

# History 241: Hitler and National Socialism

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Maybank 327

Office Hours: By Appt

## COURSE ORGANIZATION AND GOALS:

History 241 assumes a basic knowledge of modern European history and some knowledge of the history of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Germany. It will examine issues in the Third Reich's history, including:

Who supported the Nazis?

What caused the sudden rise in popularity of National Socialism?

How do historians interpret Nazism and the Third Reich?

What was the structure of the Third Reich?

What kind of world did the Nazi Party envisage?

What was Nazi Culture?

How and why did the Holocaust occur?

This class will consist of lecture, discussion, and film viewing. All students will bring at least one typed or hand-written question to discuss about the day's readings. These may be collected in lieu of a quiz.

This course has several objectives:

- 1) to provide students with the chance to learn about a major era in modern history.
- 2) to learn how to write short, analytical, essays.
- 3) to learn to read films as texts (note, the film selections will not be announced in advance).

## REQUIRED TEXTS:

Michael Burleigh, *The Third Reich: A New History*

Allan Mitchell, *The Nazi Revolution*

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The combined assignments equal 100 points, divided as follows:

Pop Quizzes, Typed Questions and Discussion: 20 points

Be prepared to be called upon. When called upon, be ready to discuss a chapter's subject and argument.

First Paper 40 points.

Write a 4 or 5 page, analytical essay on an article in a **respected professional historical journal** that addresses an aspect of the history of the Nazi Party or of the Third Reich. The essay should:

- a. summarize the article's content
- b. state the article's thesis
- c. discuss the evidence that supports the article's arguments

Journals to consider include: *Central European History*, *German History*, *Journal of Social History*, *Journal of Modern History*, *German Studies Review*, *American Historical Review*

Second Paper 40 points.

See the final page of the syllabus for instructions.

May 13 - The Kaiserreich, WWI, and Germany's Radicalization  
Burleigh, Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2

May 14 - The NSDAP in the Weimar Republic  
Mitchell, Wehler, Blackburn, Childers

May 15 - The Machtergreifung  
Burleigh, Chapter 3  
Mitchell, Pridham and Nicholls

May 16 - Gaining Control of the State  
Mitchell, Bracher and Bullock

May 19 - Jews in the Third Reich **PAPER ONE DUE**  
Film: The Great Dictator  
Burleigh, Chapter 4

May 20 - Society in the Third Reich  
Burleigh, Chapter 5  
Mitchell, Allen and Mason

May 21 - Who were Hitler's Henchmen?  
Burleigh, Chapter 6  
Mitchell, Carr and Turner

May 22 - International Relations: The Coming of the War  
Burleigh, Chapter 7  
Mitchell, Kershaw and Waite

May 23 - The German Military  
Burleigh, Chapter 9  
Mitchell, Carr and Jacobsen

May 27 - World War Two **PAPER TWO DUE**  
Burleigh, Chapter 10  
Mitchell, Bartov and Hoffmann

May 28 - The Holocaust and the Historians' Debate  
Burleigh, Chapter 8  
Mitchell, Peukert and Gordon

## **ASSIGNMENT FOR THE SECOND PAPER**

1. Purpose.

This assignment will allow you to grapple with some of the same materials and problems that face professional historians in their writings. Having completed the paper, you will understand the process by which history is written, and how historians attempt to interpret data.

2. Selecting a topic and newspapers.

Using the reading as a guide, choose an important event in the history of the Nazi Party or the Third Reich that would be covered by *The Times of London* or *The New York Times*. (These newspapers are accessible through the College Library's website) Some examples include:

- The Beer Hall Putsch
- The 1932 Presidential Elections
- The Machtergreifung
- The Night of the Long Knives
- Krystallnacht
- The Signing of the Munich Accords
- The Outbreak of World War Two

Having chosen an event, turn to the newspaper to find a contemporary account.

3. Format.

Your approximately 4-page papers should have the following format.

a. Present your topic in detail (Who, what, where, when, how)

Discuss the newspaper account in detail:

- What is emphasized?
- If it is treated on the editorial page, how is it discussed?
- How is the story told?
- What, from a historical perspective, is left out?

b. Compare Burleigh's interpretations with those of journalists`:

- do they emphasize the same things?
- how are their analyses similar, how are they different?

This is a very short essay. Therefore, you must make every word and sentence count. You must turn in a copy of your newspaper story with your paper.