

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

HIST 4344.501, Modern Germany, Spring 2009

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### **Professor Contact Information**

Dr. J. Trygve Has-Ellison  
University of Texas at Dallas  
School of Humanities  
Office Hours MW 6-7 pm  
Johnson Hall, Room 5.712  
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### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

Suggested Course Pre-requisites:

Any European history.

Course is reading intensive, requires class discussion, and papers are stringently graded on readability and coherence.

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### **Course Description**

The nineteenth century is often called the “French century” while the twentieth century “Germany’s era”. The easy categories lack reality, as the German century could better be constructed from 1863-1945. During this period, the Germany’s were transformed from a federalist model to a unitary nation-state like their Western neighbors, Britain and France. After the obvious failure of this course, Germany has returned to its earlier, federalist structure. This course will articulate the confused twists of modern German history by emphasizing the continuity (and occasional discontinuities) of the last two centuries while evaluating if the Germans path to modernity was all that different from other European countries experience.

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### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Students will analyze scholarly texts on German history

Students will discuss issues from the texts and films with their classmates

Students will review one of the texts

Students will create a research essay reflective of a topic from German History

Students will make a scholarly presentation to the class

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### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

Frank Tipton, German History since 1815

A.J.P. Taylor, Bismarck

Matthew Jefferies, Imperial Culture in Germany

Uta Poigar, Jazz, Rock and Rebels

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### **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

#### **EXAMINATIONS:**

There will be a mid-term and a final. The final will not be comprehensive. Each exam will consist solely of essay questions, which will come from a list supplied before the exam. Exams are graded on factual content, but also on the originality of analysis.

#### **ESSAYS:**

One book review, one film critique, and a research essay (including a short oral presentation of your essay topic) are required. You will write your book review on one of our specialized course texts (Taylor, Jefferies, Poigar). Your research essay will address a particular aspect of modern German history. The topic of the research essay is chosen in consultation with me, and must be made by the end of March.

#### **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

January 14 – Introduction to the Course, Themes, Topics

January 21 – Lecture

January 28 – Lecture

February 4 – Discussion 1 - Taylor

February 11 – Lecture

February 18 – Lecture

February 25 – Lecture

March 4 – Midterm

March 11 – Discussion 2 – Jefferies

March 16 – Last day to withdraw from course with my signature

March 18 – Spring break

March 25 – Lecture

April 1 – Lecture

April 8 – Discussion 3 - Poigar

April 15 – Lecture

April 22 – First half of research essay oral reports

April 29 – Second half of research essay oral reports

May 6 – Reading Day

May 13 – Final Exam

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### **Grading Policy**

This course has all the traditional elements: tests, papers, and attendance. But, more is required. This course calls for student participation: through engagement with the texts, participation in class discussions (each one is graded) and oral presentations of your research project. Grades will be based on exams (40%), papers (40%), and class participation (20%). Non-participation in class discussions will earn an automatic F for 20% of the grade.

All papers are to be typed. Hand written will not be accepted, and each written assignment must conform to standard, grammatical rules. Unreadable papers will be handed back to the student with the expectation that the offense to the feelings of the English language will be rectified. Late papers will lose 10% of their value for every day they are late – after ten days the grade is 0. Grades are based on clarity, analysis, understanding of the subject, and creativity. Original ideas that can be supported with evidence are always welcome.

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### **Course & Instructor Policies**

Make-up exams will only be allowed under extreme circumstances with appropriate documentation (doctor's forms, school activity absence form, etc.) Unexplained or other

forms of absence will not be excused. Students with a record of absences and late assignments will not be allowed to make up an exam.

Extra credit will not be given except in extreme circumstances. Other conditions include: all class work must be completed on the appropriate due dates, and a stellar attendance record. Anything less than this will preclude extra credit.

Attendance will be a plus factor in determining your grade. Attendance and absences will be recorded and evaluated according to The University of Texas at Dallas guidelines. Attendance is taken into consideration when a student has earned a borderline grade. A student that has not been present, nor has shown any interest in participating in class, receives an “F” for 20% of their grade. Students who are present physically and mentally can positively affect their grade through their willingness to engage with the material, the professor, and their classmates.

All written work must be original; plagiarism or cheating will result in a failing grade. Missed exams cannot be made up without appropriate documentation (i.e. a doctor’s note on office stationery, an official letter from the University, etc.). Disruptive or unscholarly behavior has no place in the classroom and will not be tolerated.

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## **Field Trip Policies**

### **Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities**

*Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address [http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm). Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.*

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## **Student Conduct & Discipline**

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part I, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university’s *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

## **Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

## **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

## **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

## **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to

resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called “the respondent”). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent’s School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean’s decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

## **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester’s end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

## **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:  
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22  
PO Box 830688  
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688  
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student’s responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

## **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***