

HI290-30 History of Germany, from Bismarck to the Berlin Republic

26/27

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Colin Storer

Credit value

30

Module duration

21 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Germany is now widely seen as a peaceful, prosperous and stable democracy, at the heart of Europe politically and economically as well as geographically. But for much of its modern history the picture was very different. A comparative latecomer to statehood, in the 170 years of its existence as a nation-state Germany experienced a dramatic transformation from a maverick to a model state which took in war, dictatorship, occupation and division, as well as rapid industrial development (twice), a dynamic civil society and intense cultural and intellectual experimentation.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This 30 CATS optional second year undergraduate module examines the history of Germany from Unification in 1871 to the Berlin Republic of Angela Merkel. Students will consider the political, social and cultural history of modern Germany from a variety of historical perspectives in order to understand why in Germany the past is so important to an understanding of the present. We will look at the rise and fall of political ideas and regimes, economic developments, issues of citizenship and ethnicity, attitudes towards gender and sexuality, and how all these affected the

lives of ordinary Germans. Along the way, students will have the opportunity to conduct their own research and write a piece of Germany's history.

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 and Themes
2. Bismarck and Germany
3. Wilhelmine Germany
4. Foreign Policy and Empire
5. Total War, 1914-1918
6. Reading Week
7. Doomed Experiment or Militant Democracy? Politics in the Weimar Republic
8. Modernity and its Discontents: Society and Culture in the Weimar Republic
9. Weimar and the Wider World
10. The Rise of Extremism and the Collapse of Weimar Democracy

Spring Term

1. Gleichschaltung: The Making of the Third Reich
2. Creating the Volksgemeinschaft: Domestic Policy in the Third Reich
3. War and Genocide
4. Defeat, Occupation, and Division
5. West Germany: The 'Miracle Years', 1949-63
6. Reading Week
7. East Germany: The Antifascist state?
8. From the Frankfurt Trial to Reunification: West Germany, 1963-89
9. Development and Decline in the GDR, 1961-89
10. 1989, Reunification, and the Berlin Republic

Learning outcomes

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

- Act with limited supervision and direction within defined guidelines, accepting responsibility for achieving deadlines.
- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the trajectory of modern German history.
- Communicate ideas and findings, adapting to a range of situations, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- Generate ideas through the analysis of a broad range of primary source material relating to modern German history.
- Analyse and evaluate the contributions made by existing scholarship.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	20 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	20 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Tutorials	2 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Other activity	2 hours (1%)
Private study	256 hours (85%)
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.

Other activity description

Revision seminar

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Seminar contribution	10%		No
Reassessment component			
1000 word reflective essay in lieu of Seminar Contribution			Yes (extension)
Assessment component			
1500 word essay or equivalent	10%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
3000 word essay or equivalent	40%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
3000 word essay or equivalent	40%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback on essay and exam cover sheets; student/tutor dialogues in one-to-one tutorials.

Availability

Anti-requisite modules

If you take this module, you cannot also take:

- HI2J7-15 The Weimar Republic, 1918-1933

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 2 of UENA-VQ34 Undergraduate English and History (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)
- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)

This module is Option list E for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)