



KIIS Austria (Bregenz & Vienna) Program, Summer 2024

HIST 426: Hitler & Nazi Germany

Instructor: Dr. David Pizzo

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: HIST 426: Hitler and Nazi Germany: A detailed study of German history between 1933 and 1945, emphasizing political, economic, social, diplomatic, and military aspects.

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 of 426 will:

- A) investigate and analyze Austrian and German history in the early to mid-twentieth century;
- B) integrate classroom learning and reading into on-site activities and excursions;
- C) integrate on-site experience into classroom learning;
- D) and respond thoughtfully and critically in group discussions and in weekly writing assignments.**

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

Students of 426 will gain an understanding of:

- A) Austrian and German history before 1933 and especially of the Weimar Republic with an eye to the factors that led to the rise of the National Socialists;
- B) the Nazi seizure of power and consolidation of their authority in the 1930s;
- C) the evolution of Nazi anti-Jewish policies and other eugenic and racial policies;
- D) the contours of Nazified culture and society;
- E) the causes, course, and consequences of the Second World War;
- F) the Holocaust and other Nazi war crimes and crimes against humanity;
- G) the longer-term effects of the 1933-1945 period on Austrian, German, and European societies; and
- H) the contours of memory culture and commemoration in Austria and Germany.

5. Required Readings and Materials:

- * David G. Williamson. *The Third Reich, 5th Edition* (Routledge, 2018). ISBN: 9781138243552
- * Evan Burr Bukey. *Hitler's Austria: Popular sentiment in the Nazi Era, 1938-1935*. (The University of North Carolina Press, 2002 paperback). ISBN: 978-0-8078-5363-4
- * Peter Fritzsche. *Life and Death in the Third Reich* (Belknap Press, 2009). ISBN: 978-0674034655

6. Graded Assignments:

The class will be made up of several parts. Our lectures will relate to and draw on our **readings** and **activities/excursions**. Throughout the term there will be at least **four quizzes**, usually announced the class meeting before they occur, which will cover specific chapters of the textbooks or discussion topics assigned that week. These reading/lecture quizzes cannot be made up if missed. However, the lowest quiz grade (including a zero) will be dropped at the end of the course. There will also be **five response papers** (instead of a major research paper or conventional exams), each on topics related to our readings, discussions, and on-site activities. Essay 2 and

4 will be longer and include material that will serve as your midterm and final exams. Essay 5 focuses on our time in Vienna. I will give these **prompts** to you at the beginning of classes. These essays should mention and **CITE** our **readings**, and they should make use of *at least one document* from the end of the Williamson text each time. Note that **participation** does count for a considerable portion of your overall grade:

Quizzes:	10%
Essay 1:	10%
Essay 2 (including mid-term):	15%
Essay 3:	10%
Essay 4 (including final):	15%
Essay 5 (Vienna):	20%
Class Participation:	20%

These will all be graded on a **hundred-point scale**. Final grades for MuSU, WKU, and UK students, however, will be **whole letter grades** as per their university policies.

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 Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@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/eeo/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.

10. Schedule¹ (class days in class building at 2:30pm; excursion days are in green; essays due):

***Week One: Nazism—Background, Origins, Rise to Power**

Sunday JUN 2: Group excursion in Bregenz (war memorial)

Mon. JUN 3: Syllabus & Introduction, Williamson, Introduction & Ch. 1; Fritzsche, Introduction

Fri. JUN 7: Williamson, Chs. 2 & 3; Bukey Chs. 1 & 2

Sun. June 9, 11:59pm: **Essay 1 Due**

***Week Two: Nazism in Power**

Mon. JUN 10: Williamson, Ch. 4; Fritzsche, Ch. 1; Bukey Ch. 3

Wed. JUN 12: Williamson, Chs. 5 & 6; Fritzsche, Ch. 2 Bukey Ch. 4

Thu. JUN 13: Excursion in Friedrichshafen (on the Bodensee)

Sun. Jun 16, 11:59pm: **Essay 2 Due**

***Week Three: The Nazi Terror State & the Holocaust**

Mon. JUN 17: Williamson, Ch. 7; Fritzsche, Ch. 3, Bukey Ch. 5

Tue. JUN 18: the Jewish Museum in Hohenems

Wed. JUN 19: Williamson, Ch. 8; Bukey Ch. 6

Fri. JUN 21: Williamson, Ch. 9; Fritzsche, Ch. 4; Bukey Ch. 7

Sun. June 23, 11:59pm: **Essay 3 Due**

¹ We reserve the right to make changes to our course schedule if the need arises, including different readings, lectures, and—if it seems the readings are not being completed—quizzes on your reading assignments.

***Week Four: Nazism at War; Postwar Era & Legacies**

Mon. JUN 24: Williamson, Ch. 10 & 11; Bukey 8-10

Wed. JUN 26: Williamson, Chs. 12 & 13; Bukey, epilogue; Postwar era; Memorialization

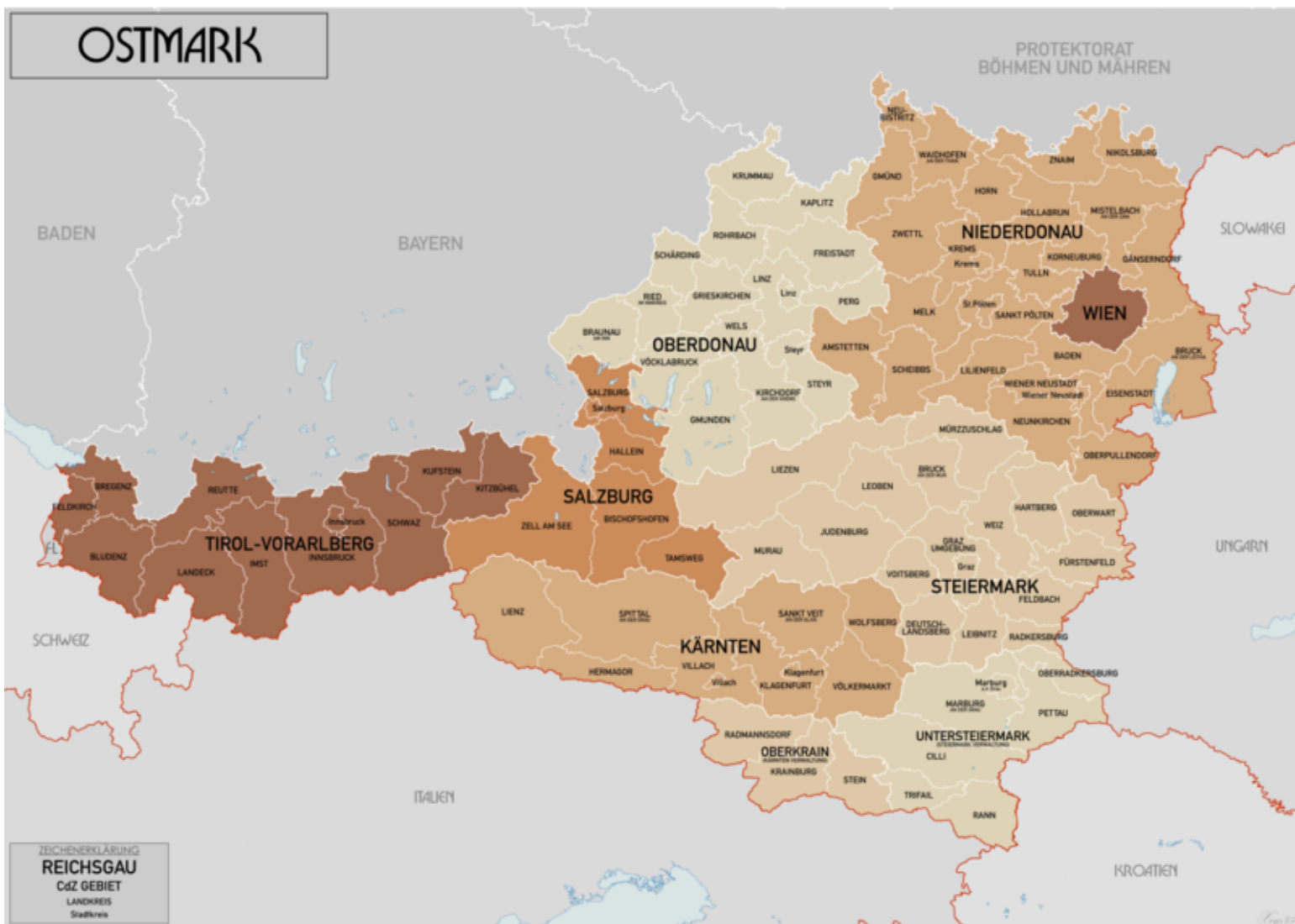
Wed. JUN 26, 11:59PM: Essay 4 Due

***Week Five: Mauthausen & Vienna**

Thu. JUN 27: KZ Mauthausen (on way to Vienna)

Fri. JUN 28 – Sun. JUN 30: Program in **Vienna**

Sun. JUN 30, 11:59PM: Essay 5 Due





NAZI CAMPS IN FORMER AUSTRIA 1938-1945



HIS 426 Prompts, Austria, Summer 2024

Be sure to mention our **excursions** and in-class **discussions**. These essays should mention and **CITE** our **readings** (parenthetical citations are fine), and they should make use of *at least* one **document** from the end of the Williamson text each time.

Please turn in your assignments HERE:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1byVWEZaExhBlfCaJY4xGLhKg9rj34pXb?usp=sharing>

Prompt 1 (of 5), Due Sun. June 9, 11:59pm:

What are your initial *impressions* of Bregenz (and Austria) as a place with a loaded, “problematic” past? What *short- and long-term factors* led to the rise of National Socialism in German-speaking countries? How did the Nazis come *to power* in Germany in 1933? What *lessons* does the “seizure of power” offer to our own time?

Prompt 2 (of 5), Due Sun. June 16, 11:59pm (reminder, this one counts more):

Now that we have actually discussed it, what additional thoughts do you have about the seizure of power in 1933? How did the Nazis *consolidate* that power in the months after January 1933? What sort of *state and society* did they seek to build? How did “*ordinary Germans*” feel about or react to these events? In what ways was *Austria's trajectory* different from Germany's? And similar? How did our *excursions* and our visit to the *archive* deepen your understanding of National Socialism?

Prompt 3(of 5), Due Mon. June 24, 11:59pm:

Describe the regime in power in the mid to late 1930s. How did it seek to win over “Aryan Germans,” and in what ways did it persecute its perceived enemies? How did Anschluss occur? What sort of war did Nazi Germany wage, and what did it seek to accomplish?

Prompt 4 (of 5), Due Thu. June 27, 11:59pm (includes pre-Vienna final):

How and why did the Nazi leadership decide to implement the Holocaust? How did it unfold? In what ways did Nazi genocidal programs (including the Holocaust) involve and implicate "ordinary Germans"? How did Germans feel about these events? What was the end of the war like in Germany (and Austria)? How do Austrians engage with the loaded memories of the 1938-45 period?

Prompt 5 (of 5), Due Mon. July 1, 11:59pm:

Mauthausen, Vienna, and Conclusions

Discuss your reactions to KL Mauthausen. In what ways did it make things we have read and discussed more real or more clear? (Be sure to use the graphic history.) For Vienna, what things did we see, do, or discuss that likewise overlapped with course themes? Finally, what do you think are the most important lessons of the course overall? And you're done! Yaaay!