



UNSW
SYDNEY

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ARTS3780

Contemporary Germany: History, Politics, Society

Term One // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Robert Buch	Robert.Buch@unsw.edu.au	Tuesday 12:00-13:00 and by appointment	MB249	9385-8643

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *European Studies*

This course can also be studied in the following specialisations: *German Studies, History*

Germany has faced enormous challenges and undergone radical transformations since the end of the Second World War, when it was a defeated, occupied pariah with no central government. For forty years, the country was divided into communist East and capitalist West, until the fall of the Berlin Wall heralded the end of the Cold War. Since then, Germany has arguably become the European Union's leading power. This course explores social, cultural and political developments in Germany since 1945, with a focus on major contemporary and scholarly debates. You will learn about how Germans in the postwar period coped with defeat and occupation and sought a new beginning; and about social, political and generational change in East and West Germany, including the challenge of radical leftwing terrorism since the 1970s. You will also explore the difficulties of uniting East and West Germans since 1990; how Germany has handled the arrival and integration of migrants and refugees; and the country's ongoing quest to define its national identity and its role in Europe and the world.

This course is taught in English and with readings in English.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse German society, politics, and/or culture since 1945
2. Articulate the diversity and dynamism of contemporary German society, politics, and/or culture
3. Evaluate scholarly arguments about and disciplinary approaches to the study of contemporary Germany
4. Make evidence-based arguments using independently located sources

Teaching Strategies

The course is designed to encourage your engagement with key debates in the study of contemporary Germany and to develop your skills at critiquing scholarly arguments and developing your own arguments. The lectures provide background information and introduce theoretical and analytical perspectives and debates that are explored in or exemplified by the specialized weekly readings. The teaching strategy is to encourage your engagement with and critical reflection on the readings by having you respond to specific questions about a reading in advance of the tutorials on a regular basis. The tutorials involve in-depth discussion of the readings and related contemporary and scholarly debates and approaches. Engagement with the course content is further encouraged and assessed by an end-of-term test. The research essay requires you to undertake independent research on a specific topic. In preparation for the essay, you are required to write an abstract and a brief annotated bibliography.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Responses and discussion questions to weekly readings	25%	First two due 11 March, 4pm. Last three due 28 April, 4pm.	3
Take-home essay	30%	30 April 2019, 9pm	1,2,4
Research essay	45%	15 May 2019, 4pm	1,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Responses and discussion questions to weekly readings

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 250 words (5x)

Details: Students submit a response (max. 250 words) to a set question on a weekly reading, plus a discussion question of their own on the reading, before five tutorials. Two responses and discussion questions must be submitted in the first three weeks in order to receive early feedback. Feedback via individual comments, rubric, and in-class discussion.

Submission notes: Responses must be posted on Moodle before the relevant tutorial. Each day of late submission for an individual response will count as a day of late submission for the whole assessment item, with penalties applying as outlined later in this Course Overview. If you do not submit five responses you will get zero for this assessment item. You must submit responses for at least two of the first three tutorials. In addition to submitting the responses on Moodle prior to the relevant tutorials, you must submit your first two responses (in a single Word file) to Turnitin via Moodle by 4pm 11 March (week 4), and your remaining three responses (in a single Word file) to Turnitin via Moodle by 4pm 28 April (week 10).

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Take-home essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1500 words

Details: Students are given two days to submit an essay of ca. 1,500 words. Questions are designed to give students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the themes, issues and debates covered in the course. Feedback via marking rubrics and brief comments.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Research essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: Students write an essay (ca. 2,500 words) based on independent research, having received feedback on their abstract and annotated bibliography. Feedback via individual comments and rubric.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Attendance of Lectures/Tutorials is mandatory in this course. Unexcused absence from more than 20% of Lectures/Tutorials will result in the award a fail grade.

In lectures and tutorials you will actively engage with core course content, enabling you to attain CLO 1 and CLO 2.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 18 February - 24 February	Lecture	Introduction, overview, historiography, background
	Tutorial	PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TUESDAY MORNING TUTORIAL (11-12) DOES NOT MEET IN WEEK 1 SINCE THERE IS NO POINT IN HAVING A TUTORIAL BEFORE THE LECTURE TOOK PLACE. THE FRIDAY AFTERNOON TUTORIAL (13-14) BEGINS IN WEEK 1; THE FIRST TUESDAY MORNING TUTORIAL 11-12 TAKES PLACE IN WK 2.
Week 2: 25 February - 3 March	Topic	Occupation and division
Week 3: 4 March - 10 March	Topic	The long 1950s
Week 4: 11 March - 17 March	Assessment	First two weekly responses and discussion questions to be submitted via Turnitin, 11 March, 4pm.
	Topic	The long 1960s
Week 5: 18 March - 24 March	Topic	The long 1980s
Week 6: 25 March - 31 March	Topic	Unification
Week 7: 1 April - 7 April	Topic	Germany in Europe
Week 8: 8 April - 14 April	Topic	German foreign policy
Week 9: 15 April - 21 April		READING WEEK
		NO LECTURE ON FRIDAY 19 APRIL DUE TO

		PUBLIC HOLIDAY. NO TUTORIALS
Week 10: 22 April - 28 April	Topic	Germans, migrants and refugees
	Assessment	Last three weekly responses and discussion questions to be submitted via Turnitin, 28 April, 4pm.
Week 11: 29 April - 1 May	Tutorial	TUESDAY MORNING TUTORIAL FINAL MEETING MOVED TO WED 10-11 LOCATION: MB LG2.
	Assessment	Take Home Essay. Questions available on Moodle, 29 April 9am; essay due 30 April, 9pm.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

A course reading kit containing (most of) the weekly readings will be available for purchase at the University Bookstore at the beginning of the term.

Most readings are also available electronically. However, please note that no laptops or tablets are allowed during the tutorials.

Recommended Resources

You are strongly encouraged to read Pól O'Dochartaigh, *Germany since 1945* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan 2004), which is available at the UNSW Library and the UNSW Bookshop. It serves as background reading, but is not directly assessed.

Three further surveys of German history since 1945 are recommended:

(1) Paul Hockenos, Joschka Fischer and the Making of the Berlin Republic: An Alternative History of Postwar Germany (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008);

(2) Konrad H. Jarausch, *After Hitler: Recivilizing Germans, 1945-1995* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006) (German version also available: *Umkehr*);

(3) Michael Gehler, *Three Germanies: West Germany, East Germany and the Berlin Republic* (London: Reaktion Books, 2011)

You are also strongly encouraged to read the weekly recommended readings listed on Moodle. They should also be available electronically via the UNSW Library.

Good places to search for further resources include the journal database JSTOR and specific journals such as *German History*; *German Politics and Society*; *German Politics*; *German Studies Review*; *Journal of Contemporary History*; *Contemporary European History*; *European History Quarterly*.

There are numerous useful websites on contemporary German history and contemporary German affairs. For example, the German Historical Institute, Washington, has a bilingual platform called 'German History in Documents and Images': <http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org> Also, the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, Johns Hopkins University, provides commentary and reports on German politics: <http://www.aicgs.org>

Course Evaluation and Development

Formal feedback is gathered from students using myExperience. Students have given extremely positive evaluations of 'Contemporary Germany' in previous years. In 2017, 100% of students agreed (and 70% strongly agreed) that they were satisfied with the quality of the course. This was from a very high 82% response rate.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

Student responsibilities

You must read and adhere to the UNSW Student Code Policy (2016):

<https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/studentcodepolicy.html>.

There are five primary student responsibilities under this Code:

1. A condition of enrolment that students inform themselves of the University's rules and policies affecting them, and conduct themselves accordingly.
2. An obligation to act with integrity in academic work, to ensure that all academic work is conducted ethically and safely.
3. An obligation to observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the University community.
4. An obligation to use and care for University resources in a lawful and appropriate manner
5. An obligation to not diminish the University's reputation in the carrying out of academic and other associated University activities. (UNSW Student Code Policy, Art. 2)

A related document is the UNSW Student Misconduct Procedure (2016):

<https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/studentmisconductprocedures.html>.

All courses in the School of Social Sciences are run in accordance with School, Faculty and University rules and policies.

You need to make sure that you are familiar with University policies and School guidelines, <https://socialsciences.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policiesguidelines/>, particularly those relating to attendance requirements, extensions and late submission of assessed work.

Image Credit

Synergies in Sound 2016

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