



KIIS Berlin Program, Summer 2023

HIST 426 Hitler and Nazi Germany

Instructor: Tim Welliver

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

This course examines the National Socialist movement in Germany, from its origins in the Weimar Republic to its destruction in the ruins of Berlin. It includes investigation of controversies surrounding Adolf Hitler's background, the sources of his ideology, the nature of his support, his diplomacy and war aims, his role in genocide, and his sway over the German people.

Initially one of the least pro-Nazi cities in Germany, Hitler sought to remake "Red" Berlin according to his own vision of a magnificent capital for his Reich. It was also here that he chose to make his last stand, a decision that brought unimaginable suffering and destruction upon the city. In this course we will focus specifically on the impact the Nazi era had on the Berlin, and how the traces of this era can still be seen in its buildings, streets and tunnels.

The Nazi era leaves serious scholars with many questions. Were Hitler and National Socialism an anomaly, the result of stressful circumstances in Germany in the 1920s? Are they the logical result of a peculiarly German cluster of phenomena such as militarism, authoritarianism, obedience, and anti-Semitism? Or do they represent an evil lurking under the surface of all modern societies, a natural response by a people to extreme pressures? In other words, could a similar thing happen in another place at another time? Or was it perhaps Hitler's own personality that shaped the era? Would things have been different without him? What motivated him? Why did he ultimately seek the utter destruction of both Jewish and German civilization? What possible motivation could there have been for the death camps? Finally, how have Germans coped with this painful legacy over the past seventy-five years?

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate

- 1) familiarity with the important events and personalities of the National Socialist era in Germany;
- 2) an understanding of the origins, course, and outcomes of World War II and of the Holocaust;
- 3) an awareness of the major scholarly controversies surrounding Hitler and the Nazis; and
- 4) an understanding of the importance of National Socialism, World War II and the Holocaust in shaping post-war Germany.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

- 1) The legacy of World War I in Germany
- 2) Weimar and the origins of Nazism
- 3) Hitler's march to power
- 4) Structure and methods of control
- 5) Social and cultural transformation
- 6) Germany and the coming of war
- 7) Berlin and Germany in World War II

- 8) Genocide and defeat
- 9) Atonement, legacy, and memory

5. Required Readings and Materials:

Bendersky, Joseph. *A Concise History of Nazi Germany*. 5th ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2021. (The 3rd or 4th edition—2007 and 2014—are also acceptable).

Klussmann, Uwe. "The Ruthless Rise of the Nazis in Berlin." *Der Spiegel*, 29 November 2012. <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/how-the-nazis-succeeded-in-taking-power-in-red-berlin-a-866793.html>

Documents posted on Google Drive:

Brian Ladd, *The Ghosts of Berlin* (excerpts).
The 25-Point Program
Law for the Protection of Hereditary Health
Nuremberg Laws
Letter from Goering to Heydrich, 31 July 1941
Wannsee Protocol
Statistics concerning the Holocaust
Hitler's Political Testament
Hitler's Last Will

Videos:

The Great War and the Shaping of the Twentieth Century, PBS 1996. Episode 7: Hunger and Hatred. [YouTube]

Legendary Sin Cities: Berlin, Metropolis of Vice (a.k.a. Berlin: Sin City of the 1920s), CBC 2005. [Archive.org, Dailymotion] **Warning:** This documentary contains nudity, and descriptions and depictions of a wide range of sexual practices and expressions.

The Nazis: A Warning from History (BBC 1997). [Dailymotion]
Episode 1: Helped into Power.
Episode 2: Chaos and Consent.
(Episodes 3-6 are also recommended)

The Wannsee Conference/Die Wannseekonferenz (1984) [YouTube]

6. Graded Assignments:

The course will be organized around a combination of readings, lectures, field trips, films, and class discussions. Each student will make a class presentation and submit a report related to one of our historical site or museum visits. Depending on class size these will possibly be group projects.

Much of the instruction will happen at the actual sites, on our way to the sites, through general guidance, and on professional tours. Students are asked to be flexible because some of the most important things will happen outside the classroom.

Grade basis:

Participation/discussion	25%
Film (Downfall) assignment	25%
Field trip report	25%
In-class essay (final)	25%

Grade Scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
0-59%	F

7. Attendance Policy:

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

8. Disability Accommodation:

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

9. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu) or Joshua Hayes (270-745-5121 / joshua.hayes@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/eo/titleixbrochure2020.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.