

HIST 276: Study of History Abroad
“Germany: Dictatorship, War, and Memory”
Christopher Newport University
Summer 2025

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Course Description, Methods, and Rationale

This course represents an opportunity for CNU students to study in Germany to explore the rise of National Socialism and the Holocaust and how Americans reacted to those events. We will use history as our laboratory to examine the emergence of Nazism, its growth through the 1920s and 1930s, National Socialism in power, the orchestrated campaign of persecution against European Jewry, the Second World War and the Holocaust, and resistance to the dictatorship. A final theme of the course will be to investigate the legacies of Nazism in Germany after 1945, including how the era of dictatorship and genocide have been remembered and memorialized.

Readings

1. Falk and Puaca, “The World is Your Classroom” (essay)
2. Mary Fulbrook, *A History of Germany, 1918-2020*
3. Doris Bergen, *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust*
4. Primary sources available on Scholar

Learning Outcomes – Upon completion of this study abroad course, students should be able to

- articulate the value of international travel and study
- identify major eras, political ideologies, and themes across geographic places
- describe and assess interactions between the United States and Germany

Honor Code

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. All students are responsible for knowing the University's policy on academic honesty. All academic work submitted in this course must be your own unless you have received permission to collaborate and have properly acknowledged receiving assistance. It is our responsibility to uphold the University's academic honesty policy and report our suspicions of dishonesty to the University Judicial System.

Our Community

We will travel to Europe as a group representing CNU. This means that we should be helpful and supportive to one another as members of the community, from beginning to end. You are an informal ambassador and, therefore, should represent CNU and your country in the best manner while overseas. That is how others will view you.

Our Health and Safety

The U.S. State Department has determined that, as with most countries, Germany is under a Level-2 advisory, which means we are confident in taking a group of students to this location and remaining safe. We will notify participants of any other travel requirements (e.g., vaccinations). Keep in mind that there is a prominence of pickpocketing and petty theft, so we will review this with students during our pre-departure meeting and remind students once we arrive to ensure their belongings are safe in high traffic areas like metros, train stations, and tourist sites.

Deadlines, Physical Requirements, and Special Accommodations

Students are responsible for all information conveyed in class. University policies and deadlines relating to withdrawals will be strictly followed. Students are responsible for making sure they fulfill all requirements. Papers turned in after deadlines will be subject to a penalty. Students needing physical accommodations: Overseas travel typically demands a lot of physical activity, including walking (miles each day), climbing, and standing for long periods of time. Several historical sites we visit will not be ADA compliant. Participants must be able to carry their own luggage and other belongings. The program also requires individuals to participate in virtually all planned events and to avoid delaying the group. Please be mindful of this fact when deciding whether you are able to undertake this trip. Students needing academic accommodations: If you believe that you have a disability, you should make an appointment with us to discuss your needs. In order to receive an accommodation, your disability must be on record with the Office of the Dean of Students (594-7160).

Requirements, Assignments, and Grades

Assignment Weights	
Participation and Attendance	25%
Identification Exam	25%
Class "Tour Book" Essay	25%
Thematic Travel Essay	25%

Grading Scale	
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below

Participation

Students are required to attend all planned meetings, lectures, excursions, discussions, and dinners. Please be prompt! Students must attend a daily morning "briefing" before each day's activities. Failure to follow these requirements will result in a deduction on the participation grade. Participation includes being prepared; bring a notebook, and pens (along with your passport, rail passes, student identification, money, tour book or map, bottles of water, appropriate clothing and comfortable shoes). Be pleasant, patient, and inquisitive!

You will earn a participation grade based on attendance, preparation, and quality of discussion. Appropriate participation comes in many forms. You may be asked to answer questions in written or oral form. Seek opportunities to answer questions and provide constructive comments. Most importantly, ***demonstrate a strong intellectual curiosity*** by asking substantive questions during lectures and discussion. We will examine primary source documents in this class. You are expected to read these assigned readings prior to class meetings and to participate in class discussion.

Identification Exam

This course will help students recognize the broader significance of distinct items of information. Students will provide written identifications of historical terms based on choices presented in class readings, discussion, and tours. An identification will be a concept, person, event, illustration, or the like. You need to answer (briefly and basically) who, what, where, and when. More importantly, for the remainder of each paragraph, you should consider its historical significance. Relate the item to broad themes discussed in the course. Ask "Why is this important in the larger scheme of things?" **The exam will be taken on the last full day in Europe.**

Class “Tour Book” (due TBA)

Students will write a three-page tour book entry that includes a critical review of a historic site or museum related to the course, but one that we do not visit together as a group. **You must get prior approval from the professors.** Your entry should be informational (times, admission, transit), descriptive (exhibits, artifacts), and analytical (scrutinize presentation, connect to broader themes). You should attach a brochure or museum map, and at least one digital photograph of you there.

Travel Essay (due TBA)

Students will write a four-page travel essay that examines a theme you can detect in all three countries. Students should trace their theme during their travels and make notes as we visit sites. Be mindful that these themes may be observed at monuments and museums, but also at un-scheduled times. Some of the best information will come from asking questions directly related to your theme to our speakers and guides as we travel. Appropriate themes include: fascism, anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, memories of WWII, communism, democracy, Americanization, European unification, consumerism, religion, nationalism and patriotism, resistance, victimization, and occupation. Other themes must be approved by the professors. Students must make specific references to the assigned readings. **Students enrolled for 300-level credit** must make prior arrangements with the professors for extra requirements for this paper.

Each paper should be typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with page numbers, and Chicago-style footnote and bibliographic citations.

Class Meetings, Reading Assignments, and Deadlines

Please keep in mind that the course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Day	City	Activities and Class Meetings
Thu 2/20	CNU	Pre-Departure Session 1 Logistics and Expectations
Thu 3/20	CNU	Pre-Departure Session 2 Course Syllabus and Overview
Wed 6-25	From DC to Munich	<u>Evening</u> : Arrive with passport, course materials, and no more than 1 bag (50 lbs) and 1 carry-on, at International Departure/Ticketing Terminal at Dulles Airport at X:XX pm.
Thu 6-26	Munich	<p>“Introduction and Welcome to Munich”</p> <p><u>Morning</u>: Arrive Munich; Leave Luggage at Hotel Marienbad (Barer Strasse 11 / 80333 Muenchen)</p> <p><u>Afternoon</u>: Welcome, Overview, and Orientation Walk: Frauenkirche, Marienplatz, Viktualienmarkt</p> <p><u>Evening</u>: Hotel Marienbad check-in, Barer Strasse 11 Room Assignments:</p>

Day	City	Activities and Class Meetings
Fri 6-27	Munich into Bavaria	<p>“German Unification and the Long Nineteenth Century” Daytrip to Neuschwanstein Castle; Discuss “The World is Your Classroom” essay</p>
Sat 6-28	Munich	<p>“The Great War, Defeat, and Democracy” <u>Morning</u>: Discuss Fulbrook, chapter 2; “The Failure of Wilsonian Ideals at Versailles;” Residenz; Kriegerdenkmal im Hofgarten; Kurt Eisner Memorial; Hofbraeuhaus; Odeonsplatz/Feldhernhalle</p>
Sun 6-29	Munich	<p>“Capital of the Movement” and “Toward the Seizure of Power” <u>Morning</u>: Discuss Fulbrook, chapter 3; Guided Tour at National Socialist Documentation Center; Fuehrerbau; Scholl Memorial <u>Evening</u>: Group dinner at Augustiner Keller (Arnulfstrasse 52)</p>
Mon 6-30	From Munich to Berlin	<p>Farewell, Munich! <u>8:00 am</u>: Depart Munich by Charter Bus (approximately 6 hour trip) <u>3:00 pm</u>: Arrive Berlin / Hotel Check-in “Introduction and Welcome to Berlin” <u>Evening</u>: Welcome, Overview, and Orientation Walk: Unter den Linden from Brandenburg Gate to Alexanderplatz</p>
Tue 7-1	Berlin	<p>“The Nazi State in Power” <u>Morning</u>: Discuss Fulbrook, chapter 4; Bergen, chapter 2; Topography of Terror; Wilhelmstrasse; Air Ministry (Detlev-Rohwedder-Haus) <u>Afternoon</u>: German Historical Museum</p>
Wed 7-2	Berlin	<p>“Jewish Life in Germany and Refugee Relief” <u>Morning</u>: Falk, “Shadow Diplomats;” Guided Tour of Jewish Museum Berlin; Stolpersteine Walk <u>Afternoon</u>: Neue Synagogue / “Open ye the Gates” Exhibition</p>

Day	City	Activities and Class Meetings
Thu 7-3	Berlin/ Sachsenhausen	<p>“The Everyday Dictatorship”</p> <p><u>Morning/Afternoon:</u> Discuss Bergen, chapter 3; Daytrip to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp</p>
Fri 7-4	Berlin	<p>“Resistance”</p> <p><u>Morning:</u> Discuss Bergen, chapters 4-5; The German Resistance Museum/Bendlerblock</p> <p><u>Afternoon:</u> Ploetzensee Memorial</p>
Sat 7-5	Berlin/ Potsdam	<p>“The Final Solution”</p> <p><u>Morning:</u> Discuss Bergen, chapters 7-8; Haus der Wannsee Konferenz</p> <p><u>Afternoon:</u> Sans Souci</p>
Sun 7-6	Berlin/ Dresden	<p>“1945: Defeat, Destruction, and Wartime Morality”</p> <p><u>Morning:</u> depart Berlin Hauptbahnhof to Dresden Hauptbahnhof (approximately 2 hours)</p> <p>Discuss Vonnegut, <i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i> (excerpt); Dresden Altstadt; Frauenkirche; Kulturpalast; Augustusbruecke; Zwinger</p> <p><u>Evening:</u> Return Dresden Hbf to Berlin Hbf</p>
Mon 7-7	Berlin	<p>“Legacies of War 1: Remembering Dictatorship”</p> <p><u>Morning:</u> Discuss Bergen, “Legacies of Atrocity;” Reichstag Guided Tour (bring passport); Holocaust Memorial</p> <p><u>Afternoon:</u> Kaiser-Wilhem Memorial Church and West Berlin/Ku-Damm</p>
Tue 7-8	Berlin	<p>“Legacies of War 2: Cold War Occupation”</p> <p><u>Morning:</u> Discuss Fulbrook, chapter 6; Truman, <i>Year of Decision</i>; Cecilienhof at Potsdam</p> <p><u>Afternoon:</u> Allied Museum</p>

Day	City	Activities and Class Meetings
Wed 7-9	Berlin	<p>“Legacies of War 3: Cold War Division”</p> <p><u>Morning:</u> Discuss Hitchcock, “The Wall;” Wagnleitner, <i>Coca-Colonization and the Cold War</i>; Berlin Wall Documentation Center; East Side Gallery</p> <p><u>Afternoon:</u> Checkpoint Charlie</p> <p><u>7:00 pm:</u> <i>Deutsche Kulturnacht</i> (German Culture Night) at the Tante Lisbeth kegelbahn.</p>
Thu 7-10	Berlin	<p><u>Morning:</u> The Identification Exam will be completed in the morning, so bring a pen.</p> <p>Open Day (for student site visits for paper)</p> <p><u>Evening:</u> Group Dinner at TBA and wrap-up discussion</p>
Fri 7-11	From Berlin to DC	<p><u>5:00 am:</u> In the morning (crazy early) we will take a charter shuttle to Berlin Brandenburg Airport (BER). We will arrive with passports and no more than 1 bag and 1 carry-on, at the airport at X:XX am. Flight departs at X:XX am. and arrives Washington Dulles Airport (IAD) at X:XX pm. (Again, flight times are subject to change without notice.)</p>

Helpful Contact Information

CNU and Local

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CNU Police (available 24/7)	cnupd@cnu.edu	757-594-7777

Munich

Hotel Marienbad	Barer Strasse 11, 80333 Munich	+49 89 59 55 85
US consulate in Munich	https://de.usembassy.gov/	+49 89 28 880

Berlin

Hotel Ibis Potsdamer Platz	Anhalter Straße 4, 10963 Berlin	+49-302-61050
US embassy in Berlin	https://de.usembassy.gov/	

General Travel

Lufthansa Airlines: <http://www.lufthansa.com>
Austrian Airlines: <http://www.austrian.com/>
United States Department of State: <http://travel.state.gov/travel/travel>
Transportation Security Administration: <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/index.shtm>
Exchange rates: <http://www.x-rates.com/calculator.html>
European Travel Information: www.ricksteves.com