Aims and Scope of the Class:

This course is an outgrowth of one of my primary areas of research, the nature of popular culture and everyday life under communism in Eastern Europe. Citizens' experiences of communism in the German Democratic Republic, and in Berlin in particular, will naturally be an important focus of the course, as will life under the Nazi regime from 1933 to 1945. But the inquiry will also extend into problems of authoritarian rule more generally, exploring the ways in which ordinary people have coped with, endured, obeyed, resisted, supported, compromised with, and sometimes ignored the dictatorial regimes that sought to control their minds and lives, and the minds and lives of others. With these questions at the forefront, we will consider the communist and fascist experiences in an explicitly comparative context, drawing on the record of other authoritarian governments (cases addressed in the assignments and in lectures may include, for example, Franco's Spain and Salazar's Portugal, Iran after the Islamic Revolution, Pinochet's Chile, the Philippines under Marcos, communist China, Cuba, and Vietnam).

Course Requirements: Quizzes: 50%  Class participation: 25%  Final exam: 25%

*NOTE: ACTIVE, PREPARED, REGULAR participation is absolutely required. Mere attendance, i.e., "rear end in seat" = a barely passing grade -- in other words, a D for 25% of your course grade. Ouch! So . . . read and speak up!!!

**NOTE: To pass this class you must reasonably satisfy all the course requirements with a reasonable, good-faith effort: that is, you must attend class regularly and take the both the midterm and the final exam, and respond on both with a reasonable, good-faith effort. Attendance in class is required. Neglect of class attendance may result in failure for the entire course. Failure to satisfy any one of the course requirements will result in a course grade of F.

Exams:
Quizzes: These will be brief (10 or 12 minute) essays on one assignment; any assignment could be chosen. The purpose is to ensure that the work gets done. I will drop the lowest quiz score.

Exam: The final exam will include a substantial, wide-ranging essay or essays that will ask you to analyze the assigned course material in light of the major themes of the course, the varying methodological perspectives from which we will approach those issues, and the critical interpretative problems that we will study. Other elements such as short-answer questions or IDs may be included. I will discuss the exams in more detail in class.

**Make up exams:** My general policy is that make-up exams will be given only in the case of a valid, documented excuse (e.g., medical problems). Given that all students are required to be in Berlin for the duration of the instructional portions of the Global Seminars program, there should be no conflicts, but anything that may constitute a valid excuse needs to be brought to my attention well in advance of any exam date. Any make-up exam may be given in a different form and include different content. E.g., the make-up may be an oral exam!
Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:  It is your responsibility to know and observe all university rules concerning academic integrity and plagiarism. Any student found to have committed a substantial violation of the university rules concerning academic integrity will fail the entire course. I view it as one of my chief responsibilities to help each of you produce first-rate academic work that reflects your own original thinking about the course themes and material. If you have any questions whatsoever about what constitutes plagiarism, how to properly credit the work and ideas of others, how to evaluate sources for quality and reliability, and so forth, please feel free to come see me.

Required readings:

Note:  You should have read and thought about the course readings by the dates indicated.

Books are available for purchase at the UCSD Bookstore and on reserve at Geisel Library. Required texts for the course include the following:

Detlev J.K. Peukert, Inside Nazi Germany: Conformity, Opposition, and Racism in Everyday Life (Yale UP, 1989)

Brian Ladd. The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape (U Chicago, 1997)
ISBN 0-226-46762-7 (paperback) [also used for MMW]

Katherine Pence and Paul Betts, eds., Socialist Modern: East German Everyday Culture and Politics (U Michigan, 2008)


Slavenka Drakulić, How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed (Harper Perennial, 1993)

Marjane Satrapi, The Complete Persepolis (Pantheon, 2007)

Required viewings: For insight into the texture of ordinary life, the study of images and film will be a significant part of the course. The specific assignments here should be viewed in advance of the class with which they are listed. The password on the Course Reserves web site is PPHIEU (not case-sensitive).