

German 272  
Jost Hermand  
Marc Silberman

Spring 2010  
114 Van Hise  
MW 2:30 – 3:45 pm

**Nazi Culture**  
Course Schedule and Readings  
(\* = taped lecture)

**Week 1:**

\*20 January – Introduction / Fascinating Nazism? / The Weimar Republic as Prelude to the Third Reich (Silberman, 60 minutes)

**Week 2:**

\*25 January – Politics and Culture of the Weimar Republic (Hermand, 75 minutes)

1-5:30 introductory course details

5:30-10:40 Hermand introduces himself

10:40-23:00 early period - post WWI revolution, Expressionism

23:00-46:45 middle period - stabilization, New Sobriety

46:45-75:00 late period - polarization in politics and culture

Mary Fulbrook, *The Divided Nation: A History of Germany 1918-1990* (New York and Oxford: Oxford UP, 1991), Chap. 3 “The Collapse of Democracy and the Rise of Hitler,” 44-65.

\*27 January – Sources of Nazi Ideology before the Third Reich (Hermand, 75 minutes)

0-15:00 Roots of nationalism and national identity in Germany

15:00-36:00 Roots of “völkisch” racism and Aryan race theory

36:00-75:00 Jews and the roots of anti-Semitism in Germany

George L. Mosse, “From Theory to Practice”, in *Toward the Final Solution* (Madison: U of Wisconsin P, 1985), excerpt from Chap. 12-13, 202-228 & 261-264.

R. W. Darré, “Marriage Laws and the Principles of Breeding,” in *The Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, ed. by Anton Kaes et al. (Berkeley: U of California P, 1994), Chap. 50, 133-137.

Joseph Goebbels, “Why Are We Enemies of the Jews,” in *The Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, ed. by Anton Kaes et al. (Berkeley: U of California P, 1994), Chap. 51, 137-138.

**Week 3:**

\*1 February – Chronology of the Third Reich (Hermand, 75 minutes)

0-10:00 Events leading up to the Enabling Law of March 23, 1933 (Hitler becomes dictator)

10:00-55:00 Stabilization of Nazi power up to the “Anschluss” of Austria in 1938

55:00-65:00 Consolidation of the German Reich

65:00-75:00 World War II begins in Sept. 1939 and spreads to the Western and Eastern Fronts

Mary Fulbrook, *The Divided Nation: A History of Germany 1918-1990*, Chap. 4 “A ‘National Community’? State, Economy and Society, 1933-1939”, 66-97.

Adolf Hitler, “Nation and Race,” in *Mein Kampf* (excerpt from vol. 1, chap. 11), trans. Ralph Manheim (Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, 1962), 284-296.

Peter Fritzsche, “Aryan Passports,” excerpt from *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, chap. 2 (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008), 76-91.

3. February – Discussion

Mary Fulbrook, *The Divided Nation: A History of Germany 1918-1990*, Chap. 5 “War, Extermination and Defeat”, 96-127.

#### **Week 4:**

- \*8 February – Utopian Aspects of Nazi Ideology (Hermand, 70 minutes)  
0-22:00 History of leftist and rightist utopian thinking in Europe through the Weimar Republic  
22:00-43:00 Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and his balance of "blood and soil" ideology and "Realpolitik"  
43:00-55:00 Mass appeal of Nazi conservatism and traditionalism  
55:00-70:00 Hitler's long-term goals (1000 Year Reich)  
Peter Fritzsche, "*Volksgemeinschaft, or the People's Community,*" excerpt from *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, chap. 1 (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008), 38-56.
- \*10 February: Religion and the Confessional Churches (Silberman, 72 minutes)  
0-8:00 Introductory comments on religion in the Third Reich  
8:00-15:00 Nazi views on religion and the role of the Churches  
15:00-34:00 The Protestant Church  
34:00-46:50 The Catholic Church  
46:50- 63:00 Changes in Nazi policies toward the Churches  
63:00-72:00 Six summary points and Q&A  
Martin Kitchen, "The Churches and Education," excerpt from *The Third Reich: Charisma and Community*, chap. 5 (Harlow, UK: Pearson, 2008), 164-174.

#### **Week 5:**

- \*15 February – Youth and Education Policies (Hermand, 78 minutes)  
0-8:00 Hermand on the writing of his memoir *A Hitler Youth in Poland*  
8:00-28:00 Hermand's personal experience in the Hitler Youth  
29:00-36:00 Nazi school system  
36:00-42:00 The response to the publication of Hermand's memoir  
42:00-55:00 The evacuation of the youth camp in Poland and Hermand's experience of the war's end  
55:00-71:00 The structure of youth camp life  
71:00-78:00 Brutality in the camp, songs learned in the camp, and the instructional program  
Michael Burleigh and Wolfgang Wippermann, "Youth in the Third Reich," in *The Racial State: Germany 1933-1945* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1991), excerpt from Chap. 7, 202-226 & 343-348.  
Jost Hermand, *A Hitler Youth in Poland* (Evanston, IL: Northwestern UP, 1997), pages ix-xxxii & 32-56.
- 17 February: Discussion  
Peter Fritzsche, "Seeing like an Aryan," excerpt from *Life and Death in the Third Reich*, chap. 2 (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008), 91-108.

#### **Week 6:**

- \*22 February – Women in the Third Reich (Silberman, 76 minutes)  
1:00-12:00 Introduction to bio-politics of the Third Reich  
12:00-38:00 Historical Backgrounds  
38:00-50:40 Women's organizations in the Third Reich  
50:40-65:00 The image of women in the Third Reich  
65:00-76:00 Policies affecting  
Adolf Hitler's speech to the National Socialist Women's Organization (September 1934), in

*The Nazi Germany Sourcebook: An Anthology of Texts*, ed. by Roderick Stackelberg and Sally A. Winkle (London and New York: Routledge, 2002), 181-184.

Jill Stephenson, "Women, Motherhood and the Family in the Third Reich," in Michael Burleigh, ed., *Confronting the Nazi Past: New Debates on Modern German History* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996), Chap. 11, 167-183.

Irene Guenther, "Fashioning Women in the Third Reich," *Nazi Chic? Fashioning Women in the Third Reich* (Oxford and New York: Berg, 2004), excerpt from Chap. 4, 91-98 & 329-335.

24 February: Discussion

### **Week 7:**

\*1 March = Implementation of Cultural Policies (Hermand, 70 minutes)

0-13:00 What did culture mean before the Third Reich?

13:00-36:00 Theory and practice of Nazi culture

36:00-39:00 Cultural League for German Jews (1933-1938)

39:00-50:00 Reich Cultural Chamber (7 art chambers and the restricted membership rules)

50:00-60:00 Cultural production remained in private hands under constraints of censorship till 1938

60:00-70:00 Shift to entertainment in the cultural domain after the onset of war

Eric Michaud, "The Artist-Führer: A Savior" (excerpt), in *The Cult of Art in Nazi Germany*, trans. by Janet Lloyd (Stanford: Stanford UP, 2004), Chap. 2, 26-42.

Alan A. Steinweis, "Nazi Coordination of the Arts and the Creation of the Reich Chamber of Culture, 1933" in *Art, Ideology, and Economics in Nazi Germany* (Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 1993), Chap. 2, 32-49 & 183-187.

3 March: Discussion and preparation for mid-term examination

### **Week 8:**

8 March – **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

10 March: Film Screening – Fritz Hippler, *The Eternal Jew*

### **Week 9:**

\*15 March – Nazi Propaganda / Film Screening (Silberman, 68 minutes)

[0-4:25 Technical difficulties!]

5:45-43:00 Defining propaganda? (36:00-40:00 Clip from Riefenstahl's *Triumph of the Will*)

43:00-58:00 Propaganda in the Third Reich

58:00-68:00 Introduction to *The Eternal Jew* as propaganda film

A. P. Foulkes, "Introduction," *Literature and Propaganda* (London and New York: Methuen, 1983), 1-7.

David Welch, "Nazi Film Policy: Control, Ideology, and Propaganda," in Glenn R. Cuomo, ed., *National Socialist Cultural Policy* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995), Chap. 5, 95-120.

Joan Clinefelter, "A Cinematic Construction of Nazi Anti-Semitism: The Documentary *Der ewige Jude*," in Robert C. Reimer, ed., *Cultural History through a National Socialist Lens* (Rochester: Camden House, 2000), Chap. 7, 133-154.

17 March: Film Screening – Josef von Baky, *Münchhausen* (note: overtime until 4:30 pm)

### **Week 10:**

\*22 March – Nazi Entertainment and the Film Industry (Silberman, 75 minutes)

1:00-42:00 German movie industry in the Third Reich

42:00-59:00 Production context of *Münchhausen*

59:00-75:00 Critical reactions to *Münchhausen*

Eric Rentschler, "Introduction: The Power of Illusions," *The Ministry of Illusion: Nazi Cinema and Its Afterlife* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1996), 1-24 & 299-308.

Linda Schulte-Sasse, "Of Lies and Life: *Münchhausen*'s Narrative Arabesque," in *Entertaining the Third Reich: Illusions of Wholeness in the Nazi Cinema* (Durham: Duke UP, 1996), Chap. 10, 302-317.

24 March: Discussion of *The Eternal Jew* and *Münchhausen*

### **SPRING BREAK**

### **Week 11:**

\*5 April – Art and Design in the Third Reich (Hermand, 76 minutes)

1:00-17:00 Importance of the visual arts in the Third Reich

17:00-43:00 Degenerate Art Exhibition (1937), the official turn against modernist art

43:00-76:00 Examples of Nazi art and sculpture

Jonathan Petropoulos, "A Guide through the Visual Arts Administration of the Third Reich," in Glenn R. Cuomo, ed., *National Socialist Cultural Policy* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995), Chap. 6, 121-153.

Eric Michaud, "Exhibiting the Genius" (excerpt), in *The Cult of Art in Nazi Germany*, trans. by Janet Lloyd (Stanford: Stanford UP, 2004), Chap. 3, 101-113.

Karen A. Fiss, "In Hitler's Salon: The German Pavilion at the 1937 Paris Exposition Internationale," in Richard A. Etlin, ed., *Art, Culture, and Media under the Third Reich* (Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2002), Chap. 11, 316-342.

\*7 April: Nazi Architecture / Discussion (Hermand, 42 minutes)

0-17:45 Architecture of the Weimar Republic (Bauhaus functionalism and New International Style)

17:45-42:00 Nazi architecture (New Classicism)

### **Week 12:**

\*12 April – Music in the Third Reich I (Hermand, 72 minutes)

0-37:00 Music of the Weimar Republic (with several short music clips)

37:00-72:00 Music in Nazi Germany (6 types with several short music clips)

Pamela Potter, "Musical Life in Berlin from Weimar to Hitler," in Michael H. Kater and Albrecht Riethmüller, eds., *Music and Nazism* (Laaber, 2003), 90-101.

Albrecht Dümling, "The Target of Racial Purity: The 'Degenerate Music' Exhibition in Düsseldorf, 1938," in Richard A. Etlin, ed., *Art, Culture, and Media under the Third Reich* (Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2002), Chap. 1, 43-72.

\*14 April: Music in the Third Reich II / Discussion (Hermand, 51 minutes)

0-9:00 Summary of previous lecture

9:00-38:30 Music outside the official Nazi framework (church music, Jewish music, "inner emigration")

38:30-51:00 Richard Strauss

**Week 13:**

\*19 April – Literary Writing in the Third Reich (Hermand, 61 minutes)

0-7:45 The pluralistic scene of literature during the Weimar Republic

7:45-16:00 Initial exclusion and censorship of literary writers and works

16:00-29:30 Types of lyric poetry in the Third Reich

29:30-65:00 Types of novels in the Third Reich

Jan-Pieter Barbian, “Literary Policy in the Third Reich,” in Glenn R. Cuomo, ed., *National Socialist Cultural Policy* (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1995), Chap. 7, 155-196.

Frank Trommler, “A Command Performance? The Many Faces of Literature under Nazism,” in Jonathan Huener and Francis Nicosia, eds., *The Arts in Nazi Germany* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2006), 111-133

Karl-Heinz Schoeps, “National Socialist Poetry,” in *Literature and Film in the Third Reich* (Rochester: Camden House, 2004), excerpt from Chap. 6, 167-179.

Joseph Goebbels, excerpt from the novel *Michael*, in George L. Mosse, ed., *Nazi Culture* (Madison: U of Wisconsin P, 1966), 104-112.

21 April: Discussion

**Week 14:**

\*26 April – Theater Performance in the Third Reich I (Silberman, 72 minutes)

0-26:45 Cultural importance of theater in Germany

26:45-47:30 Changes in the theater after 1933

47:30-72:00 Forms of drama in the Third Reich

Boguslaw Drewniak, “The Foundations of Theater Policy in Nazi Germany,” in Glenn R. Cuomo, ed., *National Socialist Cultural Policy* (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1995), Chap. 4, 67-94.

Günter Berghaus, “The Ritual Core of Fascist Theatre,” in Günter Berghaus, ed., *Fascism and Theatre* (Providence: Berghahn Books, 1996), excerpt from Chap. 3, 49-71.

\*28 April: Theater in the Third Reich II / Discussion (Silberman, 18 minutes)

0-18:00 Political spectacle as theater in the Third Reich

**Week 15: Wrap-up**

3 May: Coming to Terms with National Socialism after 1945 (Hermand)

5 May: Course evaluations and preparation for the final examination

Final examination: Monday, May 10, 2010, 12:25 – 2:25 pm