



## Nazi Germany – Rise and Fall

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Fall term 2022: 5 September – 9 December 2022

### CATEGORY

History

### COURSE STRUCTURE

3 contact hours à 45 min per week (14 weeks)

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

#### Time

Monday, 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

#### Place

to be announced

### COURSE LANGUAGE

English

**Language requirements** (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)  
English C1

### TARGET GROUP

International exchange students of all subjects with a strong interest in the course topic. Humboldt Perspectives Study Abroad courses are designed for undergraduate students. Master students may participate if their home university agrees.

### CREDITS = 6 ECTS

All courses are accredited according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Registration on Moodle (HU's e-learning platform)

### in case of online classes

- Fully functional device (laptop, tablet, PC)
- Stable internet connection
- Software: Zoom (video/audio)
- *Recommended* hardware: external headset for better sound quality

## EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

**Preparation for lively discussions:** be on time, have at least the required readings completed, and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

**Assignments:** complete all assignments according to the specified requirements on the schedule including handing them over to the lecturer.

**Commitment:** pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers).

**Academic guidelines:** Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical) especially the academic honor code and the student code of conduct.

**Attendance policy:** Students must contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the lecturer.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In two World Wars, Germany tried to dominate the globe in the first half of the 20th century, and all major decisions were made in the capital Berlin.

Why was Germany such an aggressive power until 1945? How did Hitler manage to gain and keep power? Why were many Germans Nazis and deeply racist? How was the life of ordinary people during the war? Why did the Nazis kill millions of Jews and other innocent people in concentration camps? What were the long term effects of World War II? What happened to the Nazis after the war?

The course will provide answers to such questions via readings of texts from political science, sociology and history, while also taking the opportunity to explore the grounds on which the events between 1933 and 1945 took place.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the course, students will be able to understand:

- why the Nazis were a popular movement
- why the Nazis killed so many people (Jews, "Gypsies" etc.)
- why German finally lost the war

and to reflect on the results of World War II and the Nazi era.

## **READINGS**

Reading materials will be available via Moodle during the course.

## **ASSIGNMENT INFO**

### **Workload and assignments**

In order to be granted 6 ECTS, participants will be asked to

- actively attend all sessions (a minimum of 75% attendance is required for classroom and online sessions)
- prepare and revise the classroom/online sessions
- present in class and to write an academic paper (5-10 pages) on Nazi Germany (assignments)

Failure to fulfill one of the mentioned components results in failure of the class.

### **Assessment Components**

The final grade will be composed of the above-mentioned assignments.

## YOUR INSTRUCTOR

**Stefka Wiese** is social scientist and urban planner. Her main interests are economic sociology (with a focus on socio-ecological transition and comparative capitalism) and transition processes within urban systems and regions. Her regional focus lies on Germany and Europe, including the transition in Eastern Europe. She studied at Technical University Berlin and Humboldt University Berlin. Beside her scientific work she is professionally working as a consultant in the field of ecological transition of economic and urban systems.

She regularly teaches in the fields of political sciences and economics at Humboldt University and International School of Management Berlin. In the International Department of Humboldt University she has been teaching since 2019 the courses on:

- Nazi-Germany – Rise and Fall
  - German Social Market Economy – A better Capitalism?
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## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week 1: Introduction and course outline

- Introduction and course outline  
Lecture: German History - Historical background/overview
- Historical and ideological backgrounds: Militarism, racism, anti-democratic tradition and late nation building, weak central power
- German national mythology: "Stab in the back"
- *Text: Torpie, Ryan: The Role of History in the Construction of Identity.*

### Week 2: Germany and Berlin in the 1920<sup>th</sup>

- Mapping Germany, Europe, and the World in and after World War I
- Between "The Golden Twenties" and Crisis
- The unstable democracy; Founding of the Nazi Party
- Deep economic crisis: high inflation and mass unemployment

### Week 3: Hitler´s Path to Power

- Elections 1932
- Eliminating the external opposition ("Enabling Act of 1933") and opponents within the Nazi Party ("night of the long knives")

### Week 4: Ideological roots: People`s community („Volksgemeinschaft“) and its enemies

- *Text: Taylor, Simon: Symbol and Ritual under National Socialism.*

### Week 5: Nazi culture and propaganda - and the Volksgemeinschaft

- Nazi culture and propaganda: "The Triumph of the will" (Leni Riefenstahl), movies, radio, TV, music (Zarah Leander)
- *Text: Welch, David 2004: Nazi Propaganda and the Volksgemeinschaft.*

## **Week 6: Inclusion of the Germans**

- Workfare for the "people's community" - the Nazi version of the New Deal: building roads (Autobahnen), the "people's car" (Volkswagen), maternity protection, new public holidays etc..
- Plans for Berlin as the "Capital of the World" (Germania); walk through Berlin

## **Week 7: Exclusion and death for the other**

- Imprisonment of opposition and pogroms (Reichspogromnacht) against Jews
- Defining who is German, who is not: The racist Nuremberg Laws
- Holocaust
- *Text: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: Nazi Ideology and the Holocaust.*

## **Week 8: World War II**

- Lecture

## **Week 9: Excursion**

- German Resistance Memorial Center

## **Week 10: After the downfall of Nazi Germany**

- What to do with the Nazis: Nuremberger Trial and "ratlines"
- De-Nazification in West and East Germany

## **Week 11: Culture of Remembrance**

- How to remember the sacrifices made during National Socialism?
- How to deal with collective shame and guilt?

## **Week 12: Reception - Nazis in popular culture**

- *Text: Gebauer: The Pop-Icon Hitler as a Trope of Critical Reflection on Media Society. The World's Most Recognisable Face.*

## **Week 13: Political consequences**

- Lecture: Political System Germany
- Right Wing Extremism in Germany and Europe today

## **Week 14: Wrap-up and Evaluation**

- Summary: Making sense of the past?

The course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: 17 March 2022