

Professor David L. Fisk
Summer Session I 2009
Office: Social Sciences Building 449
Office Hours: 12:45-1:45 MW
Class Schedule: 2:00-4:50 MW
Class Location: Peterson 102
E-mail: dfisk@ucsd.edu
Course Website: <http://dfisk00.googlepages.com>
Teaching Assistant: Jonathan Mark (jnmark@ucsd.edu)

POLI 120B: THE GERMAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

Course Objectives: This course is designed to introduce students to the modern German political process, taking the creation and failure of the Weimar Republic as our point of departure. We will also examine the consequences of Nazism and the division and subsequent unification of the modern German state. We will pay particular attention to how history and geopolitical realities shape and are also shaped by, the political institutions, economic system and political culture of the modern Germany.

Course Assignments/Grading:

Course Participation: 10%

Midterm: 45%

Final Examination: 45%

Participation: Students are expected to attend lecture having completed the assigned reading and able to participate in course discussions. We will also talk about current events within the German system during course discussions. Current events analysis will occur at the beginning of each lecture, so students are strongly encouraged to be on time and ready to participate. The following is a list of new websites that may be of use. You may wish to sign up for e-mail alerts from your favorite websites. Information on setting up e-mail alerts will be discussed in class. The list is not exhaustive:

New York Times Online (<http://www.nytimes.com>)

Los Angeles Times Online (<http://www.latimes.com>)

Washington Post (<http://www.washingtonpost.com>)

Economist Online (<http://www.economist.com>)

CNN (<http://www.cnn.com>)

BBC News (<http://news.bbc.co.uk>)

Course Papers: The midterm and final examination will be 6-8 pages in length. Materials relating to format of the midterm and final examinations will be placed on the course website and will also be discussed in class. A handout for writing social sciences papers will be made available.

Late Assignments: Barring documented emergencies, **no late assignments will be accepted.** Additionally, a hard copy of each paper is required; e-mail attachments will **not** be accepted. While issues of plagiarism are not expected, course assignments are to be completed on an individual basis. Incidents of plagiarism will be dealt with according to department and university procedures.

Reading Schedule: Course examinations will draw heavily from course readings and lecture material. Please keep this in mind while planning for the session. Students are strongly discouraged from depending solely on lecture material for course assignments. Given that we are covering ten weeks of material in a five week period, the reading load for the course is relatively intense. Strategies for tackling academic readings can be found at: <http://www.si.umich.edu/~pne/PDF/howtoread.pdf>.

Books (required):

Allen. [The Nazi Seizure of Power](#)

Hancock and Krisch. [Politics in Germany](#)

Padgett et al. [Developments in German Politics 3](#)

Given the rising costs of textbooks, you may wish to shop around online. Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble.com, Textbooks.com all have used and new textbooks at competitive prices.

Week 1:

29 June

Introduction/Course Logistics

Weimar Germany

Hancock and Krisch CH 1 and 2

Allen pgs 3-158

1 July

Nazi Germany

Allen pgs 159-306

Week 2:

6 July

Postwar Aftermath: Division and Unification

Hancock and Krisch CH 3

Midterm Distributed

8 July

German Political Institutions: Basic Law and Federalism

Hancock and Krisch CH 5 (pgs 77-82)

Padgett CH 2

German Political Institutions: Basic Law and the Central Government

Hancock and Krisch CH 5 (pgs. 82- 103)

Padgett CH 1 and 5

Week 3:

13 July

NO LECTURE-MIDTERM DUE

15 July

German Political System: Party System:

Hancock and Krisch CH 6

Padgett CH 4

German Political System: Electoral System

Hancock and Krisch CH 7

Padgett CH 3

Week 4:

20 July

Policymaking in Germany

Padgett CH 5

Critical Issues in German Politics: German Economic Model

Hancock and Krisch CH 9

Padgett CH 6 and 7

22 July
Critical Issues in German Politics: Immigration
Padgett CH 11

Critical Issues in German Politics: German Foreign Policy
Hancock and Krisch CH 10
Padgett CH 9
Final Examination Distributed

Week 5:

27 July
Critical Issues in German Politics: Germany and the EU
Padgett CH 10

Critical Issues in German Politics: Prospects
Hancock and Krisch CH 11
Padgett CH 13

29 July
Final Examination Due

***Disclaimer:** This syllabus is intended to provide an overview of the course. You cannot claim any rights from it. While the information included within the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, scheduling and dates may change. Official announcements are always those made in lecture.*