Purposes of the Course
This course treats political, social, and cultural movements since 1815 in a country whose history has been marked by both triumphs and tragedies in extraordinary measure. The course examines not only German uniqueness (with particular attention to the rise and fall of Hitler’s Third Reich) but also aspects of striving for modernity that have transcended national boundaries. It considers not only nation building and war making but also industrialization, urbanization, working-class protest, women’s movements, social reform, and artistic innovation—and reactions against them. All of these developments took place throughout the western world between the early 19th and the late 20th centuries. Many of them occurred in especially acute and dramatic ways in Germany. We shall see how.

Assigned Reading. For the assigned reading, Dietrich Orlow, *A History of Modern Germany, 1871 to Present* should be purchased at the campus bookstore. Page numbers are for the sixth edition, of which there are numerous used copies for sale. All other assigned readings are available through electronic reserve at the Robeson Library, from which they may be downloaded and printed.

Reference and Pictorial Works. The best general history of Germany (to 1945) in English is H. Holborn, *A History of Modern Germany* (3 vols; DD175 H62). For browsing and amusement, see the following: F. Hubmann, *Dream of Empire: The World of Germany in Original Photographs, 1840-1914* (DD67 H7717 1973a); S. Lorant, Sieg Heil: *An Illustrated History of Germany from Bismarck to Hitler* (DD232 L67 1974); and F. Grunfeld, *The Hitler File: A Social History of Germany and the Nazis, 1918-1945* (DD256.5 G79 1974). Also, going to GHDI (=German History in Documents and Images, a website constructed by the German Historical Institute in Washington) via Google will lead to a wealth of primary materials (a small portion of which have been selected for the assigned reading for this course) and of pictures. It is a marvelous collection of both written and visual sources. Check it out!

Papers. I require a brief analysis of two primary documents (2-3 pages, due Sept. 28) and two analyses of entire books (each 3-4 pages; due Oct. 9 and Dec. 9). Students may write a second analysis of two primary source if they wish to. If the grade on the second paper is higher than the grade on the first paper, the second grade will count instead of the first one. If the grade on the second paper is the same as the grade on the first one, the grade for the analysis of a primary source will be slightly raised (e.g., from C+ to a B- or from a B to a B+). More information about requirements for these papers is contained in a separate hand-out.

Examinations. There will be two exams: a mid-term on Sept. 30 and a final in May (date to be determined). For each, essay questions will be distributed in advance. In the absence of strongly extenuating circumstances, makeup exams are likely to be harder than exams taken on the days for which they are scheduled. Students must pass the final exam to pass the course. Anyone who does not take the final exam on time and does not get in touch with me within twenty-four hours may expect to fail the course.

Grades. Final grades will be determined roughly as follows: document analysis = 10 percent; each book analysis = 15 percent; mid-term exam = 15 per cent; final exam = 30 percent; attendance = 15 percent (Students will receive 3 points for each of the first twenty classes they attend and 5 points for each class thereafter. For the purpose of calculating the grade for attendance, there is no such thing as an excused absence. If students show up, they get credit. If they are absent, they do not.)
PART ONE. THE EMERGENCE OF A NATION STATE, 1815-1871
Basic Reading: Items Written by Clark, Siemann, and Breuilly, Indicated Below

Sept. 2: Introduction to the Course; The Heavy Hand of the Past, I: Varieties of Division and Authoritarianism. Read: C. Clark, “Germany 1815-1848: Restoration or pre-March?,” pp. 38-44; Clemens von Metternich, “Memoir on the Concert of Europe.”

Sept. 8: The Heavy Hand of the Past, II: Social and Economic Inequality and Backwardness.


Sept. 14: The Revolutions of 1848-1849. Read: W. Siemann, The Revolutions of 1848-49 and the Persistence of the Old Regime in Germany (1848-1850); C. Schurz, Reminiscences (selections); Louise Otto, Women’s Newspaper (selections).


PART TWO. THE SECOND EMPIRE, 1871-1918
Basic Reading: Orlow, pp. 1-104
Reference: "Reichstag Elections, 1871-1912"


Sept. 28: Bismarck's Foreign Policy and Bismarck's Legacy. Read: Orlow, pp. 32-41; O. Pflanze, Bismarck (selections); Document analysis due.

Sept. 30: Examination.


2


PART THREE. DEMOCRACY AND DICTATORSHIP, 1918-1945
Basic Reading: Orlow, pp. 105-229
Reference: "Reichstag Elections, 1919-1933"


Nov. 2: From Republic to Reich, 1933-1934. Read: Orlow, pp. 175-189; Rudolf Diels, Autobiography (selections).

Nov. 4: Nazi Culture and Nazi Social Policy. Read: “Hitler Sets the Tone”; G. Bock, “Racism and Sexism in Nazi Germany.”

Nov. 9: Nazi Foreign Policy, Blitzkrieg, and Expansion: From the Rhineland to Stalingrad. Read: Orlow, pp. 189-213; Hitler’s Secret Conversations (selections).


PART FOUR. FROM DEFEAT TO RECOVERY AND BEYOND, 1945-PRESENT
Basic Reading: Orlow, pp. 229-333


---

Second analysis of an extra book due.