Global Seminar 2016 Berlin
MMW 15 and HIEU 154: 20th Century World History and Modern German History

(Please note: this is draft syllabus and is subject to change and modification)

**Instructor:** Frank Biess

**Place:** Berlin

**Time:** Mon 4-7, Tue/Th, 9-12.

**Excursions** Wed and Tue/Th afternoon

**Course Description:** This course analyzes Modern German history in the context of 20th century world history. Germany has been at the center of some of the 20th century’s most crucial events. Conflicts and tensions inside Germany frequently spilled over Germany’s borders and affected the lives of millions of non-Germans, thus shaping the course of 20th century European and world history. Conversely, global events such as the Cold War profoundly shaped the course of German history. This course follows the extremely volatile and often violent course of German history from its emergence as a nation state in the 19th century to the present Berlin Republic. Since MMW 15 is part of the course, we will also examine events and processes outside of Germany, such as the struggle against Western Imperialism, the process of decolonization, or the paths of development outside of the West.

**Course Format:** Because the class will be taught as a seminar in Berlin, the format will be somewhat different from the corresponding lecture courses taught at UCSD. The emphasis during our meetings will be more on small group discussion and primary source analysis. I will also integrate site visits with readings and assignments. Each seminar has a set of leading questions that we will discuss.

**Course Requirements:** Attendance and Participation, four 5-7 page essays, due at the beginnings of each week starting in week 2. There will be a final exam at the end of the course. Grading will be roughly one third participation, one third papers, one third final exam.

**Course Requirements:** These books will be available at the UCSD bookstore. You can also get them at Amazon.com. Additional readings (primary sources and articles) will be available on e-reserve.

Theodor Fontane, *Effie Briest*
Erich Kästner, *Going to the Dogs*
Ruth Klüger, *Still Alive*
Peter Schneider, *The Wall Jumper*
Robert Moeller, *The Nazi State and German Society*
Course Schedule

WEEK 1

Monday, August 1, 9-12:

Seminar 1: Course Introduction – The Making of Modern Germany

Start Theodor Fontane, *Effie Briest*
The Constitution of the German Empire (Preamble, Art 5,6,7,11,12,15,20, 59,60,78)
August Bebel, Reichstag Speech (November 8, 1871)
Heinrich von Sybel Describes the Structure of the German Empire and the Prospects for Liberty (January 1, 1871)

*PM: City Walk Berlin*

*Question: How and why did Germany become a nation state? What was the nature of the German Empire?*

Tuesday, Aug 2., 9-12:

Seminar 2: Wilhelmine Germany – The Origins of World War I

Finish Theodor Fontane, *Effie Briest*
Eduard Bernstein, "The Immediate Tasks of Social Democracy" (1899)
Rosa Luxemburg, "Social Reform or Revolution"(1899)
Heinrich Class,"If I Were Kaiser"(1912)
July Crisis Documents
Christopher Clark, *The Sleepwalkers* (excerpts)
Volker Berhahn, Imperial Germany (excerpts)

*Questions: How did men and women live in Imperial Germany ("Effie Briest")? Was Germany responsible for the outbreak of World War I?*

*PM: Museum of German History*

*Wed Aug. 3: Reichstag*

Thursday, August 3, 9-12

Seminar 3: Wartime Experiences and Peacemaking

Soldiers Describe Combat: Eduard Schmieder (1914-15), Sophus Lange (1914-15), Peter Hammerer (1916)
The Homefront: Dancing the Polonaise (1916), The Impact on Popular Morale (March 1917), The Strikes of January 1918
Ernst Jünger, *Fire*
Woodrow Wilson, “The Fourteen and the Four Points”

Questions: How did men and women experience the First World War? What did it mean to “make the world safe for democracy”? What were the global reactions to Wilson’s proposal for a liberal peace?

WEEK 2:

Monday, August 8, 4-7pm

**Seminar 4: Revolutions I: Germany, Russia, Mexico**

Sebastian Haffner, *Failure of a Revolution*, 80-101, 194-201
Sources:  The Constitution of the German Republic (e-reserves)
V.I. Lenin, “The Transition from Capitalism to Communism”
V.I. Lenin, “Marxism and Insurrection”
Emilian Zapato, “Plan de Ayala”
Start Erich Kästner, *Fabian*

Questions: Did Germany experience a revolution in 1918/19? What were the similarities and differences of the global revolutionary upheaval in the early 20th century?

**Seminar 5: Revolutions II: Modernism and the Avantgarde-Weimar Culture**

Sigmund Freud, “Why War? Letter to Albert Einstein”
Tristan Tzara, “Dadaism”
Filippo Marinetti, “The Founding and Manifesto of Futurism”
Eric Weitz, *Weimar Germany*, chapter on Bauhaus

Questions: How did the emergence of modernism challenge basic assumptions of Western rationalism? Did the Weimar Republic succeed in developing a democratic culture? How did the lives of men and women change in the 1920 (“Fabian”)?

*City Walk Kreuzberg*

*Wed Aug 10: Excursion to Dessau*

Thursday, August 11, 9-12

**Seminar 6: Varieties of Anti-Imperialism**

Sun Yat-Sen, “Fundamentals of National Reconstruction”
Mao Tse Tung, “Chinese Revolution and Chinese Communist Party”
Ghandi, “Second Letter to Lord Irwin”
Theodor Herzl, “The Jewish State”
Resolutions of the General Syrian Congress (July 1919)
Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk) Outlines His Vision of the Recent Nationalist Past of Turkey and the Future of the Country, 1927

Questions: What were the similarities and differences between different versions of anti-imperialism? How can we explain these differences?

PM: Film The Blue Angel

WEEK 3

Monday, August 15, 4-7pm

Seminar 7: The Great Depression and the Rise of National Socialism

Adolf Hitler's Manifesto (September 1930) (Moeller, Nazi State, 42-45)
Melita Maschmann, "A German's Teenager's Response to the Nazi Takeover in January 1933" (ibid., 47-49)
New York Times, "Germany Ventures, January 31, 1933" (ibid., 49-51)
The Enabling Act Speech by the Social Democrat Otto Wels against Passage of the "Enabling Act" (March 1933)
Report on Working Class Attitudes toward the Murder of SA Leader Ernst Röhm, 1934-35 (Moeller, Nazi State, 78-79)
Start Ruth Kluger, Still Alive. A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered

Questions: How and why did the Nazis come to power in Germany?

Tuesday, August 16, 9-12

Seminar 8: Life under Totalitarianism

Robert Gellately, “Concentration Camps and Media Reports,” in idem., Backing Hitler, 51-69 (e-reserves)
Reports on the Sources of Working Class Support for the Nazis and the Limits of Opposition, 1935-39 (Moeller, Nazi State, 53-56)
Adolf Hitler, "Speech to the National Socialist Women's Organization," September 1934 (ibid., 79-82)
Jutta Rüdiger, "On the League of German Girls," 1939 (ibid., 84-85)

Question: What did it mean to live under a totalitarian regime? How much agency did people have? What was the relationship between coercion and popular consent?

PM: Stasi Museum

Wed, August 17: Excursion to Sachsenhausen
PM Topography of Terror

Thursday, August 18, 9-12

Seminar 9: War and Genocide

A German Colonizer of Poland in 1939 or 1940 (ibid., 114-15)
Field Marshall von Reichenau, "Conduct of Troops in Eastern Territories" (1941) (ibid., 117-19)
Karl Fuchs, A German Soldier's Letters from the Eastern Front (1941), (ibid., 119-24)
Victor Klemperer, Reflections on the Meanings of the Yellow Star for Jews in Germany in 1941 (Moeller, Nazi State, 129-32)
Jewish Cultural Association of Württemberg, On Deportation, November 1941 (ibid., 132-34)
Ria Böring, A German Women’s Account of Jewish Deportations, April 1942 (ibid., 135)
Herman Friedrich Graebe, Description of Mass Execution of Jews in Ukraine in 1942 (ibid., 136-38)
Heinrich Himler, Speech to SS Officers in Posen, October 1943 (ibid., 139-140)
Chaim Kaplan, In the Warsaw Ghetto 1939-1942 (ibid., 141-147)

Question: Why did the Holocaust happen? How do we explain the motivations of the perpetrators? What was the experience of the victims?

PM Jewish Museum

WEEK 4:

Monday, August 22, 4-7 pm

Seminar 10: The Cold War

Henry Luce, “The American Century”
George Kennan, “The Long Telegram
Peter Schneider, The Wall Jumper

Questions: Why did the Cold War emerge? What did it mean for Germany and Berlin?

Tuesday, August 23, 9-12

Seminar 11: 1968-Fundamentalisms-Terrorism

The Port Huron Statement
Martin Luther King, “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” 1963
Simone de Beauvoir, “The Second Sex” (1949)
Ruhollah Khomeini, “The Incompatibility of Monarchy with Islam” (1971)
DOCUMENT ON STUDENT MOVEMENT
Questions: What were the origins and concerns of the global youth revolt? How were the concerns of the students movement similar/different to various strands of fundamentalist religion? How can we explain and understand the Iranian revolution?

PM: Wall Museum

Wed. Aug.24-Friday Aug. 26: Trip to Munich

Aug.24: Guided Tour of Munich
Aug.25: Visit to Dachau
Aug.26: Visit to Neue Pinakothek, White Rose Memorial Site

WEEK 5:

Monday, Aug 29, 4-7pm

Seminar 12: Decolonization-Paths of Development

Frantz Fanon, “The Wretched of the Earth”
Kwame Nkrumah, “Neo-Colonialism, the last Stage of Imperialism”
Ho Chi Minh, “Declaration of Independence of Vietnam”
Jean Dreze and Amaryta Sen, “India and China”

Question: Why did decolonization happen? Did it end Western imperialism or did imperialism continue in a different from? How can we explain the different trajectories of non-Western countries after 1945?

Tuesday, August 30, 9-12

Seminar 13:The Collapse of Communism and The Berlin Republic

Vaclav Havel, “The Power of the Powerless,”
Posters from the ‘No’ Campaign

Questions: Why did Communism Collapse in 1989? What did the end of the Cold War mean for Germany and Berlin? What are the challenging questions for the contemporary Berlin Republic?

PM: Holocaust Memorial and Museum

Wed: Tour of Memorial Sites

Thursday, September 1:

Seminar 14: Globalization-Review for Final Exam
Questions: What are the challenges facing humanity in the early 21st century?

Friday, September 2: Final Exam