

**HIEU 171/271:
The Two Germanies since 1945
Winter 2018**

Instructor: Joerg Neuheiser

Time: Tuesdays, 3.30 – 6.20 pm

Place: John Marino Room, 6th floor (H&SS 6008)

Office Hours: HSS 6071, Thursdays, 10am-12noon, and by appointment

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Course Description

Demilitarization, Democratization, Denazification and Decentralization: These were the four “Ds” that the allied victors set as their goals for Germany’s future in 1945. The story of the two German states that quickly emerged under the conditions of the Cold War can be understood as a constant struggle to achieve these goals. What is true democracy? How could the perpetrators of the Holocaust be turned into trustworthy democrats, and how could a democratic Germany contribute to a peaceful post-war international order? This seminar seeks to explore the different paths that the capitalist West and the communist East took after 1945, emphasizing the extent to which policies in both states were always dependent on one another. In particular, it will take a look at calls for democratization in both German states since the 1960s, including the 1968 student revolution in the West and the East German civil rights movement that evolved in the late 1980s. Finally, the course will analyze how the legacies of both German states continue to shape Germany after reunification and how today’s Germany deals with challenges to democracy in light of its totalitarian past

Course Requirements:

This seminar class can only succeed if everybody attends regularly and participates in class discussions. Each student will introduce the readings for one week in a brief presentation (10 min). The presentation should summarize the main arguments of the readings and raise some questions for discussions. Each student will submit a blog entry of about 500 words (except weeks 1 and 10, on the TritonEd Website under “Discussion”). These blog entries should summarize your understanding of the main arguments of each week’s readings. In addition, you should submit two questions that you think would be worth discussing in class. The main writing assignment is a 15-20 page research paper on a topic of your own choosing that you will develop in consultation with the instructor. The paper should focus on one aspect of the course theme and explore this topic in greater depth. Grading will consist of 30 percent class participation, 30 percent blog entries, 40 percent research paper.

Learning Goals:

- (i) Understand and be able to discuss critically: the development of the two German states in the postwar period; different views of democracy by various political agents in both societies; the calls for a renewed German democracy from the 1960s onwards; subsequent changes in both German societies in the 1970s and 80s; the legacy of both German states in the Berlin Republic after 1990.
- (ii) Read, process, and discuss critically a variety of texts (historiography, commentary, autobiography, novel). This means: identifying an argument or core message; contextualizing this argument within a broader debate; and evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of this argument.
- (iii) Define, research, and write an essay of 15-20 pages on one specific subject. This means: identifying a feasible research question; identifying appropriate primary and secondary sources; synthesizing the material into a well-organized, well-written essay with a clear thesis.

Course Readings:

Mary Fulbrook, *A History of Germany 1918-2014*. (full text online via library)
Konrad Jarausch, *After Hitler. Recivilizing Germany*.
James J. Sheehan: *Where Have All the Soldiers Gone?*
Edith Sheffer: *Burned Bridge. How East and West Germans Made the Iron Curtain*.
(full text online via library)
Andrew Port: *Conflict and Stability in the German Democratic Republic*
Uta G. Poiger: *Jazz, Rock and Rebels: Cold War Politics and American Culture in a Divided Germany*. (full text online via library)
Timothy S. Brown: *West Germany and the Global Sixties: The Anti-Authoritarian Revolt, 1962-1978*. (full text online via library)
Timothy Garton Ash: *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin and Prague*.
Bernhard Schlink: *The Reader* (novel, translated by Carol Brown Janeway)

Films:

Billy Wilder: *One, Two, Three* (1961)
Volker Schlöndorff/Margarethe v. Trotha: *The Lost Honor of Katharina Braun* (1975)
Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck: *The Lives of Others* (2006)

Additional readings on e-reserve

Course Schedule

1) Jan. 9: Introduction

2) Jan. 16: How Germany got to 1945

Readings:

Mary Fulbrook: *History of Germany* (pp. 1-111)

James J. Sheehan: *Where Have All the Soldiers Gone* (pp. 1-144)

3) Jan 23: Divisions – Eastern and Western Answers to the End of the War

Readings:

Mary Fulbrook: *History of Germany* (pp. 111-163)

Konrad Jarausch: *After Hitler* (pp. 1-97)

Edith Sheffer: *Burned Bridge* (pp. 1-163)

4) Jan. 30: Democracy and Dictatorship – The GDR in the 1950s

Readings:

Andrew Port: *Conflict and Stability in the German Democratic Republic*

5) Feb. 6: East and West Germany from the mid-1950s to 1970

Readings:

Konrad Jarausch: *After Hitler* (pp. 99-156)

Uta G. Poiger: *Jazz, Rock and Rebels*

Film:

Billy Wilder: *One. Two. Three.*

Paper Proposals Due

6) Feb. 13: 1968 and All That: Questioning Authority in the West

Readings:

Konrad Jarausch: *After Hitler* (pp. 156-184)

Timothy S. Brown: *West Germany and the Global 60s*

Film:

Volker Schlöndorff/Margarethe v. Trotha: *The Lost Honor of Katharina Braun*

7) Feb. 20: Germany 1970 – 2000. Diverging Societies?

Readings:

Konrad Jarausch, *After Hitler* (pp. 185-265)

Mary Fulbrook: *History of Germany* (pp. 164-281)

Edith Sheffer: *Burned Bridge* (pp. 167-257)

8) Feb. 27: Revolution in East Germany

Readings:

Timothy Garton Ash: *The Magic Lantern*

Film:

Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck: *The Lives of Others*

9) March 6: The Berlin Republic – Past and Present in Contemporary Germany

Readings:

Konrad Jarausch, *After Hitler* (pp. 267-281)

Mary Fulbrook: *History of Germany* (pp. 281-318)

Bernhard Schlink: *The Reader*

10) March 13: Germany Since 1945 – Changing Narratives?

Readings: TBD

Discussion of Paper Drafts

Final Paper Due March 20