

Susanne Hillman [shillman@ucsd.edu](mailto:shillman@ucsd.edu)

Office hours: H&SS 3045, Tuesday 9:30 – 11 am or by appointment

## **By Way of Introduction**

In 1945, the year of Nazi Germany's catastrophic collapse, the British historian A.P.J. Taylor wrote: "The history of the Germans is a history of extremes. It contains everything except moderation, and in the course of a thousand years the Germans have experienced everything except normality. ... Geographically the people of the center, the Germans have never found a middle way of life, either in their thought or least of all in their politics." In this course, we will probe the accuracy of Taylor's statement by adopting an interdisciplinary approach and studying images, music, and film clips alongside assigned readings. At the end of the quarter, you will be able to decide for yourself whether early modern German history was indeed a history marked by abnormality and recurrent catastrophe.

## **Required Texts**

Friedrich Engels, *The Peasant War in Germany*

*The Memoirs of Glückel of Hameln*, trans. Marvin Lowenthal

Tryntje Helfferich, ed., *The Thirty-Years War: A Documentary History*

Deborah Hertz, *How Jews Became Germans*

Heinrich von Kleist, *Michael Kohlhaas*

Wu Ming, ed., *Thomas Müntzer: Sermon to the Princes*

Steven Ozment, *The Serpent and the Lamb*

Lyndal Roper, *Witch Craze*

Books are available for purchase at the campus bookstore and have been placed on reserve in the library.

## **Course Requirements**

Midterm: 30 %

Document Analysis / Comparison: 15 %

Image Analysis / Comparison: 15 %

Final: 40 %

Regular attendance is essential to your success in this class. I expect you to be there, to pay attention, and to contribute to the best of your ability. Genuine learning does not happen in isolation or while surfing the net! So please *do not bring a laptop* to class, and turn off your cell phone. I have created a class website on TED where I will post instructions for the two short papers and study guides before exams. If you run into problems at any time, talk to me, and I will be glad to help you out. Feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions for additional topics or improvements.

## **“Learning in Reverse Order”**

In this class you have the opportunity to be a student-teacher. In lieu of one of the papers, you may volunteer to lead a class discussion or present some of the course materials after consultation with me. You are also encouraged to propose suitable materials such as poems, film clips, art work, etc. for discussion. I am looking forward to working with some of you on this.

## **Plagiarism**

It is your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism. If you have trouble determining if something is a breach of academic integrity, talk to me. Suspected plagiarism will be reported to the academic integrity office.

A final word of advice: don't do it. It's bad karma, and you will almost certainly be found out.

## **Class Schedule**

### **Week 0**

**27 Sept.** The Course of German History: Problems of Interpretation

*Assigned Readings:* begin Ozment

*Film Clip:* Faust

### **Week 1**

**2 Oct** The Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation on the Eve of Reformation

**4 Oct.** Martin Luther: Revolutionary or Reactionary?

*Assigned Readings:* Engels (chapters I and III / continue Ozment

### **Week 2**

**9 Oct.** The Protestant Family and Cranach's Nudes

**11 Oct.** The German Peasant Wars: Germany's Failed Revolution

*Assigned Readings:* finish Ozment / Engels (II, IV-VI)

*Film Clip:* Luther

### **Week 3**

**16 Oct.** Discussion: Müntzer and Engels

*Assigned Readings:* Müntzer (chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6)

**18 Oct.** Justice in Early Modern Germany: The Case of Michael Kohlhaas

*Assigned Readings:* Kleist (entire) / Roper (Parts I to III and Epilogue)

#### **Week 4**

**23 Oct.**        *Image Analysis due* / Discussion: Witchcraft

**25 Oct.**        The Thirty-Years War I

*Assigned Readings:* finish Roper (assigned parts) / Helfferich (docs. 1, 3-9, 12-17, 20-22)

*Film Clip: The Last Valley*

#### **Week 5**

**30 Oct.**        *Document Analysis due* / The Thirty-Years War II

**1 Nov.**         Jews in Early Modern Germany: The Case of Glückel von Hameln

*Required Readings:* Helfferich (docs. 26-29, 33, 35-38)

Glückel (entire) / Hertz (chapter 2)

#### **Week 6**

**6 Nov.**        *Midterm – please bring a blue book!*

**8 Nov.**        The Rise of Prussian Absolutism

*Music:* Johann Sebastian Bach

#### **Week 7**

**13 Nov.**        Frederick the Great and Enlightened Despotism

**15 Nov.**        The “German Genius” in Philosophy, Literature, and Music

*Required Readings:* Hertz (chapter 3)

*Film Clip: Amadeus*

*Music:* Franz Joseph Haydn / Beethoven

## **Week 8**

**20 Nov.** The Birth of the German Nation

**22 Nov.** **Thanksgiving Holiday – no class!**

*Required Readings:* Hertz (chapter 4)

## **Week 9**

**27 Nov.** The German Confederation: Time of the *Biedermeier*

**29 Nov.** *Vormärz* and Revolution

*Required Readings:* Hertz (chapters 5 and 6 and epilogue) / Engels (preface and chapter VII)

*Film Clip:* *Lola Montes*

## **Week 10**

**4 Dec.** Blood and Iron: How Bismarck Founded the Second Reich

**6 Dec.** Bismarck's Legacy in World History

**13 Dec.** **Final Exam: 3 – 6 pm**