

Pols 417: From Weimar to Berlin
Monday 12.00-13.00h and Thursday 12.00-14.00h

Instructor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dilek Çınar dilek.cinar@boun.edu.tr
Teaching Assistant: Aybala Bulut aybalabulut0@gmail.com
Office hours: by appointment

Course Description: This course will explore the political history of Germany from 1918 to the present. In the first part of the course, we will analyze the historical and political fate of the Weimar Republic, the emergence of fascism as well as National Socialism and the consequences of these developments. In this context, we will discuss Marxist and non-Marxist theories that try to explain fascism and national-socialism. The second part of the course will focus on developments after 1945, i.e. the division of Germany, the process of democratization and de-nazification in West Germany and the reunification of the “two Germanies” in 1990. Finally, we will discuss the impact of the reunification process as well as of international migration on German society and politics.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend class regularly, read assigned materials in advance and participate in class discussions. Absences from mid-term exam and quizzes due to *serious* health problems need to be accounted for by providing *reliable* documentary support (e.g. certification by the University Health Center). Otherwise, there will be **no make-up option**.

Attendance & Participation	10%
Quiz (2x)	10%
Movie Review	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final paper	40%

All papers need to be uploaded via Turnitin.

Important note: This class will be conducted through **live sessions** via **Zoom** as scheduled. The lectures will **not** be recorded. **Unauthorized recording** and/or sharing of audio or visual lecture materials violate the Personal Data Protection Law. Thus, recording lectures, sharing of recorded audio or visual lecture contents or other course material is **not** permitted. However, I will share my power point presentations for each session via moodle. Should you encounter any personal problems or technology related obstacles in attending the live session(s), please get in touch with me. I will help you to catch-up with the missed class session.

!!! ACADEMIC HONESTY !!!

The Department of Political Science and International Relations has the following rules and regulations regarding academic honesty.

1. Copying work from others or giving and receiving answers/information during exams either in written or oral form constitutes cheating.
2. Submitting take-home exams and papers of others as your own, using sentences or paragraphs from another author without the proper acknowledgement of the original author, insufficient acknowledgement of the consulted works in the bibliography, all constitute plagiarism. For further guidelines, you can consult https://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY_GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/PDF/Policies/General/AvoidingPlagiarism.pdf
3. **Plagiarism and cheating** are **serious offenses** and will result in:
 - a) an automatic “F” in the assignment or the exam
 - b) an oral explanation before the **Departmental Ethics Committee**
 - c) losing the opportunity to request and receive any references from the entire faculty
 - d) losing the opportunity to apply in exchange programs
 - e) losing the prospects of becoming a student assistant or a graduate assistant in the department.

The students may further be sent to the **University Ethics committee** or be subject to **disciplinary action**.

Schedule & Topics

February 23 Introduction

Febr. 28-March 3 Historical Setting

- Fulbrook, Mary (2014) History of Germany 1918-2000. The Divided Nation. (Ch. 2: The Weimar Republic: Origins and Orientations, pp. 15-39)
- Smith, Gordon (1986) Democracy in Western Germany. Parties and Politics in the Federal Republic. Aldershot: Gower, pp. 1-43 (Historical Perspectives)

March 7-10 Hitler and the Nazi State

- Evans, Richard J. (2004) The Coming of the Third Reich. London: Penguin Books (Ch. 2: The Failure of Democracy,) pp. 77-154
- Spielvogel, J. J./Redles, D. (2020) Hitler and Nazi Germany. Prentice Hall (Ch. 2 Hitler and the Emergence of the Nazi Party, 1889-1920) pp.39-68 & (Ch. 5 The Dictator) pp. 171-202
- Spielvogel, J. J./Redles, D. (Ch 3: The Growth and Victory of Nazism, 1924-1934), pp. 69-113
- Spielvogel, J. J./Redles, D. (Ch 4: The Nazi State 1933-1939) pp. 114-170
- Hamann, B. (2001) Hitler and Vienna: The Truth about his Formative Years, in: Mommsen, H. (ed): The Third Reich Between Vision and Reality. New Perspectives on German History, 1918-1945, pp. 23-37

March 14-17 Cooperation vs Resistance: Who were the Nazis?

- Baldwin, Peter. (1990) Social Interpretations of Nazism: Renewing a Tradition. Journal of Contemporary History 25(1): 5-37
- Mann, M. (2000) Were the Perpetrators of Genocide ‘Ordinary Men’ or ‘Real Nazis?’ Results from Fifteen Hundred Biographies, Holocaust and Genocide Studies 14(3) 331-366

Recommended reading:

- Bartov, O. (2003) Germany’s War and the Holocaust. Disputed Histories, (‘Ordinary Monsters: Perpetrator Motivation and Monocausal Explanations’, pp.122-136)
- Please watch the movie “**Rosa Luxemburg**”

March 21-24 Explaining National Socialism: Totalitarianism and/or Fascism? (I)

- Arendt, Hannah. (1953) Ideology and Terror: A Novel Form of Government. The Review of Politics 15(3): 303-327
- Sauer, W. (1967) National Socialism: Totalitarianism or Fascism?, The American Historical Review, Vol. 73, No. 2 (Dec., 1967), pp. 404-424
- Mann, Michael (2004) Fascists, Cambridge Univ. Press (Ch 1: A Sociology of Fascist Movements) pp. 1-30
- Griffin, Roger (1993): The Nature of Fascism. Routledge, New York (pp. 1-55)
- Paxton, Robert (1998) The Five Stages of Fascism, The Journal of Modern History 70(1):1-23.

March 28-31 Explaining National Socialism: Totalitarianism and/or Fascism (II)

- Kershaw, Ian (2004) Hitler and the Uniqueness of Nazism, *Journal of Contemporary History* 39(2): 239-254
- Enzo Traverso (2017) Totalitarianism between history and theory, *History and Theory – Theme Issue* 55: 97-118

MIDTERM EXAM

April 4-7 National Socialism, Racism and Antisemitism

- Fredrickson, George M. (2002) *Racism. A Short History (Ch 3 Climax and Retreat: Racism in the Twentieth Century & Epilogue)*, Princeton University Press. Pp. 98-150

April 11-14 Marxist/Neo-Marxist Approaches to Nationalism, Fascism and National Socialism

- Trotsky, Leon (1933) What is National Socialism?
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/germany/1933/330610.htm>
- Löwy, Michael (1976) Marxists and the National Question, *New Left Review* I/96: 81-100
- Laclau, Ernesto (1977) Politics and Ideology in Marxist Theory (Ch 3: Fascism and Ideology) pp. 81-142

April 18-21 “Explaining” the Holocaust

- Spielvogel, J. J./Redles, D. (2020) *The Holocaust*, pp. 341-386
- M. Mann (1999) The Dark Side of Democracy: The Modern Tradition of Ethnic and Political Cleansing, *New Left Review* I/235: 18-45
- Bartov, O. (2003) Germany’s War and the Holocaust. *Disputed Histories*, pp. 79-98 (‘Killing Space: The Final Solution as Population Policy’)

April 25-28 Germany after 1945: Division, Democratization and Reunification (I)

- Fulbrook, Mary (2019) *A Concise History of Germany*, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2nd Edition (Ch. 7: The Two Germanies 1945-90): 331-397
- Hirschman, Albert O. (1993) Exit, Voice and the Fate of the German Republic, *World Politics* 45: 173-202
- Fulbrook, Mary (2019) *A Concise History of Germany*, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2nd Edition (Ch. 8: The Federal Republic since 1990): 398-426

• Spring Break - May 2-8, 2022

May 9-12 Germany after 1945: Division, Democratization and Reunification (II)

- Fulbrook, Mary (2019) *A Concise History of Germany*, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2nd Edition (Ch. : Patterns and Problems of German History 427-432
- Simon, Green et al. (2012) *The Politics of the New Germany. Routledge (ch.6: Citizenship and demographics: (Still) a country of immigration?)* pp. 115-135

- Simon, Green et al. (2012) *The Politics of the New Germany*. Routledge (ch.9: From a *Musterknabe* to a frustrated *Lehrmeister*? pp. 72-114)

May 16-19 **Who are the Voters of AfD?**

- Mudde, Cas (2017) What the stunning success of AfD means for Germany and Europe, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/sep/24/germany-elections-afd-europe-immigration-merkel-radical-right>
- Arzheimer, Kai/ Berning Carl C. (2019) How the Alternative for Germany (AfD) and their voters veered to the radical right, 2013–2017, *Electoral Studies* 60: 1-10
- Michael A. Hansen & Jonathan Olsen (2019) Flesh of the Same Flesh: A Study of Voters for the Alternative for Germany (AfD) in the 2017 Federal Election, *German Politics*, 28:1, 1-19

May 23 **Review Session**