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

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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)
- 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 1: Origins

January 19: Introduction
Film excerpt: Quentin Tarantino, Inglorious Basterds (2009), opening scene

January 22: Weimar Germany
Bendersky, A Concise History, 3-54

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

**Part II: The Third Reich**

**February 2-5: Establishing the Dictatorship**
Bendersky, *A Concise History*, 105-150
*Noakes and Pridham, documents*

**February 7: The Volksgemeinschaft**
*Albert Speer, Inside the Third Reich*, 83-101

**February 9: The Family**
Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, 94-118
*Melita Maschmann, Account Rendered*, excerpts
Gertrud Scholtz-Klink, “To Be German Is to Be Strong:” [http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/scholtz-klink2.htm](http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/scholtz-klink2.htm)

Illustrations from *The German Girl*:
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:”


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 Wansee Conference and the Final Solution, 1-78
*Adolf Hitler, “Nation and Race,” Mein Kampf, 284-329
*Joseph Goebbels, “Why Are We Enemies of the Jews?”

Short paper due February 20

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

February 21: Dissent

Leaflet of the White Rose opposition group:

“The Reich Concordat:”
“With Deep Anxiety:”
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**
* 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
* “The Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact”

March 21-26: **Conquest: 1939-1942**
* Overy, “A War of Engines,” in *Why the Allies Won*, 208-244
* 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**
Goebbels on “total war” http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/goeb36.htm

**Film excerpts:** *Deutsche Wochenshau* 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)
*David Bankier, “German Public Awareness of the Final Solution,” in: Cesaranini (ed.), *The Final Solution*, 215-227
*“‘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

**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

**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
*Hitler, “My Private Will and Testament” and “My Political Testament”

**April 29-May 2:** **Aftermath**
*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 Foschepoth, “German Reaction to Defeat and Occupation,” in Robert G. Moeller, *West Germany under Construction*, 73-89

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