Germany at the start of the Twenty first century has emerged as a key political actor in Europe and an important actor on the world stage. With a population of 82 million and a GDP of approximately 3.5 trillion dollars, it possesses greater resources and capabilities than any other European power. Globally, it is the world’s fifth largest economy and is ranked regularly one of the two or three exporters in the world, often beating out the much larger United States, China and Japan. Together with France, it has been the driving force behind the European integration process, and increasingly is expected to play leadership within the European Union.

Despite these assets, Germany suffers from great weaknesses as well. Its once powerful economy is straining under the multiple burdens of a burgeoning welfare state, increased global competition and the cost of rebuilding formerly Communist East Germany. Its political system faces increased fragmentation growing voter unrest over a wide range of issues, including unemployment, immigration and the popular perception that German interests are being sacrificed on the altar of European integration. In international affairs Germany has been circumspect in using its power, hampered by its status as a divided nation during the Cold War and haunted by the memory of its destructive abuse of power during the first half of the Twentieth Century. At the same time, Germany is becoming increasingly assertive, both in challenging the United States over the War in Iraq and within the European Union as well. During the Eurocrisis that began in 2009, Germany insisted on imposing painful austerity measures on the struggling economies of Southern Europe. During the refugee crisis of 2015, Germany found itself at odds with its neighbors over its willingness to accept over a million refugees fleeing conflict and poverty in the greater Middle East. Finally, the Trump presidency has put a severe strain on Germany’s historically deep strategic relationship with the United States. In sum, Germany has emerged as an increasingly important actor in world affairs, but one that faces great challenges as well.

What type of Germany is likely to emerge in the future? Will it be a powerful, assertive actor – *primus inter pares* – within a larger European order? Will it be a “normal” nation, that tries to act
unfettered across the whole spectrum of foreign policy dimensions, including the military? Or will it remain a “civilian power,” one dedicated to pursuing its interests through primarily non-military means and opting for the preservation of the status quo over the pursuit of national power?

The course, divided into three parts, is dedicated to exploring these issues. It will begin with a three-week general introduction to the origins of contemporary German polity, focusing on the evolution of German political institutions and the ways in which the past continues to shape and influence the ways in which Germans think about politics. The second part of the course explores the structural parameters that define German politics today: the institutional structure of German government, political parties and the electoral process, political economy interest groups, and German political culture. The third and final part of the course focuses on selected topics in contemporary German politics with a special emphasis on its relations with the outside world, including defense and foreign policies, Germany’s role in the broader European Union, relations with Russia, immigration and management of the economy.

**Required Texts:**


Horst Siebert, *The German economy: Beyond the Social market* Princeton 2014
Steve Szabo, *Germany, Russia and the Rise of Geo-economics* 2015

**Regarding Readings:**

All students are expected to have completed the required readings for that week prior to the first meeting of class. Readings marked with a * are recommended readings and may prove helpful to students who are writing terms papers on related topics.

**Requirements**
1) For undergraduates - Two short (One hour and fifteen minute tests) based on the required readings - 50% identify key terms, 50% short answer. One 12 to 15 page term paper. The term paper is due on the last day of class. Grade is based 40% on the term paper, 40% on the tests and 20% on class participation.

2) For graduate students - as undergraduates, except a longer, 20 to 30 page research paper is required. Grade is based 50% on the term paper, 30% on the tests and 20% on class participation.

Please see the hand out “Guidelines for Writing Term papers,” regarding how to structure your paper.

Students are urged to make an early appointment to discuss term paper topics no later than the third week of the course. A brief written summary of the progress made on the term paper, is to be submitted by the end of the ninth week. I am willing to look over drafts of the term paper up to one week before they are due and give general comments.

Students are required to hand in their own work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are urged to familiarize themselves with the definition of plagiarism to be found in the student handbook.

I. Introduction – September 11

Course overview, general themes, early German history and identity

Readings: Langenbacher and Conradt, The German Polity Introduction,

Mary Fullbrook, A Concise History of Modern Germany pp.1-131 (can read quickly)

Recommended Reading:

Hans Ulrich Wehler, The German Empire 1871-1918 (Bloombsbury 1997)
Peter Wilson, The Heart of Europe: A History of the Holy Roman Empire (Boston: Belknap Press, 2016)
II. The German Electoral System – September 18 (Elections will be on the 24th)

Langenbacher and Conradt, The German Polity Chapters 5 and 6


Financial Times –German Election Polls 2017– available at https://ig.ft.com/germany-poll-tracker/

More detailed news stories in English (Obviously the German press is overwhelmingly focused on this) is available at Deutsche Welle http://www.dw.com/en/top-stories/german-election/s-100649?maca=En-AM-Adwords-Goole-dwgermanydecides&gclid=Cj0KCQjw6NjNjNRDKARlSAFn3NMoFp9MCfblL56Rbcvl2u_2cGv2xyVDt7OvzCu6V6Uy1SWewJWEX7-44aAtUAEALw_wcb

Recommended readings:

Ingolfur Bludhorn, “Reinventing Green Politics: On the Strategic Repositioning of the German Green Party” German Politics, Volume 18, Number 1, March 2009 , pp. 36-54 (18)

Simon Green and Ed Turner, eds., Understanding the Transformation of the CDU (Routledge, 2014)

Elo Kimo The left party and the long-term developments of the German party system, “German Politics and Society 26.3 (Autumn 2008)

III. History – The Twentieth Century – The German Catastrophe and Recovery – September 21

Readings: Fullbrook, A Concise History pp. 131-261

Recommended:

Ian Kershaw, The Nazi Dictatorship: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation 4th edition (London and New York: Bloomsbury, 2015) – the ultimate guide to the vast historiography of the Third Reich, this book has served as the “crib notes” for at least a generation of English speaking graduate students
Omar Bartov, Hitler’s Army: Soldiers, Nazis and War in the Third Reich Oxford, 1992
Volker Berghahn, Imperial Germany, 1871-1981 (Berghahn Books, 2005
David Calleo The German Problem Reconsidered (1978)
George L. Mosse, The Crisis in German Ideology: The Intellectual Origins of the Third Reich (Fertig, 1999, orig. 1964)
David Schoenbaum, Hitler’s Social Revolution: Class and Status 1933-1939 (Nicolson and Weidenfeld, 1967)

IV. The Political Culture, - Society and the Politics of Memory, October 2
Readings:

Langenbacher and Conradt, The German Polity chapters 3 and 4


Berger – chapters on Germany and Austria

Recommended Readings:

David Art, The Politics of the Nazi Past in Germany and Austria (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006)
Lily Gardner Feldman, Germany’s Foreign Policy of Reconciliation (Rowman and Littlefield, 2014)
Mary Fulbrook, German National Identity after the Holocaust (Cambridge: Polity Press,
1999)
Bill Niven, *Facing the Nazi Past: United Germany and the Legacy of the Third Reich* (New York; Routledge, 2002)

V. Political Economy and Interest Groups - October 10 (Substitute Monday)

Readings:

Katzenstein, *Policy and Politics in West Germany*, chapter 1, 3 pp.1-80, 125-167 (122)

Anke Hassel, “The German Model in Transition,” in Stephen Padgett, ed., *Developments in German Politics* 4


Recommended Readings:

Christopher S. Allen, "From Social Market to Mesorporatism to European Integration," in Huelsshof, et.al, *From Bundesrepublik to Deutschland*, Andreas Busch,”
Wolfgang Streeck, Reforming Capitalism: Institutional Change and the German Political Economy (Oxford 2010)

VI. Political Institutions and Decision making Structures October 16

Readings:

Langenbacher and Conradt, The German Polity chapters 5 and 6

Recommended:

Stephen Padgett, ed., Adenauer to Kohl: The Development of the German Chancellor (London: Hurst, 1994)


October 23 - First Short Test Part I: Multiple Choice - identify in three sentences or less people, events and institutions Part II: Short Questions - select and discuss in a paragraph of more than three sentences 2 topics.

Reminder: Brief summary of progress made so far on the term paper due by the end of this week. Include a tentative bibliography.

VII and VIII. The Politics of Migration – October 23 and 30

Readings:

Philip Martin, “Germany” with commentary by Dietrich Thraenhardt, in Hollifield, Controlling Migration pp. 224-251


Recommended:

Klaus Bade and Myron Weiner, Migration Past, Migration Future; Germany and the United States (Berghahn Books, 1997)

Rogers Brubaker, Citizenship and Nationhood in France and Germany (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1992), Chapters 3,4,6 and 8, pp.50-84, 114-137 and 165-178 (70)


X. Germany and European Integration – November 4

Reading:

Kundanyani, *The Paradox of German Power* Whole Book


Recommended:

Wade Jacoby, “The Politics of the Eurozone Crisis,: Two Puzzles behind the German Consensus,” *German Politics and Society* (Summer 2014): 70-85

XI. Defense and Security Policy - November 13

Readings:

Alistair Miskimmon, “Foreign and Security Policy,” in Stephen Padgett, *Developments in German Politics 4*


Arne Schröer, “Lessons Learned? German Security Policy and the War in Afghanistan< *German Politics* Vol. 23, No. 1-2, pp. 78-102

Ulrike Kühn and Tristan Volpe, “Keine Atombomb Bitte: Why Germany should not go Nuclear,” *Foreign Affairs* July/August 2017, pp. 103-112

Recommended Readings:

Sebastian Harnsich and Hanns Maull, eds., *Germany as a Civilian Power*
John Mearsheimer "Back to the Future" in *International Security* Summer, 1990, pp.5-56 The original Realist prediction of Germany returning as a great power
after the Cold War
Wolfram Hanrieder, Germany, America and Europe (New Haven, Ct: Yale University Press, 1989) - the definitive review of German foreign policy during the Cold War

XI. Germany and the Authoritarian Powers – Russia, China and Turkey - November 20

Reading:

Randall Newham, “Germany and Russia since Reunification,” German Politics and Society 35:1 Spring 2017 pp. 42-62

Tuomas Forserbg, “From Ostpolitk to Frostpolitik: Merkel, Putin and German Foreign Policy Towards Russia,” International affairs, 1 January 2016 pp, 21-42


Recommended

Angela E. Stent, Germany and Russia Reborn (Princeton University Press, 2000)
Stephen Szabo, Germany, Russia and the Rise of Geoeconomics (Bloomsbury 2015)

Thanksgiving Break

XII. Open Topic (to be decided by the class) – November 27

XIII. Open Topic (to be decided by the class) – December 4
Christopher Chiwis, “

XIV. Conclusion and Outlook for the Future – December 11
Readings: none

Reminder: Papers due the last day of Class!

In researching your papers you may also want to look at some of the following journals for relevant articles:
1. German Politics JN3201.G47
2. German Politics and Society DD1.G35
3. West European Politics D1050.W47
4. Governments and Oppositions JA8.66
5. Foreign Affairs JX1.F71
6. Foreign Policy JA1.F6
7. Aussenpolitik (Foreign Affairs - an English language journal, despite the title)
8. The Journal of Commonmarket Studies (specializes in the EU)
9. Comparative Politics
10. Comparative Political Studies

In addition you may want to look at the British weekly, The Economist which can usually be counted on to have at least one general interest article on German politics, as well as at the British daily, The Financial Times, which is an excellent source on European politics in general. The American Institute of Contemporary German Studies (AICGS) has many helpful studies on line. The German English language news Service, Deutsche Welle, is an excellent source of news items.