



**CAS HI 271**  
**THE NAZIS**  
**MWF 1:25-2:10 (KCB 106)**

**Prof. Jonathan Zatlin**  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION** Why have the Nazis become synonymous with the most efficient yet brutal form of political rule? Why have they become the epitome of evil? This course explores origins, ascendancy, and downfall of the Nazis. Because National Socialism was a movement, rather than a political party, the course will treat Nazism as a response to the crises of liberal democracy after the Great War rather than simply a vehicle for seizing power. Because National Socialism was not a monolithic movement, moreover, the course places special emphasis on identifying the different and competing strands of thought, policy, and action associated with the movement before and after 1933. Our major themes will include the impact of Nazi rule on German and European society, the prohibition of “non-German” forms of science, art, finance, and politics, and the attempt to recast German society along National Socialist lines, including the production of “Nazi” culture, the creation of “Aryan” family structures, and the construction of the *Volksgemeinschaft* (racial community). Although we will devote some time to Nazi diplomacy and World War II, the main focus will be on the regime’s demographic and political reconfiguration of Europe, and especially the turn to mass murder and genocide. We will conclude by examining the incomplete “denazification” of Germany after 1945. Students will have the opportunity to engage with a variety of primary sources, including film, images, fiction, diaries, memoirs, and party and state documents.

**GRADES** Grades are based by your performance on the following required assignments:

|                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Participation:                  | 10 percent |
| Short paper (due February 20):  | 15 percent |
| Midterm exam (March 2):         | 20 percent |
| Five-page paper (due April 23): | 25 percent |
| Final exam (as posted by BU):   | 30 percent |

This class has no discussion sections, but Patrick Browne will lead several discussions during the semester, at a time and place to be decided. They will focus on specific readings and preparation for the midterm and final. For the **short, three-page paper**, you will be asked to respond to a specific question based on lectures, and make use of course materials to substantiate your argument. For the **five-page paper**, you may choose your topic from a list provided to you or choose your own with the professor's approval. For the longer paper, you **must** also read and make use of at least **one book** not included in the syllabus when writing the paper.

Please **do not use online sources** in your papers except as listed on this syllabus. Given that Nazi sympathizers regularly falsify documents and make tendentious claims, we must take special care to ensure the accuracy of historical claims. For this reason, the inclusion of online sources, unless approved by the professor, in your papers will result in a failing grade for the assignment. Please turn papers in on time. "On time" means at the **beginning of class** on the day they are due. Late papers will be marked down one letter grade per day. There will be **no make-up exams**; please arrange your vacation schedules according to the posted midterm and final schedule. Please note that I may depart from the syllabus during the semester if necessary.

**CHEATING** Cheating is a serious infraction of scholarly conduct, and will earn an automatic F for the course. **Cheating includes plagiarism**, which is defined as the use of intellectual material produced by another person without appropriate acknowledgment. Please read the Boston University Academic Conduct Code carefully, and the section on plagiarism in particular. For a detailed description of Boston University's rules, consult the code of conduct at <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>.

**REQUIRED READING** The following books are available for purchase at Barnes and Noble:  
 W.S. Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power* (Franklin Watts, 1984)  
 Joseph W. Bendersky, *A Concise History of Nazi Germany* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2014)  
 Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men* (Harper Trade, 1998)  
 Marion Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair* (OUP, 1999)  
 Mark Roseman, *The Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution* (Picador, 2003)  
 Inge Deutschkron, *Outcast* (Fromm International, 1990)

**NB:** All readings marked with an asterisk (\*) can be found online at the **Blackboard website**. Readings marked with a plus sign (+) can be found online through Mugar's electronic journal access.

## Part I: Origins

January 19: **Introduction**

**Film excerpt:** Quentin Tarantino, *Inglorious Basterds* (2009), opening scene

January 22: **Weimar Germany**

Bendersky, *A Concise History*, 3-54

\**Weimar Sourcebook*: Paul von Hindenburg, "The Stab in the Back;" Textile Workers, "My Workday, My Weekend;" Bund deutscher Frauenvereine, "Women's Work and the Economic Crisis;" Alice Rühle-Gerstel, "Back to the Good Old Days"

January 24-26: **The Nazis before 1933**

Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power*, 1-90

- \*Theodore Abel, *Why Hitler Came to Power*, 204-18, 244-74, 289-301
- \*Sebastian Haffner, *Defying Hitler*, 52-66
- \**Weimar Sourcebook*: Carl Schmitt, “The Concept of the Political” and “On the Contradiction”

January 29: **The Collapse of Weimar**

Bendersky, *A Concise History*, 61-98

January 31: **Seizing Power**

Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power*, 91-147

\*Ian Kershaw, *Hitler*, 62-118

“The Reichstag Fire Decree:”

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=2325](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=2325)

“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)

“The Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service:”

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=1520](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1520)

## Part II: The Third Reich

February 2-5: **Establishing the Dictatorship**

Bendersky, *A Concise History*, 105-150

\*Noakes and Pridham, documents

Eugen Hadamovsky, “The Living Bridge: On the Nature of Radio Warden Activity:” <http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/hada3.htm>

Karl Schotte, “Letter to an American Friend”

<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/schotte.htm>

February 7: **The Volksgemeinschaft**

\*Albert Speer, *Inside the Third Reich*, 83-101

Werner May, “The German National Catechism:”

<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/catech.htm>

Alfred Vogel, “Genetics, Genealogy, and Racial Science in Pictorial Form:”

<http://bytwerk.com/gpa/vogel.htm>

Deutsche Arbeitsfront, The KdF Car (Volkswagen),”

<http://www.bytwerk.com/gpa/vw.htm>

Wolfgang Schutz, “One Recognizes a National Socialist by His Home!”

<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/interiordecoration.htm>

February 9: **The Family**

Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, 94-118

\*Melita Maschmann, *Account Rendered*, excerpts

+Adelheid von Saldern, “Victims or Perpetrators? Controversies about the Role of Women in the Nazi State” in: David Crew, *Nazism and German Society, 1933–1945* (1994), 141–165.

Gertrud Scholtz-Klink, “To Be German Is to Be Strong:”

<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/scholtz-klink2.htm>,

“The Rally of the German Women’s League:”

<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/pt36frau.htm>

Illustrations from *The German Girl*:

<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/maedel.htm>  
Jutta Rüdiger, "The Tasks of the BDM in the Year 1938:"  
<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/dm1-38a.htm>  
Illustrations from *The Boy*:  
<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/pimpf.htm>  
*Der Morgen*, "Hey, You There! Things are Different Now!"  
<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/dp37-1a.htm>  
Primer for the Württemberg Public Schools:  
<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/textbk03.htm>  
Otto Zimmermann, "Hand in Hand for the Fatherland:"  
<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/textbook05.htm>  
*Illustrierter Beobachter*, 15 April 1933, "The New Game: The S.A. Cleans up the  
Liebknecht House:" <http://bytwerk.com/gpa/ib33-15.htm>

**Film excerpts:** Guido Knopp, *Hitler's Henchman: Baldur von Schirach* (1998,  
1-21:30)

February 12-14: **Nazi Aesthetics**

Simon Callow Review of Steven Bach's biography of Leni Riefenstahl:  
<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2007/may/12/featuresreviews.guardianreview5>

**Film excerpt:** Leni Riefenstahl, *Triumph of the Will* (1934)

February 16-20: **Antisemitism**

Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, 17-49  
Roseman, *The Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution*, 1-78  
\*Saul Friedlander, "Redemptive Anti-Semitism," in Friedlander, *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, vol. 1 (1997), 73-112  
\*Burleigh and Wippermann, "The Persecution of the 'Hereditarily Ill', the 'Asocials', and Homosexuals," *The Racial State*, 136-197.  
\*Adolf Hitler, "Nation and Race," *Mein Kampf*, 284-329  
\**Weimar Sourcebook*: Alfred Rosenberg, "The Russian Jewish Revolution"  
\*Joseph Goebbels, "Why Are We Enemies of the Jews?"  
\*"The Nuremberg Laws," 211-214.

**Short paper due February 20**

February 19: classes suspended (Presidents Day); February 20: substitute Monday schedule

February 21: **Dissent**

\*Martin Broszat, "Resistenz and Resistance," in Neil Gregor, *Nazism*, 241-52  
+Klaus-Michael Mallmann and Gerhard Paul, "Omniscient, Omnipotent, Omnipresent? Gestapo, Society and Resistance," in Crew, *Nazism and German Society*, 261-308  
\*Ian Kershaw, "The Alienation of the Catholics," *Popular Opinion and Political Dissent*, 185-223  
Leaflet of the White Rose opposition group:  
[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=1515](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1515)  
"The Reich Concordat:"  
[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=1570](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1570)

“With Deep Anxiety:”

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=1571](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1571)

Gerhard Hahn, “The Cross of Christ and the Swastika:”

<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/christuskreuz.htm>

February 23: **Midterm review**

February 26-28: **Politics in Hitler’s Germany**

+Ian Kershaw, “Hitler: ‘Master in the Third Reich’ or ‘Weak Dictator?’”, in Kershaw, *The Nazi Dictatorship*, 59-81

+Ian Kershaw, “‘Working towards the Führer’: Reflections on the Nature of the Hitler Dictatorship,” *Contemporary European History* 2:2 (July 1993): 103-118

\*Speer, “A Day in the Chancellery,” *Inside the Third Reich*, 117-209

March 2: **Midterm Exam**

March 3-11: **Spring Break**

### **Part III: Europe under the Nazis**

March 12-14: **The Road to War**

Bendersky, *A Concise History*, 159-172

\*Wilhelm Deist, “‘Blitzkrieg’ or Total War? War Preparations in Nazi Germany,” in Förster and Chickering (eds.), *Shadows of Total War*, 271-83

\*“The Hossbach Memorandum”

March 16-19: **Outbreak**

Bendersky, *A Concise History*, 173-185

+Jennifer L. Foray, “The ‘Clean Wehrmacht’ in the German-occupied Netherlands, 1940-5,” *Journal of Contemporary History* 45:4 (2010): 768-87

\*“The Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact”

March 21-26: **Conquest: 1939-1942**

\*Overy, “A War of Engines,” in *Why the Allies Won*, 208-244

\*Christoph Dieckmann, “The War and the Killing of the Lithuanian Jews,” in Cesarani, *Holocaust*, 262-94

\*T. Schulte, *The German Army and Nazi Policies in Occupied Russia*, 86-116, 150-79

NSDAP, “Europe and America: Failures in Building an American People:”

<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/hsa02.htm>

March 28: **Stalingrad**

\*Richard Overy, *Why the Allies Won* (1996), 1-24, 63-85, 101-133

Goebbels on “total war:” <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/goeb36.htm>

**Film excerpts:** *Deutsche Wochenschau* episodes; “Stalingrad” in the series *The World At War*

March 30-April 2: **The Turn to Genocide**

Bendersky, *A Concise History*, 198-211  
Roseman, *The Wannsee Conference*, 79-172

**Film:** Frank Pierson, *Conspiracy* (2001) screening outside class, TBA

**April 4-6: The Perpetrators**

- Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men* (entire)  
+Peter Fritzsche, "The Holocaust and the Knowledge of Murder," *The Journal of Modern History* 80:3 (2008): 594-613  
\*David Bankier, "German Public Awareness of the Final Solution," in: Ceasarani (ed.), *The Final Solution*, 215-227  
\*Heinrich Himmler, speech on 4 October 1943 in Posen:  
[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=1513](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1513)  
\*""Once Again I've Got to Play General to the Jews': From the War Diary of Blutordensträger Felix Landau," in Bartov, *The Holocaust*, 185-203

**April 9-13: The Victims**

- Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, 50-73, 145-238  
\*Günter Grau, "Final Solution of the Homosexual Question?" in Michael Berenbaum (ed.), *The Holocaust and History: The Known, the Unknown, the Disputed, and the Reexamined* (1998), 338-344  
+Gunter Lewy, "Gypsies and Jews under the Nazis," *Holocaust Genocide Studies* 13:3 (1999): 383-404

**Film:** *Nazi Concentration Camps* (Allied documentary footage, 1945)

**April 16: Patriots Day – no class**

**April 18-23: The Experience of the Victims**

- Inge Deutschkron, *Outcast*, 1-230  
\*Victor Klemperer, "The Klemperer Diaries," *The New Yorker* (April 27 & May 4, 1998): 120-135

**Film:** Claude Lanzmann, *Shoah* (1985), excerpts

**Five-Page papers due on April 23**

**April 25-27: Defeat**

- \*Overy, *Why the Allies Won*, 180-244, 282-325  
\*Albert Speer, "Operation Valkyrie," *Inside the Third Reich*, 377-393  
\*Hitler, "My Private Will and Testament" and "My Political Testament"

**April 29-May 2: Aftermath**

- +Lawrence Douglas, *The Memory of Judgment*, 11-37  
\*Norbert Frei, *Adenauer's Germany and the Past*, 1-66, 97-146  
\*Robert G. Moeller, "The Third Reich in Post-War German Memory," in Jane Caplan, ed., *Nazi Germany*  
\*Josef Foscith, "German Reaction to Defeat and Occupation," in Robert G. Moeller, *West Germany under Construction*, 73-89

**Final Exam** (as posted by the registrar)