THE GERMAN EXPERIENCE OF WAR: WORLD WAR II

Purpose: By examining letters, diaries, memoirs, films, and works of literature, this course will explore the ways Germans have reflected on and represented their various experiences during the two world wars, primarily the second. Topics will include the aftermath of World War I and the rise of the Nazis; the experiences of German soldiers at the front (primarily on the Eastern Front); life on the “home front,” including the bombing war against German cities; life in defeat, 1945-'47, including the expulsion of ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe; and post-war representation of the Holocaust in West Germany. Since, at best, we will be able to touch only briefly on each of these areas, the course can be viewed as a kind of “starter kit” that can direct students to areas of interest in need of greater study. Class and homework assignments are designed to improve reading and writing proficiency in German and will serve as the basis for in-class discussion in German.

Books: Arendt, Hannah  
Eichmann in Jerusalem  
Breloar, Heinrich (ed.)  
Geheime Welten  
Hage, Volker (ed.)  
Hamburg 1943  
Kipphardt, Heinar  
Bruder Eichmann  
Ledig, Gert  
Die Stalinorgel  
Naimark, Norman  
Fires of Hatred  
Class reader (e-reserve; password: radar)

Schedule:
Week of: Readings
World War I and Its Aftermath

Aug 30  T: Intro  
R: Jünger: “Kriegsausbruch – 1914” (e-reserve)  

Film: All Quiet on the Western Front

Sep  6  T: Salomon: Die Geächteten (11-29) (e-reserve)  
R: Jünger: “Der Krieg als inneres Erlebnis” (e-reserve)

Film: Westfront 1918

Sep 13  T: Breloar: Geheime Welten (15-24; 47-49 [top])  
R: Baird: “Death and Transfiguration…” (e-reserve)

Film: Hitlerjunge Quex
World War II

The Eastern Front

Sep 20  
T: Breloar: Geheime Welten (25-60)  
Ledig: Stalinorgel (7-36)  
R: Ledig: Stalinorgel (37-68)

Film: So war der deutsche Landser

Sep 27  
T: Breloar: Geheime Welten (61-132)  
R: Ledig: Stalinorgel (69-101)

Film: Mein Krieg

Oct 4  
T: Letzte Briefe aus Stalingrad (e-reserve)  
Ledig: Stalinorgel (102-136)  
R: No Class

Film: Stalingrad (Hunde, wollt ihr ewig leben?)

Oct 11  
T: Breloar: Geheime Welten (133-68)  
Ledig: Stalinorgel (137-201)  
R: No Class

Film: Zwei in einer großen Stadt

The Bombing War

Oct 18  
T: Garrett: Ethics and Air Power (ix-22, 183-209) (e-reserve)  
Friedrich: Der Brand (21-28) (e-reserve)  
Hage: Hamburg 1943 (253-55)  
R: Hage: Hamburg 1943 (9, 12, 18-35, 63-81)

Film: World at War (documentary)

Oct 25  
T: Hage: Hamburg 1943 (13-17, 196-202, 239-40, 246-54)  
Shaffer: Wings of Judgment (80-106) (e-reserve)  
R: Dagerman: German Autumn (19-34, 51-58) (e-reserve)  
Hage: Hamburg 1943 (82-101)

Film: Bomben auf Berlin
Life in Defeat

Nov  1  T: Breloar: *Geheime Welten* (193-240)  
R: Dagerman: *German Autumn* (5-17, 43-49) (e-reserve)

**Film:** …*und über uns der Himmel*

Nov  8  T: Böll: “Wanderer, kommst du nach Spa…” (e-reserve)  
R: Dagerman: *German Autumn* (59-72) (e-reserve)

**Film:** *Liebe ’47*

    de Zayas (13-31, 85-110) (e-reserve)  
R: **No Class**

**Film:** *Flucht und Vertreibung* (selections)

The Holocaust

Nov 22  T: Naimark: *Fires of Hatred* (57-84, 185-99)  
    Klee: *The Good Old Days* (220-23, 238-49, 252-55) (e-reserve)

R: **THANKSGIVING**

**Film:** **NO FILM**

Nov 29  T: Arendt: *Eichmann in Jerusalem*  
R: Arendt: *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

**Film:** *Night and Fog*

Dec  6  T: Kipphardt: *Bruder Eichmann* (7-88)  
R: Kipphardt: *Bruder Eichmann* (89-154)

**Film:** *The Specialist*

**Evaluation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance, Class:</th>
<th>10%</th>
<th>Homework</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance, Film:</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Study Questions: 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation:</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Mini-essays 20%</td>
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<td>Quizzes: 30%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

No absence will be excused, no homework will be accepted late, and no quizzes can be made up without doctor’s note. Other legitimate absences (e.g. sports or academic related) must have written documentation and must be pre-arranged.