

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

<i>Course Number/Section</i>	HIST 4344
<i>Course Title</i>	<i>The Weimar Republic</i>
<i>Term</i>	Fall 2012
<i>Days &amp; Times</i>	TR: 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM
<i>Location</i>	MC 1.608

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### **Professor Contact Information**

<i>Professor</i>	Nils Roemer
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<i>Office Location</i>	JO 4.800
<i>Office Hours</i>	By Appointment

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### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

No prior background is assumed or required.

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### **Course Description**

This course investigates the Weimar Republic from its birth amidst defeat and revolution to its demise in 1933. It discusses the artistic and intellectual culture of the Weimar Republic from an interdisciplinary perspective as an important period of transition and experimentation. Crisis and renewal affected almost every aspect of the fledgling Republic. Economic depression, political radicalism and social decline, as well as immense cultural creativity, new media and burgeoning consumer cultures marked the young Republic. The course will discuss literary texts, visual art, movies, theater plays, and musical compositions.

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### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

Anton Kaes et al. ed, *The Weimar Republic Sourcebook* (1995); ISBN-10: 0520067754  
Richard J. Evans, *The Coming of the Third Reich* (2005); ISBN-10: 0143034693  
Eric Weitz, *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy* (2009), ISBN: 9780691140964.  
Bertolt Brecht, *The Threepenny Opera* ISBN-10: 0143105167  
Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice* (1994), ISBN-10: 0393960137

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### **Suggested Course Materials**

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## **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

### **Course Requirements/Evaluations Criteria**

Attendance and class participation, three papers ranging from five to six pages, a mid-term, and a final examination.

### **Examination**

There will be a mid-term and a final. The final will not be comprehensive.

### **Essays**

One interpretation of a primary source, a research essay, and a book review of Eric Weitz, *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy* (2009). The primary source and the topic of the research essay will be chosen in consultation with me.

### **Electronic Course Reserves:**

Password:

## **Course Schedule**

### **1. Introduction (August 28)**

### **2. From the German Empire to the Weimar Republic (August 30)**

Evans, *The Coming of the Third Reich* (2005), 2-21

### **3. War and Revolution (September 4)**

Weitz, *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy* (2009), 7-39

Evans, *The Coming of the Third Reich* (2005), 60-76

Hans-Ulrich Wehler, "The German Empire, 1871-1918," Neil Gregor ed., *Nazism* (2000), 63-65

*Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, 35-46

### **4. The Birth of the Republic (September 6)**

Evans, *The Coming of the Third Reich* (2005), 78-102

*Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, 46-53

### **5. The Legacies of the War (September 11)**

*Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, 5-25

Richard Bessel, "The Legacy of the First World War and Weimar Politics," *Germany after the First World War* (Oxford, 1993), 254-284.

### **6. The Crisis Years, 1919-1923 (September 13)**

Weitz, *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy* (2009), 81-127

Evans, *The Coming of the Third Reich* (2005), 103-117

*Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, 60-67 and 77-80

**7. The Period of Stabilization, 1924-1929 (September 18)**

Evans, *The Coming of the Third Reich* (2005), 118-153

Weitz, *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy* (2009), 129-168

**8. The Challenge of Modernity (September 20)**

Weitz, *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy* (2009), 251-296

*Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, 393-428 and 662-663

Detlev J.K. Peukert, *The Weimar Republic: The Crisis of Classical Modernity* (New York, 1993), 164-190

**9. Berlin: The New Metropolis I (September 25)**

Georg Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life," in *The City Cultures Reader*, ed. Malcolm Miles, Tim Hall, and Iain Borden (2000), 12-19

*The Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, 414-28

David Clay Large, *Berlin: A Modern History* (2001), 47-108

**PRIMARY SOURCE INTERPRETATION IS DUE (September 27)**

**10. The New Metropolis II (September 27)**

Eric Weitz, *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy* (2009), 168-206

David Clay Large, *Berlin: A Modern History* (2001), 157-202

Film: *Berlin: Symphony of a City* (Watch on YouTube)

**Midterm (October 2)**

**11. Film and photography (October 4)**

Weitz, *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy* (2009), 206-250

*Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, 641-654

Anton Kaes, "Weimar Cinema: The Predicament of Modernity," Elizabeth Ezra ed., *European Cinema* (Oxford, 2004), 59-77

Film: *Berlin: Symphony of a City* (Watch on YouTube)

**12. Expressionism and the City (October 9)**

Kurt Pinthus, ed. *Menschheitsdämmerung: Dawn of Humanity. A Document of Expressionism with Biographies and Bibliographies*, trans. Joanna M. Ratych, Ralph Ley, and Robert C. Conard (1994), 61-68, 73-74

John Willet, *Art and Politics in the Weimar Period: The New Sobriety, 1917-1933* (1996), 17-24

**13. The City and Literature (October 11)**

Bertolt Brecht, "Ten Poems from a Reader for Those who Live in Cities,"

*Brecht, Bertolt. Poems 1913-1956*, ed. John Willett and Ralph Manheim with Erich Fried (1979), 131-140

*Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, 536-538

**14. Berthold Brecht, *The Three-Penny Opera* (October 16)**

Berthold Brecht, *The Three-Penny Opera*, 3-82

**15. Berthold Brecht, *The Three-Penny Opera* (October 18)**

Berthold Brecht, *The Three-Penny Opera*, 3-82

**16. Sexuality and Gender Conflict I (October 23)**

Cornelie Usborne, "Sexuality: The Battle against Sexual Immorality: The Right" s Response to the Population Question," *The Politics of the Body in Weimar Germany* (1992), 69-101

*Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, 630-631

Film: *The Blue Angel*

**17. Sexuality and Gender Conflict II (October 25)**

Weitz, *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy* (2009), 297-330

*Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, 693-717

Film: Scenes from *Asphalt* and *Pandora's Box*

**18. The New Woman (October 30)**

*The Weimar Republic Sourcebook* (1994), 195-219

Anthony McElligott ed., *German Urban Experience 1900-1945: Modernity and Crisis* (2001), 197-206

David Clay Large, *Berlin: A Modern History* (2001), 203-254

**RESEARCH PAPER NOVEMBER 1**

**19. Dangers, Depression, and Suspicion in the City (November 1)**

Siegfried Kracauer, *From Caligari to Hitler: A Psychological History of the German Film* (2004), 215-222

Beth Irwin Lewis, "Lustmord: Inside the Window of the Metropolis," *Berlin: Culture and Metropolis*, ed. Charles W. Haxthausen and Heidrun Suhr (1990), 111-140

*Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, 718-736

Film *M: Eine Stadt sucht einen Moerder* (Fritz Lang, 1931). Watch online.

**20. Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice* (November 6)**

Thomas Mann, *Death in Venice* (1994)

**21. Race and Urban Identities (November 8)**

David Clay Large, "'Out with the Ostjuden': The Scheunenviertel Riots in Berlin, November 1923," in *Exclusionary Violence: Antisemitic Riots in Modern German History* (2002), 123-40

Nancy Nenno, "Femininity, the Primitive, and Modern Urban Space: Josephine Baker in Berlin," *Women in the Metropolis: Gender and Modernity in Weimar Culture*, ed.

Katharina von Ankum (1997), 145-161

**20. Race and Urban Identities II (November 13)**

Population by Religious Denomination (1910-1939), [http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=4374](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=4374)

The Economic and Social Status of the Jewish Population (1933 and 1939), [http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=4387](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=4387)

Paul Mendes-Flohr, 'The Berlin Jew as Cosmopolitan', Emily D. Bilski, ed. *Berlin Metropolis: Jews and the New Culture, 1890-1918* (2000), 14-31

Peter Gay, *Freud, Jews, and Other Germans: Masters and Victims in Modernist Culture* (1978), 169-188

David Clay Large, "Out with the Ostjuden": The Scheunenviertel Riots in Berlin, November 1923', Christhard Hoffmann, Werner Bergmann, and Helmut Walser Smith, eds., *Exclusionary Violence: Antisemitic Riots in Modern German History* (2002), 123-140

## **21. Consumer Culture and the City (November 15)**

*The Weimar Republic Sourcebook* (1994), 655-672

Anthony McElligott ed., *German Urban Experience 1900-1945: Modernity and Crisis* (2001), 121-123, 129-148, and 156-159

Alexandra Richie, *Faust's Metropolis* (1998), 325-361

## **Fall Break (November 19-23)**

## **22. The City of the Future (November 27)**

*The Weimar Republic Sourcebook* (1994), 623-625

Andreas Huyssen, "The Vamp and the Machine: Fritz Lang's Metropolis," *After the Great Divide* (1986), 65-81

Film: *Metropolis* (Fritz Lang, 1926), in class

## **23. The Faltering Republic (November 29)**

Evans, *The Coming of the Third Reich* (2005), 232-308

Weitz, *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy* (2009), 331-360

*Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, 119-144

BOOK REVIEW, December 4

## **24. The End of the Republic December 4**

*Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, 80-83; 145-175

Evans, *The Coming of the Third Reich* (2005), 310-374

Neil Gregor ed., *Nazism* (Oxford, 2000), 66-80 and 95-108

Peter Fritzsche, "Did Weimar Fail?" *Journal of Modern History* 68 (1996), 629- 666. (available on JSTOR)

## **25. Conclusion (December 6)**

Evans, *The Coming of the Third Reich* (2005), 391-461

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## **Grading Policy**

Three papers (each 20%) and two exams (each 20%). Grades are based on clarity, analysis, understanding of the subject, and creativity. In addition, you must comply with university policies regarding dishonesty, cheating and plagiarism.

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**Course & Instructor Policies**

Attendance and class participation. *Make-up exams are possible only in special cases.* Late papers will lose 10% of their value for every day they are late – after ten days the grade is 0.

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**UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures:**

<http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies-and-procedures-text>

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