



KIIS Austria (Bregenz & Vienna) Program, Summer 2025

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. Generative AI Policy:

Generative AI is permitted/encouraged in some ways, with proper attribution, but prohibited in other ways.

Students are allowed, encouraged, and even required to use Generative AI in some ways but are prohibited from using it in other ways. Keep in mind that any content produced by generative AI can "hallucinate" (produce false information), so students are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of any AI-generated content. Examples of citing AI are available at: <https://libguides.wku.edu/stylewrite/ai>.

Students are permitted and encouraged to use generative AI in the following ways:

- Brainstorming: You may use generative AI to stimulate creativity, generate ideas, or brainstorm topics for papers, presentations, and discussions. The generated content must serve as a steppingstone, not a final product.
- Citation Assistance: AI tools can be used to manage, format, and organize citations and references, promoting adherence to academic writing standards and specific style guides required for individual assignments.
- Grammar and Style Checking: AI-powered writing enhancement tools may be used to help with spelling, grammar, syntax, and stylistic errors.
- Concept Understanding: Generative AI can be used to explain or simulate concepts taught in class, aiding in a deeper understanding.
- Research Assistance: AI can be used to conduct initial research, compile data, and summarize articles, books, or papers. It should not replace traditional research methods but rather enhance them.

You may not use generative AI in coursework in the following ways:

- Plagiarism: Using AI-generated content as your original work without attribution. This includes essays, papers, presentations, and exam answers.
- Data Manipulation: Using AI tools to alter data or create misleading information.
- Misrepresentation of Skills: Using generative AI to complete tasks that are meant to assess your knowledge and skills.
- Confidentiality Breach: Using AI tools that might violate KIIS/university policies or laws related to data privacy and confidentiality.

Metacognitive Reflection. In addition to a proper citation, the student should include the following statement with any assignment where generative AI is used for assistance.

"I used generative AI [INSERT NAME OF PLATFORM] for assistance in the following ways on this assignment: [INSERT WAYS USED, such as brainstorming, citation assistance, grammar and style checking, concept understanding, and research assistance, etc.]."

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Schedule: TBD