

HTS 3046 A
Science, Politics and Culture in Nazi Germany
Professor Kristie Macrakis
Fall 2013

Class Meets: MWF: 11:05-11:55

Professor Kristie Macrakis: macrakis@gatech.edu, (404) 894-2185

Old Civil Engineering Building Room 120

Office Hours: MW 2:00-3:00 pm or after class or by appointment

This class is about science, politics, society and culture in Nazi Germany. The goal is to understand and evaluate the regime and the fate of science and technology under National Socialism as a window into better understanding the interaction of science and politics under totalitarian regimes. Questions we will consider include: What is the nature of the regime? What was it like to live in Nazi Germany? How did science change? Was there a decline and destruction of science? How did institutions and disciplines react and function during the phases of Nazi Germany? What is the political responsibility of the scientist? And how should we judge scientists' actions?

We will spend the first month learning about the history of Nazi Germany in general in order to have a firm understanding of the context. This year's featured book is *In the Garden of the Beasts*. Then we will turn to politics and society in Germany before the rise of Nazism and after. After the general overview we focus on policy, institutions, disciplines and biographies.

Books Available at Bookstore (Engineers Bookstore)

Required:

Cornwell, John. *Hitler's Scientists: Science, War, and the Devil's Pact*. NY: Viking, 2003. (\$17/\$11)

Katz, Eric. *Death by Design: Science, Technology and Engineering in Nazi Germany*. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2006. (\$36/\$32)

Larson, Erik. *In the Garden of Beasts*. New York: Crown, 2011.

Spielvogel, Jackson. *Hitler and Nazi Germany*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall. [any edition is fine] Please get used copy.

Requirements:

There will be two written in class tests (a mid-term and final), pop quizzes, class discussion and a final research paper (8-12 pages). The tests examine your understanding of the readings and class discussions. You can pick the topic of the research paper in consultation with the instructor. It can be on any topic related to the class whether one topic in depth or a topic not covered.

Class attendance and participation is vital to learning and profiting from this class. It is also required. Material covered in the class will be on the tests and may not be covered in the reading. There will be occasional pop quizzes on the movies and readings at the discretion of the instructor if the students are not keeping up with the class.

READ the material *before* the class discussion. 30-60 pages a class time are assigned depending on difficulty of reading.

Grading:

Mid-term Test & Amazon Book Review: 25% (4 October)

Final Test: 25% (27 November)

Research Paper 25% (6 December)

Mid-Term Paper Outline Due: (required, rolls into research paper grad)

Class Discussion & Pop Quizzes 25%

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 0-59

Teaching Philosophy:

I believe in *active learning*. This means I don't lecture *to* you as you passively take notes, but rather you are a fully involved student taking part in class discussion, class role-playing, pair-share, and other activities to ensure you learn something in this class.

I also want you to learn how to *think critically* and analyze material. The point is not to regurgitate facts, but rather to understand the material and to critically analyze it, think about it, discuss it and write about it.

The course should help you *improve your reading and writing skills* as critical thinking means nothing if you can't write about it in a coherent fashion without major stylistic or grammatical errors.

I want you to succeed in the class. You need to:

1. Do the reading
2. Take NOTES (preferably in a notebook for the class: What is the main point of the reading? How does the author illustrate the points? Note your reaction to the events or reading. Share them with the class. Notes will help you as you review for exams.
3. Be able to present a thumbnail sketch of the reading in class

Georgia Tech Honor Code:

Plagiarism and cheating is not tolerated and will be penalized. All students are expected to follow the Georgia Tech honor code. See www.honor.gatech.edu.

Organization of Course

Prelude: In the Garden of Beasts

20th Century Germany before the Nazis

Nazi Germany, 1933-1939; WW II

Science and Technology in Weimar Germany

Science and Technology in Nazi Germany

Policy

Institutions:

Universities

Research Institutions

Disciplines:

Technology

Physics

Biology

Medicine

Codes and Ciphers

Calendar & Reading Schedule & In-class Topics (Subject to Change)

Course Outline Schedule (MWF)

PART I: Garden of Beasts

AUGUST

- 19 Introductions/Syllabus Overview/Housekeeping: READ the SYLLABUS carefully!
- 21 Getting to know you & what you know – Writing Exercise in Class. QUIZ on Syllabus.. Start reading *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson, pps. xiii-xiv,1-50 Part I.
- 23 *Garden of Beasts*, Part II, pps. 51-90
- 26 *Garden of Beasts*, Part III, 91-154
- 28 *Garden of Beasts*, Part IV, 155-206
- 30 *Garden of Beasts*, Part V, pps. 207-260. Berlin Movie Clips

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Labor Day, No Class
- 4 *Garden of Beasts*, Part VI & VII, pps. 261-366
- 6 Amazon Book Review of *Garden of Beasts* DUE!

PART II: Politics, Society & Economics in Nazi Germany

- 9 Politics, Society & Economics in WWI & Weimar Germany
Spielvogel, pps. 1-41 (Extra Credit Lecture Robert Darnton , 4 pm Clary Theater)
- 11 Growth & Victory of Nazism, 1924-34 Spielvogel, pps. 45-80.
- 13 The Nazi State, 1933-49 Spielvogel, pps. 83-118
- 16 The Dictator, Spielvogel, Spielvogel, pps. 121-144
- 18 Culture and Society in Nazi Germany, pps. 146-178
- 20 Hitler (M)
- 23 Hitler's War, Spielvogel, pps. 182-217
- 25 Nazi Germany in Wartime, Spielvogel, pps. 220-252.
- 27 World War II: Saving the Reality (M)

- 30 The Holocaust (D). Spielvogel, pps. 255-287, 292-295.

OCTOBER

2 Holocaust Movie

4 MIDTERM TEST (Week 7)

Part III: Science and Technology in Nazi Germany

7 Understanding the Germans & Hitler, Cornwell, pps. 1-37

9 Germany, the Science Mecca, Haber & Poison Gas, Cornwell, pps. 38-70

11 The Science of Racial Hygiene, Cornwell, 71-90

14 Student Recess (12-15 October), No Class

16 Physics after the War, Cornwell, 93-123

18 The Dismissals & Engineers, Cornwell, pps. 127-151

21 Hitler's Doctors, Cornwell, pps. 152-166 (skim), Read Katz, 220-247

23 The Cancer Campaign, Cornwell, pps. 167-177, Katz, pps. 201-212.

25 High Tech Hitler (M)

28 Physics under Hitler, Cornwell, pps. 178-90, 207-228

30 The Atomic Bomb, Cornwell, 299-340

NOVEMBER

1 Heisenberg & the Bomb (M)

4 Nazi Technology & Politics, Katz, 70-85

6 Engineers & Rocketeers, Cornwell, pps. 142-151

8 V-2's & Dora (M), Cornwell, pps. 341-347

11 The Gas Chambers. Katz, pps. 8-27

13 Architecture & Albert Speer, Katz, 147-178

15 Architecture & Destruction of the Jews, Katz, pps. 122-143

18 IBM in Nazi Germany, Katz, pps. 251-264

20 IG Farben in Nazi Germany, Katz, pps. 267-285

22 Codes, Ciphers & Invisible Ink, Cornwell, pps. 281-295, Macrakis handout

25 Review for Final

27 Final Test (Week 15)

29 Thanksgiving Break, No Class

DECEMBER

2 Dead Week: Workshop

4 Dead Week Workshop

6 Dead Week **Final Paper DUE**