

**HITO 87**  
**Freshmen Seminar**  
**Killing Hitler: The German Resistance against Nazism**

Instructor: Frank Biess  
Mo 11.00-11.50  
HSS 6008

**Course Description:**

This seminar analyzes two failed attempts to kill Hitler: the famous plot by a group of military officers in 1944 (as depicted in the recent movie 'Operation Valkyrie') and the lesser known attempt by the carpenter Georg Elser in 1939. It will also provide a more general introduction into historical research and historical analysis.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

Sept. 28: Introduction

Oct. 5: What is the meaning of "resistance"?

Klemens von Klemperer, "What Is the Law That Lies behind These Words?' Antigone's Question and the German Resistance against Hitler"

OR

Hans Mommsen, "German Society and Resistance to Hitler"

Oct.12 Who was Georg Elser?

Roger Moorhouse, "Georg Elser: The Lone Bomber"

Oct. 19: 20<sup>th</sup> July Personalities

Oct.26: Film: *Valkyrie*

Nov.2: Discussion Film  
20<sup>th</sup> July Sources

Nov.9: The Resistance and the Persecution of the Jews

Hans Mommsen, "Anti-Hitler Resistance and the Nazi Persecution of the Jews"

Nov.16: The Legacies of the Resistance

David Clay Large, "Uses of the Past. The Anti-Nazi Resistance Legacy in the Federal Republic of Germany."