

FACULTY OF ARTS

Linguistics, Languages & Cultures, The University of Calgary
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Winter 2014

GERM 317.02-01 – Narratives of German Nationhood

German Nationhood and the German East

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 15:00 – 15:50 in ST 132

Course Description:

This course will explore some of the major themes in the development of twentieth century Germany. Topics for discussion include the construction of German identities and the nature of Nazi Germany, but also the change of Europe’s ethnic landscape after the rise of Hitler and Stalin to power. In the middle of Europe, in s.c. bloodlands (T. Snyder) the Nazi and Soviet regimes murdered some 14 million civilians. Over 80 million people were forced to leave their homelands. While according to the Third Reich’s racist ideology, Jews, Sinti and Roma had to be exterminated and the Slavic speaking population of Europe was to be treated as a slave labor force. In their “Generalplan Ost,” Nazi planners envisioned a new, German dominated Europe with settlements far in the East. But by 1944 millions of Germans fled away and the Red Army occupied their homelands. Ethnic cleansing, started by Germany in 1933, had reached its culmination. The loss of „the German East” resulted in a veritable mass-trauma in Germany. Our goal will be also to analyze how both East and West Germans reconstructed their respective societies after 1945 and how they came to terms with their nation’s past.

Course Grading

Participation	20%
10-minute Presentations and Seminar Leadership	40%
Middle Exam	20%
Final Essay	20%

Seminar Participation (20%)

Contributions to weekly discussion will be evaluated by the depth of understanding and the coherency of argumentation. Speaking frequently does not guarantee a high mark for participation.

10-minute Presentations and Seminar Leadership (40%)

Each student will help to begin a class session by presenting a 10-minute report on the text from the reading list and another appropriate reading chosen in consultation with the instructor. Please do not read from a prepared text. Your presentation should summarize your reading and present an argument that will promote discussion. You must list three specific discussion points for the class to consider. You will be graded on your analysis of the readings, the usefulness of your discussion questions and your Leadership in the discussion.

Final Essay (20%)

Students will submit one Final Essay (at least 1500 words) that deals with one of the major themes of this course. This assignment requires students to draw on the relevant scholarly literature, to demonstrate an understanding of the topic. It must be properly footnoted and include a bibliography. Topics will be chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. The final research paper is due on March 31. Late papers will be penalized 3% per day including weekends. The Final Essay be submitted by email and printed.

Weekly Topics and Reading Assignments

Week	Class	Topic	Assignments
1: Introduction	1/8		
	1/10	Concept of the Nation State	Anderson
2. The Beginning of German Nationhood	1/13	National Politics and Military Culture	Hull
	1/15	The German East	Magocsi
	1/17	Discussion	
3. After World War I:	1/20	The experience of the Great War	Remarque
	1/22	New borders, new states	Magocsi
	1/24	Interwar Period	Johnson, 171-196
4. Under Nazi Rules	1/27	Political terror in Germany	Snyder 59-78
	1/29	„Address Unknown” (1938)	Kressmann
	1/31	Discussion	
5. WWII: Forced migrations prior to 1941	2/3	Jewish population	Strauss
	2/5	“Shielding the Flame”	Krall
	2/7	Discussion	
6. General Plan Ost	2/10	Nazi plans for a new Europe	Connelly
	2/12	„A Memoir of the Warsaw Uprising”	Białoszewski
	2/14	Discussion	
7.	2/17	Reading Week – No Class	
	2/19		
	2/21		
8. Soviet Union 1939 -1945	2/24	Polish population	Lebedeva
	2/26	Germans in the Wolga region	Pohl
	2/28	Midterm exam	
9. German	3/3	Women and the Nazi East	Harvey

Women			
	3/5	"The Hour of the Woman"	Heinemann
	3/7	Discussion	
10. Flight and Expulsion after 1944/45	3/10	Germans in Poland in 1945	Kraft
	3/12	Germans in Poland after the Potsdam Conference	Jankowiak
	3/14	„The Murderers Are Among Us“ (1946)	http://www.umass.edu/defa/filmtour/sjmurder.shtml
11. Integration of German Expellees	3/17	Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)	Ahonen
	3/19	German Democratic Republic (East Germany)	Wille
	3/21	Divided heaven	Wolf
12. Resettlement in a "Strange Country"	3/24	Polish Wild West	Halicka
	3/26	Case of Breslau/Wrocław	Thum
	3/28	Discussion	
13. The Neighbors in Czechoslovakia	3/31	Germans in Czechoslovakia after 1945	Glassheim
	4/2	Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia	Radvanovský
	4/4	Film „Escape on the Elbe“	http://www.uwe-rada.de/projekt/e/elbe.html
14. The burden of history and the trap of memory	4/7	An exhibition at the German Historical Museum in Berlin	Ther
	4/9	The Foundation Flight, Expulsion, Reconciliation	http://www.sfvv.de
	4/11	The Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk	http://www.museum1939.pl
15.	4/14	Discussion	

08.01.2014

I. Introduction

10.01.2014

Concept of the Nation State

Required Reading:

*1. Benedict Anderson: Imagined Communities, London 2002, p. 67-88

Recommended Reading:

Rogers Brubaker: Nationalism reframed. Nationhood and the national question in the New Europe, Cambridge [u.a.] 1997.

13.01.2014

II. The Beginning of German Nationhood

National Politics and Military Culture

Required Reading:

Isabel v. Hull: Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany. Ithaca 2005, p.93-109.

Recommended Reading:

Oskar Halecki: The Limits and Divisions of European History, New York 1950.

15.01.2014

The German East

Required Reading:

*Paul R. Magocsi, Geoffrey J. Matthews: Historical Atlas of East Central Europe, University of Washington Press, 1995, p.104-110

Recommended Reading:

Vejas G. Liulevicius: The German Myth of the East. 1800 to the Present, Oxford 2009

Anthony Tihamer Komjathy und Rebecca Stockwell: German Minorities and the Third Reich. Ethnic Germans of East Central Europe between the Wars, New York 1980.

17.01.2014

Discussion

Recommended Reading:

*1. Michael Mann: The Dark Side of Democracy. Explaining Ethnic Cleansing, New York 2005, p.34-54

Nationhood and the national question in the New Europe, Cambridge [u.a.] 1997.

Norman M. Naimark: Fires of hatred. Ethnic cleansing in twentieth-century Europe, Cambridge, Mass. [u.a.] 2001

20.01.2014

III. After World War I

The experience of the Great War

Required Reading:

E.M. Remarque: Im Westen nichts Neues (1929) – one chapter

22.01.2014

New borders, new states

*Paul R. Magocsi, Geoffrey J. Matthews: Historical Atlas of East Central Europe, University of Washington Press, 1995, p.125-129

24.01.2014

Interwar Period

Required Reading:

*Lonnie Johnson: Central Europe. Enemies, Neighbors, Friends, New York, Oxford 1996, p. 171-196

Recommended Reading:

Harold James: Europe Reborn: A History 1914-2000. Pearson Longman, 2003

27.01.2014

IV. Under Nazi Rules

Political terror in Germany

Required Reading:

Timothy Snyder: Bloodlands. Europe between Hitler and Stalin, London 2010, p. 59-78

29.01.2014

Required Reading:

*Kathrine Kressmann Taylor: Address Unknown (1938)

31.01.2014

Discussion

Recommended Reading:

Mark Mazower: Dark continent. Europe's twentieth century, New York 1999

03.02.2014

V. WWII: Forced migrations prior to 1941

Jewish population

Required Reading:

*Herbert Arthur Strauss (ed.): Jewish Immigrants of the Nazi Period in the USA, Bd. 6: Essays on the History, Persecution, and Emigration of German Jews, New York 1987, p. 186-210

05.02.2014

Required Reading:

*Hanna Krall: Shielding the Flame – one chapter

Film: The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler

07.02.2014

Discussion

Recommended Reading:

Götz Aly: 'Final Solution' Nazi population policy and the murder of the European Jews, London: Arnold; New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Otmar Bartov, Germany's War and the Holocaust

Jack Mayer: Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project. 2011

10.02.2014

VI. General Plan Ost

Nazi plans for a new Europe

Required Reading:

*John Connelly: Nazis and Slavs: From Racial Theory to Racist Practice, in: Central European History, 32(1999), 1-33.

12.02.2014

Required Reading:

*Miron Białoszewski: A Memoir of the Warsaw Uprising – one chapter

14.02.2014

Discussion

Recommended Reading:

*Jan Tomasz Gross: Polish Society under German Occupation. The Generalgouvernement, 1939-1944, Princeton, N.J. 1979, p. 184-203

Götz Aly: Hitler's Beneficiaries: Plunder, Racial War, and the Nazi Welfare State Metropolitan Books. January, 2007

Reading Week – No Class

24.02.2014

VII. Soviet Union 1939 -1945

Polish population

Required Reading:

*N. S. Lebedeva: The Deportation of the Polish Population to the USSR, 1939-41, in: Rieber, 28-45.

26.02.2014

Germans in the Wolga region

Required Reading:

*J. Otto Pohl: Ethnic Cleansing in the USSR, 1937 - 1949, Westport, Conn. 1999, p.27-60

Recommended Reading:

Timothy Snyder: The reconstruction of nations. Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569 - 1999, New Haven, Conn. [u.a.] 2003.

Paul R. Magocsi, Geoffrey J. Matthews: Historical Atlas of East Central Europe, University of Washington Press, 1995

Peter Gatrell und Nick Baron: Warlands. Population resettlement and state reconstruction in the Soviet-East European borderlands, 1945 - 50, Basingstoke [u.a.] 2009

*Eugene M. Kulischer: The Displacement of Population in Europe, Montreal 1943, p.7-27

28.02.2014

Midterm exam

03.03.2014

VIII. German Women

Women and the Nazi East

Required Reading:

Elizabeth Harvey: Women and the Nazi East. Agents and witnesses of Germanization, New Haven, Conn. [u.a.] 2003. – one chapter

05.03.2014

Required Reading:

Heineman: "The Hour of the Woman" *American Historical Review*, Vol. 101, No. 2 (Apr., 1996), pp. 354-395 (Krokow)

07.03.2014

Discussion

Recommended Reading:

Anonymous: *A Woman in Berlin: Eight Weeks in the Conquered City: A Diary* (New York: Metropolitan, 2005).
Ingvill C. Mochmann / Sabine Lee / Barbara Stelzl-Marx (ed.): *Children Born of War: Second World War and Beyond. Focus. Kinder des Krieges: Zweiter Weltkrieg und danach. Historical Social Research. Historische Sozialforschung. Vol. 34 (2009) 3. Köln 2009.*

10.03.2014

VIII. Flight and Expulsion after 1944/45

Germans in Poland in 1945

Required Reading:

*Claudia Kraft: *Who Is a Pole, and Who Is a German? The Province of Olsztyn in 1945*, in: Philipp Ther und Ana Siljak: *Redrawing nations. Ethnic cleansing in East-Central Europe, 1944 - 1948*, Lanham [u.a.] 2001, p.107-120.

12.03.2014

Germans in Poland after the Potsdam Conference

Required Reading:

*Stanisław Jankowiak: "Cleansing" Poland of Germans: The Province of Pomerania, 1945-1949, in: Ther/Siljak, 87-105.

14.03.2014Wolfgang, Staudte: *The Murderers Are Among Us [Die Mörder sind unter uns]*, 1946.

For more films see "DEFA Film Library at the University of Massachusetts Amherst," <http://www.umass.edu/defa/filmtour/sjmurder.shtml>

Recommended Reading:

IX. Integration of German Expellees

17.03.2014

Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)

Required Reading:

*Pertti Ahonen: *The Impact of Distorted Memory: Historical Narratives and Expellee Integration in West Germany, 1945-1970*, in: Karen Schönwälder; Rainer Ohliger und Triadafilos Triadafilopoulos (Hrsg.): *European Encounters. Migrants, Migration, and European Societies since 1945*, Aldershot, Hants, England 2003, 238-256.

19.03.2014

German Democratic Republic (East Germany)

Required Reading:

*Manfred Wille: *Compelling the Assimilation of Expellees in the Soviet Zone of Occupation*

and the GDR, in: Ther/Siljak, 263-283.

21.03.2014

Required Reading:

*Christa Wolf: *Divided heaven* – one chapter

Recommended Reading:

Richard Bessel: *Germany 1945: From War to Peace* (New York: HarperCollins, 2009)

Norman M. Naimark, *The Russians in Germany: A History of the Soviet Zone of Occupation, 1945- 1949.*

Cambridge and London: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1995

24.03.2014

XII. Resettlement in a "Strange Country"

Polish Wild West

Required Reading:

*Beata Halicka: The Oder-Neisse Line as a place of remembrance for Germans and Poles. in: *Journal of Contemporary History (JCH)* 2013, Volume 49, Issue 1.

26.03.2014

Case of Breslau/Wrocław

Required Reading:

* Gregor Thum: *Cleansed Memory: The New Polish Wrocław/Breslau and the Expulsion of the Germans*, in: *Várdy*, 333-357.

28.03.2014

Discussion

Recommended Reading:

Adam Zagajewski: *Two cities: on exile, history, and the imagination*

Beata Halicka: *Polens Wilder Westen. Erzwungene Migration und die kulturelle Aneignung des Oderraumes 1945-48.* Ferdinand Schöningh Verlag, Paderborn 2013

Jan Musekamp: *Szczecin's Identity after 1989: A Local Turn*, in: *Cities after the Fall of Communism. Reshaping cultural Landscapes and European Identity*, Washington, DC [et al.] 2009, 305-334

31.03.2014

XIII The Neighbors in Czechoslovakia

Germans in Czechoslovakia after 1945

Required Reading:

*Eagle Glassheim: *The Mechanics of Ethnic Cleansing: The Expulsion of Germans from Czechoslovakia, 1945-1947*, in: Ther/Siljak, 197-219.

02.04.2014

Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia

Required Reading:

*Zdeněk Radvanovský: *The Social and Economic Consequences of Resettling Czechs into Northwestern Bohemia, 1945-1947*, in: Ther/Siljak, 241-260.

04.04.2014

Film „Escape on the Elbe“
<http://www.uwe-rada.de/projekte/elbe.html>

Recommended Reading:

07.04.2014

XIV. The burden of history and the trap of memory

An exhibition at the German Historical Museum in Berlin

Required Reading:

* Philipp Ther: The burden of history and the trap of memory. In: *Transit* 30 2005/2006 (about *Erzwungene Wege* ["Forced journeys"]) an exhibition at the German Historical Museum in Berlin)

09.04.2014

The Foundation Flight, Expulsion, Reconciliation, <http://www.sfvv.de>

11.04.2014

The Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk

<http://www.muzeum1939.pl>

Recommended Reading:

Dorothee Wierling, "The East As the Past: Problems With Memory and Identity," *German Politics & Society* 15, no. 2 (1997), p. 53-71.

Bill Niven, *Facing the Nazi Past: United Germany and the Legacy of the Third Reich*. London and New York: Routledge, 2002.

Habermas, "On How Postwar Germany has Faced Its Recent Past" *Common Knowledge* (1996)