will be based on three elements: (1) class participation; (2) answering questions on class readings (one paragraph each, five in total); and (3) final quiz.

*1. Class participation (20%):* We will have many class discussions based on the reading materials in the syllabus as well as other sources. This I believe is important in order to gain a deep understanding of the issues and learn to critically analyze them. You are expected to have completed the assigned readings before class each week and actively contribute your thoughts

and ideas and reflect on those of others.

2. *Questions on class reading (30%)*: In order to enhance understanding of the readings as well as our class discussions, a question will be posted on five of the class readings (one question each time, in five different weeks). Answers (length of one paragraph) will be submitted in paper the following class.

3. *Final quiz (50%)*: To summarize the learning in the course, a quiz will be offered at the end of the course. The quiz will comprise of a 'bank' of 10 open questions and you will be requested to answer five questions, at your choice. The purpose of the quiz is to critically analyze topics discussed in the course, using the readings and class lectures. Examples of quiz questions and how they will be evaluated will be discussed in class.

Introduction to the European Union

[No. 216.8111](#)

**Dr. Ayelet Banai**

Thursday, 14:00-16:00

The purpose of this course is to introduce the European Union, by providing an overview of the history, institutions, policies and politics of this unique regional organization. The following topics are included: (1) Historical development and trajectories (2) Institutions (3) Policies and Politics (4) Political Economy (5) Society and population (6) Foreign affairs and relations, security and defense. Beyond an overview, we will explore selected issues of particular interest for research of the European Union in social sciences, including: how to account for the process of European integration? Does the EU feature a new model of sovereignty? Does transnational democracy emerge at the European level? What are the prospects for European models of capitalism? How is the European experience pertinent for other regions?

#### *Assignments and Assessment*

- According to University regulations, students must attend at least 80% of the sessions to graduate from the course.
- Participation in class 15%
- 1 Class presentation (selected EU members state) 15%
- Participation in simulation (20%)
- Take-home exam (50%)

German Economy

No. 216.8004

**Prof. Benjamin Bental**

March 12 – May 7, 2020

Thursday, 16:00-20:00

The course focuses on the main features of the FRG's economy since the end of WWII till now. By its very nature, the course is fact- and data-oriented. To properly understand the data, some basic concepts of economics will have to be introduced. However, the discussion will stay at a non-technical level throughout. The main topics to be addressed are: i) Introduction into the idea of the „Social Market Economy“ (soziale Marktwirtschaft). ii) National accounting and its application to the FRG. iii) Introduction to growth economics. iv) The sources of economic growth in the FRG. v) The labor Market. vi) The role of money. vii) Monetary aspects of the German unification. viii) Restructuring of East Germany and the Treuhandanstalt. ix) Convergence of East and West. x) The Euro crisis.

German Culture

[No. 216.8003](#)

**Prof. Dr. Jan Soeffner**

May 14-June 25, 2020

Thursday, 16:00-20:00

While the ideological construction of national identities is a common topic in cultural research and cultural criticism, those same disciplines deem it highly problematic to describe countries as cultural areas. However, in some cases – such as when asked to offer an approach to German culture -- it may be not only required, but also necessary to focus (cautiously) on specific cultural phenomena that blur the line between a national ideology or identity and the cultural area it refers to.

One of these phenomena has popped up in many current populist movements, which regard their respective causes as the solutions to various crises of national identity; as such, they indicate rather clearly what their members regard as essential to that national identity. Indeed, these are playing out in an astonishingly stereotypical way across western Europe: Brexiteers desire to return their country to its island status; the French *gilets jaunes* can be defined as a revolutionary movement; Spain tends to develop two kinds of populists movements - one for the right and one for the left - resembling the lines of demarcation in its Civil War; Swiss populists revert to a nationalistic interpretation of direct democracy. German (and Austrian) populists, however, turn to a vague sentiment of cultural rootedness. Some kind of collective memory or ideological past is at stake here too; but while the respective historical references of other populist movements feels rather obvious, the German attitude, at first glance, is elusive. The course is discussion based. Therefore theories, positions, attitudes or practices will be discussed - focusing most of all on contradictions, ambiguities, and incongruences. To grant for a good discussion „experts“ (especially well prepared students) are needed, who feel responsible for input if the discussion stops. This task is the midterm ,test.’

*Course Policies:*

Midterm and Endterm (1. Expert discussion 2. Final paper). The expert discussion will not be rated – they might, however, help to develop a topic for the final paper. Crucial for the grading will be the following questions:

## Electives

Israeli-German Relations

[No. 216.4214](#)

**Dr. Sharon Livne & Irit Chen**

March 10 – May 5, 2020

Tuesday, 12:00-16:00

The course will discuss the relations between Israel and West Germany from the creation of the two states, Israel in 1948 and West Germany in 1949, until the reunification of Germany in 1990. We will analyse how the two countries dealt with the memory of the Holocaust and how this memory shaped the bilateral relations between the two states. We will discuss prominent and controversial affairs such as the signing of the Reparation Agreements, arms deals, the Eichman trial, the establishment of diplomatic relations, the murder of Israeli athletes in Munich and more. We will evaluate the relations between the two countries by critical analysis of primary sources from the examined period (for example: reports of diplomats, speeches, parliamentary debates and more) and assess them with prominent secondary literature.

The Great War in European and Middle Eastern Cinematic Memory

[No. 216.8013](#)

**Dr. Michael Elm**

Tuesday, 16:00-18:00

The Great War was a defining moment in modern European history but no less in the creation of the modern Middle East. The war that was promoted with the slogan as 'the war to end all wars' left both Europe and region of the former Ottoman Empire in an unstable and painful situation. Violence and regional wars continued long after the formal armistice in November 1918. 100 years later, during the centenary of the war, many feature films and documentaries are produced to reflect, investigate and rewrite the memory of this fateful event. In the course we will analyze some of these productions and compare European and Middle Eastern narratives and memories. The course investigates the intersection of historical, cinematic and political discourses of the Great War. Central questions are, which historical narratives do these films promote, how are they situated within the (trans)national frames of remembrance, how do they encode traumatic experience of warfare and reflect the 'other side', and which cinematic strategies are used to authenticate the narrations.

Furthermore, the course will provide methodological tools to analyze fictional and documentary movies and is suitable for students from a variety of academic fields such as History and Middle Eastern Studies, Social and Political Sciences as well as Film and Communication Studies.

*Assignments and Assessment*

- Attendance and participation: 25%  
(Attendance required; two unexcused absences permitted)
- Presentation in class (2-3 pages handout with central theses): 25%  
Each presentation includes the analysis of a fictional film or TV-documentary and should be between 20-30 minutes, plus 20 minutes for discussion. Some of the presentations can be held as group assignments of up to 3 students and should be no longer than 40-45 minutes, plus time for discussion.
- Final Paper (6-8 pages, due to 27.07.2020): 50%

## Semester C

### Elective

Cultural Diplomacy

[No.216.8014](#)

**Dr. Johannes Strasser**

July 2020

Tuesday, 14:00-18:00