

HI3G7-30 Amity, Antagonism and Appeasement: Anglo-German Encounters, 1871-1945

20/21

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Colin Storer

Credit value

30

Module duration

22 weeks

Assessment

60% coursework, 40% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Sometimes friendly, sometimes hostile, always complicated, the relationship between Britain and Germany has been of central importance to the United Kingdom's relations with continental Europe since the end of the nineteenth century. No other modern European state has inspired such a variety of responses – fear, admiration, envy, and revulsion – or been regarded by turns as such a valued partner or deadly enemy. Nor has any other relationship had such an enduring fascination for historians.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This 30 CATS undergraduate final year module will explore the development of Anglo-German relations between 1871 (the unification of Germany) and 1945 (the end of the Second World War) with the aim of showing why the relationship between Britain and Germany was so important to the histories of both nations. Students will use a wide range of primary sources to survey a variety

of Anglo-German encounters and interactions in the political, social and cultural spheres and examine the ways in which personal contact and relationships shaped wider public attitudes and official policy. This will include an examination of travel and tourism, family ties, professional associations and cultural exchange. We will also look at the creation and perpetuation of stereotypes and the role that these played in defining national identities. In this way students will examine the complexity and ambiguity of the Anglo-German relationship as it developed over a period of dramatic political, economic and social change and be encouraged to consider the ways in which it continues to inform British attitudes towards Germany and Europe.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Autumn Term

1. Introduction - Patterns and Perspectives on the Anglo-German Relationship
2. 'The German Revolution'? Britain and German Unification
3. Diplomacy in the Bismarck Era, 1871-90
4. Family Ties: Immigration, Inter-marriage and the Social Impact of Dynastic Politics
5. 'On the Bummel': Travel and Tourism, 1871-1914
6. Reading Week
7. 'Our German Cousins': Identity and Ethnicity in Anglo-German Relations
8. 'A Nation of Damned Professors': Educational and Intellectual Exchange before 1914
9. 'The Rise of the Anglo-German Antagonism': Relations under Wilhelm II
10. 'The Crisis of the Anglo-German Antagonism'? The First World War

Spring Term

1. Making Peace: Versailles and German Democracy
2. The British in Germany: Diplomats, Occupiers and Enforcers of the Treaty
3. From the Ruhr Crisis to the 'Locarno Spirit': Normalising relations in the mid-1920s
4. 'Germany Wants to See You': Travel and Tourism in the 1920s and 30s
5. Cultural Links in the 1920s and 30s
6. Reading Week
7. Changing Perceptions of National Socialism, 1929-37
8. Appeasement
9. The Parting of the Ways? The Second World War
10. Coda: Anglo-German Relations since World War II

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of the nature and development of Anglo-German relations between 1871 and 1945
- Critically analyse and evaluate a broad range of primary sources relating to the Anglo-German relationship

- Effectively communicate ideas, and make informed, coherent and persuasive arguments, relating to the Anglo-German relationship
- Critically review and consolidate theoretical, methodological, and historiographical ideas relating to the Anglo-German relationship

Indicative reading list

- J. Mander, *Our German cousins: Anglo-German relations in the 19th and 20th centuries* (London, 1974).
- R. Gorner, *Anglo-German Affinities and Antipathies* (London, 2005).
- M. Görtemaker, *Britain and Germany in the twentieth century* (Oxford, 2006).
- W.J. Mommsen, *Two centuries of Anglo-German relations: a reappraisal* (London, 1984).
- M.C. Potter, *The inspirational genius of Germany: British art and Germanism, 1850-1939* (Manchester, 2016).
- J. Ramsden, *Don't mention the war: the British and the Germans since 1890* (Abacus, 2007).
- P. Oltermann, *Keeping up with the Germans: a history of Anglo-German encounters* (London, 2013).
- K. Robbins, *Britain and Europe, 1789-2005* (Hodder Arnold, 2005)
- M. Seymour, *Noble endeavours: the life of two countries, England and Germany, in many stories* (London, 2014).
- B. Simms, *Britain's Europe* (Penguin, 2017).

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	18 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Tutorials	4 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Private study	260 hours (87%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group D1

	Weighting	Study time
Seminar contribution	10%	
1500 word essay	10%	
3000 word essay	40%	
7 day take-home assessment	40%	

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback provided via Tabula; optional oral feedback in office hours.

[Past exam papers for HI3G7](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History

This module is Option list A for:

- UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
 - Year 3 of V100 History
 - Year 3 of V100 History
- Year 4 of UHIA-V101 Undergraduate History (with Year Abroad)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
 - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL14 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad)