

HIS 359 GERMANY & CENTRAL EUROPE 1618-1918

Kenneth J. Orosz
Fall 2025

Class Meetings:

TR 1:40-2:55 Science 170

Office Hours: W 10:00-12:00 &
By appointment

Office: Cassety 337

Telephone: 878-3203

E-mail: oroszkj@buffalostate.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Despite their late unification, the German lands played a major role in shaping modern Europe. Students in this course will survey the evolution of Germany and Central Europe from the Reformation to the 20th Century within the larger context of European history, culture and society. Major themes include the effects of the Reformation, Austro-Prussian rivalry, the Napoleonic legacy, German unification, the Dual Monarchy, and World War I.¹

OFFICE HOURS

While I will be available in my office for face to face meetings during office hours, I am also available for virtual meetings. To take advantage of virtual office hours click on the appropriate menu button in Brightspace to reveal the Zoom link. Contact me via email if you cannot make regularly attended office hours so that we can set up an appointment.

TUTORING SERVICES

Buffalo State offers a wide variety of free tutoring services, including a Writing Center. For more information go to the [tutoring website](#).

REQUIREMENTS:

Academic misconduct (including cheating, plagiarism, and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to do your work for you) will not be tolerated. Buffalo State College policies on academic misconduct, including the possible use of textual similarity detection software, are outlined in the college catalog. **Please note that the minimum penalty for cases of academic misconduct will be an F on the assignment.**

Reading assignments are to be completed by the dates given. There will be a midterm and a final examination. **Students are required to provide their own blank examination booklets (available in the bookstore) for each exam.** Please note that in order to earn more than a B on the essay portion of the exams you must make use of the relevant assigned readings and historical documents. In addition students will write two 5 page analysis papers of assigned texts (von Grimmelhausen's *Adventures of Simplicissimus* and Fontane's *Effi Briest*) plus a 10-12 page paper on a topic of their choice. All topics for the research papers must be authorized by me and must conform to the geographic and temporal confines of this course. As part of this process students are required to submit their paper topics in the form of written proposals no later than **October 7**. Failure to submit a passing proposal means that your paper will not be accepted and you will earn an E for that portion of the course. All papers and reviews must conform to the [History Style Sheet](#). Detailed [instructions](#) on the writing assignments, including the style sheet, can be found in Brightspace or by clicking the syllabi and course materials links at

¹ Learning Outcomes: Students will demonstrate mastery of subject matter, knowledge of historiography, appreciation of cultural patterns/behaviors, understanding of cause and effect, and influence of ideas on human behavior. Students will also be able to retrieve/interpret primary sources, write clearly and effectively, document sources and demonstrate logical thought processes.

<http://faculty.buffalostate.edu/oroszkj> Help for Brightspace can be found [here](#).

Please note that in order to pass this course you must make a good faith attempt to complete all components and requirements. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR ARRANGEMENT**. Incompletes will be granted at the sole discretion of the instructor and require a written application outlining the rationale for granting an incomplete, a list of outstanding assignments and a timetable for their completion. This application must be signed and, if granted, will constitute a formal contract for the completion of the course.

Grades will be computed as follows:

Midterm	25%	Final	25%
Grimmelhausen Analysis	15%	Research Paper	20%
Fontane Analysis	15%		

COURSE POLICIES

1. Students must complete all work on their own. There are no group projects.
2. **The use of artificial intelligence (AI) is strictly forbidden and will be considered cheating since it is a computer, rather than the student, completing assignments. As with other cases of academic misconduct, the minimum penalty will be an F on the assignment.**
3. Except for cases of documented emergencies, I do not accept late work without prior arrangement. It is your responsibility to keep track of what is due each week by checking the syllabus.

RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSALS

Use of AI to write your paper is cheating and will be dealt with as such. All topics for the research papers must be authorized by me and must conform to the geographic and temporal confines of this course. Proposals must be submitted in writing and should consist of a sentence or two outlining your topic followed by a preliminary bibliography of 8-10 scholarly sources in which you provide complete publication information. The use of encyclopedias and websites beyond those already assigned are not allowed. Do not restrict yourself to what is present in our library, since our collection in history is incomplete and often dated. To find books you will need to make use of the library's Worldcat Discovery database; if we do not own the text, you will then need to order it via interlibrary loan. You can find peer reviewed journal articles by using the library's JSTOR and Project Muse databases.

The bibliography of passed proposals can be amended via a simple email to your instructor. While proposals are due **October 7**, you can change your topic by submitting a new proposal for approval until the day the paper is due. This is the only assignment with this kind of flexibility. Please note that if I do not have a passed proposal on file when I begin grading, I will not read your paper and you will receive an F on the assignment. If you choose to gamble by turning in your revised proposal with your paper on **December 4** you run the risk that your proposal will fail and your paper will be rejected unread.

SUBMITTING PAPERS

Submitting papers requires a 3 part process:

1. You must pass a quiz confirming that you have read and followed the directions before the Dropbox will appear. This quiz will become under available the

Course Activities tab 2 weeks before the assignment is due and can be retaken as needed.

2. If you have successfully completed the quiz, then the Dropbox will appear in the Assignments section of the Course Activities tab. You must upload your paper as a word document (.doc or .docx only) to the Turnitin dropbox by **3:00 PM** on the due date.
3. You must bring a printed and stapled copy and turn it in during class time on the due date. **I will not grade any papers that have not been submitted to the dropbox and for which I do not also have a paper copy.**

Note: You may submit revisions of your paper up until the due date. Among the things you should check is the Turnitin Originality Report to help guard against plagiarism. To see the report click on the colored rectangular icon next to your submission. If the icon is gray, your report is still being processed; check back within the next 24 hours.

Books: The following books are required reading and are available in the bookstore:

Ivan T. Berend, <u>History Derailed</u> , 3 rd ed	ISBN 978-0-520-24525-9
Charles Ingrao, <u>The Habsburg Monarchy 1618-1815</u> , 3 rd ed	978-1-108-71333-7
Peter Wilson, <u>From Reich to Revolution</u> , 4 th ed	978-0-333-65244-2
John Breuilly, <u>Nineteenth Century Germany</u> , 2 nd ed	978-1-474-26946-9
von Grimmelhausen, <u>Adventures of Simplicius Simplicissimus</u>	978-0-241-30986-5
Theodor Fontane, <u>Effi Briest</u>	978-0-140-44766-8

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:

Any reading listed on the syllabus that does not come from a required textbook is either a website or has been posted to Brightspace. To further help you identify them, supplemental readings are in italics. They can be accessed in one of 3 ways: 1) If it is a website, there will be a link to it from the electronic version of the syllabus available in Brightspace or on my web page at <http://faculty.buffalostate.edu/oroszkj>. Please note that the “Broadcast” links are versions of a radio program, hence there is no video to watch. When the page opens make sure you click the “Listen now” icon on the left side of the screen. 2) Materials highlighted in blue have been uploaded to weekly folders in the Supplemental Readings section of Brightspace. A) If the item is a PDF, simply click on it to open and read. B) If it is a PowerPoint, click the down arrow next to the file name and select download from the menu (files are large, so do on WiFi only).

Navigate to your download folder and open the file. Follow the directions on the first slide to get it to play.

Margaret L. Anderson, “Voter, Junker, Landrat, Priest,” American Historical Review 98, no. 5 (December 1993): 1448-1474.

Pawel Brudek, “Revolutions (East Central Europe),” in: 1914-1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War, ed. by Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2015-09-16. DOI: [10.15463/ie1418.10726](https://doi.org/10.15463/ie1418.10726).

Zbigniew A. Konczacki, “Economic and Social Thought in Poland During the Period Between the Partitions (1772-1795)” The Polish Review 39, no. 2 (1994): 169-183.

Hannes Leidinger, “Revolutions (Austria-Hungary),” in: 1914-1918-online.

International Encyclopedia of the First World War, ed. by Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2014-10-08. DOI: [10.15463/ie1418.10136](https://doi.org/10.15463/ie1418.10136).

Lynn Lubamersky, "Women and Political Patronage in the Politics of the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth," *The Polish Review*, 44, no. 3 (1999): 259-275

Jerzy Lukowski, "Poland-Lithuania," in *A Companion to 18th Century Europe*, edited by Peter Wilson, 244-259, Oxford: Blackwell, 2009.

Curtis G. Murphy, "Burghers versus Bureaucrats: Enlightened Centralism, the Royal Towns, and the Case of the Propinacja Law in Poland-Lithuania, 1776-1793," *Slavic Review* 71, no. 2 (Summer 2012): 385-409.

Nancy Reagin, "The Imagined Hausfrau" *Journal of Modern History* 73, no. 1 (March 2001): 54-86.

Bob Scribner, "Witchcraft and Judgement in Reformation Germany," *History Today* 40, no. 4 (April 1990): 12-19.

Janusz Tazbir, "Polish National Consciousness in the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Century," *Harvard Ukrainian Studies* 10, no. 3/4 (December 1986): 316-335.

CLASS SCHEDULE

August 26	Introduction
August 28	Pre-Reformation Central Europe
Read:	Wilson Ch 1; Ingrao Ch 1
September 2	Origins of the Reformation
Read:	Wilson Ch 2-3; 95 Theses
September 4	Beyond Luther: Zwingli, Calvin and Mathys
Read:	Wilson Ch 4; Sixteenth Century Theologies
September 9	Religious Warfare
Read:	Ingrao Ch 2; Thirty Years War sources ; Destruction of Magdeburg
September 11	Political Fragmentation
Read:	Grimmelhausen novel; Scribner; "Witchcraft and Judgement;"
September 16	The Polish Commonwealth 1569-1795
Read:	Lubamersky, "Women;" Tazbir, "Polish National Consciousness;" Murphy, "Burghers vs Bureaucrats"
September 18	Poland: Deluge and Partition
Read	Konczacki, "Economic & Social Thought"; Lukowski, "Poland-Lithuania;" Division of Poland
September 23	Absolutism and the Rise of Brandenburg Prussia
Read:	Wilson Ch 5-6;
September 25	Frederick the Great
Read:	Wilson Ch 7; Duties of a Prince ; Political Testament ; Instructions to Officers

September 30 Read:	Absolutism in Austria Ingrao Ch 3-4; Turkish Defeat Grimmelhausen analysis due
October 2 Read:	Maria Theresa and Joseph II Ingrao Ch 5-6; Maria Theresa Describes Joseph II ; Patent on Serfdom ;
October 7 Read:	Central Europe and the French Revolution Wilson Ch 8; Ingrao Ch 7-8; To the German Nation Paper topics due
October 9 Read:	Napoleonic Central Europe Breuilly Ch 1-2
October 14 October 16	No Class Midterm
October 21 Read:	Metternich and the Congress of Vienna Berend Ch 1-2; Sedgwick: Student Life ; Carlsbad Decrees
October 23 Read:	Vormärz Breuilly Ch 3-4; Prussian Reform Edict
October 28 Read:	Revolutions of 1848 Breuilly Ch 5-6; Frederick IV's Refusal of Imperial Crown ; Look Back at 1848
October 30 Read:	Austrian Neo-Absolutism 1848-1866 Berend Ch 3-4;
November 4 Read:	Otto von Bismarck and German Unification Breuilly Ch 7-8; Bismarck in Reichstag & home ; Ems Dispatch ; Documents of German Unification ;
November 6 Read:	Bismarckian Germany Fontane novel; Anderson, "Voter, Junker, Landrat, Priest" Bismarck and the Polish Question ; Bismarck on Kulturkampf ;
November 11 Read:	Industrialization and Social Change in Germany Breuilly Ch 9; Reagin, "Imagined Hausfrau" ; Anti-Socialist Law ; Friedrich Harkort on Social Question ; Bromme on Living Conditions ; Paul Goehre on Working Class Life part 1 ; part 2 ; part 3
November 13 Read:	The German Colonial Empire Bismarck on Colonial Policy ; Imperialism: a German viewpoint ; German Colonial Empires I-III

November 18	The Ausgleich
Read:	Berend Ch 5; Memoirs of the Ausgleich ; Fontane analysis due
November 20	The Dual Monarchy
Read:	Berend Ch 6;
November 25	Wilhelmine Germany: Culture and Social Change
Read:	Breuilly Ch 10; Uriah Letter ; Day with the Kaiser ; Erfurt Program ; German Banking 1910
November 27	No Class
December 2	Wilhelmine Foreign Policy
Read:	Breuilly Ch 11; Program of Pan-German League ; A Place in the Sun ; Daily Telegraph Interview ;
December 4	WW I and Revolution
Read:	Breuilly Ch 12; Berend Epilogue; Blank Check ; Zimmerman Telegram ; SPD response to war ; Hindenburg Program ; Revolution 1918-1919 Research paper due
December 11	Final Exam 1:40-2:55

Instructions for Writing Assignments

Students in this course are required to do their own original work, hence **the use of artificial intelligence (AI) constitutes cheating and is strictly forbidden** because it is a computer, rather than the student, doing the assignment. **The minimum penalty for violating this policy is an F for the assignment, but in most cases students will also receive a failing grade for the course and will be reported to the Academic Misconduct Committee for possible additional penalties.**

While your papers will be graded primarily on content and the strength of your arguments, grammatical accuracy, style, presentation and organization will also be taken into account. As with a medical diagnosis, your arguments will be stronger if you can offer second opinions, hence your papers should, wherever possible, include supporting evidence drawn from more than one source. **All papers are required to adhere to the History Style Sheet** which is available in Brightspace and on my web site. Failure to follow the style sheet will result in significant penalties; these consist of at least the loss of a full letter grade for each category of violation (i.e. use of contractions will cost you a letter grade, reducing an A paper to a B). This includes paper length, non-standard fonts, margins and line spacing. Please note that a short paper is not necessarily a bad paper; I am primarily interested in what you have to say, how well you say it and if you have developed your thesis and argument sufficiently.

As you write your papers, you may paraphrase or quote suitable passages that illustrate your points. However, if you do quote or paraphrase, you must cite the relevant passage. You must also cite detailed information (i.e. statistics or items that are not common knowledge). The only exception to this rule is material gleaned from my lectures; you may assume that this is public knowledge and requires no citation. Proper citation formats can be found in the History Style Sheet. Please note that in addition to enforcing Buffalo State College's policies on academic misconduct, including the possible use of textual similarity detection software, **the minimum penalty for**

plagiarism is an F on the assignment. For more information on plagiarism, how to footnote, or how to write a research paper consult the relevant sections of Benjamin's *A Student's Guide to History*. If you are still unclear about when or how to cite please come see me during my office hours. That is why I am there.

Since much of what is out on the internet is of dubious quality, **the use of web pages as source material is strictly forbidden** unless authorized by me in writing. The only exceptions to this rule are the individual web sites that I have assigned as required reading material. On a similar note, **the use of encyclopedias is also forbidden**. While they may be useful reference tools or for providing an overview of a particular topic, encyclopedias have no place in college level work. Articles in historical encyclopedias (i.e. *The Encyclopedia of European Social History*) may be acceptable, but must first be cleared by me in writing.

I am obviously a firm believer in written assignments since they help develop your organizational, analytical and communication skills, all of which are things you will need in the workplace. Consequently, I expect you to treat all graded assignments (in this or any other class) as preparations for your future career. Turning in business reports that are filled with grammatical errors, failures in logic, poor argumentation and lack of evidence portrays a degree of incompetence, even if it is undeserved, and will probably get you fired. Get in the habit now of proofreading your work to catch typos, misspellings and nonsensical statements. Read your papers aloud to see how they sound. Better still, have a friend or roommate read your work since they are more likely to notice any problems. Most of you will be writing your papers on wordprocessors. No matter what program you use, they all have spell checkers. It is silly and self-defeating not to make use of them.

While I do not allow rewrites once papers have been graded, I will read and comment on rough drafts if I am given enough time. Alternatively, you may want to consult either the campus writing center or some of the history tutors for help or advice. Keep your notes and copies of your paper to facilitate rewrites and to safeguard against loss, computer errors, random destruction by pets and similar catastrophes. Finally, and most importantly, if you are having any problems in this course come see me.

Book Analyses

All students will write two 5 page (1500 words) analyses of assigned texts (Grimmelhausen's *Adventures of Simplicissimus* and Fontane's *Effi Briest*). Since these are analyses and not "book reports" I am not interested in plot summaries. Similarly, I am not interested in whether you liked the book or found it interesting. Your review should analyze and critique the author's portrayal of some of the historical events or themes covered in this course. As you critique the books use the following questions as a rough guide: How do the authors portray historical events or issues covered elsewhere in the course? How accurate are these depictions? Have they added to your understanding of the period in question?

As you will discover, 5 pages provides barely enough room to introduce a topic, let alone go into much detail. Hence, your papers should have a narrowly defined thesis and must be very selective in both their use and presentation of supporting evidence or examples. Since these papers are so short keep quotations to a minimum so that you will have more room to develop your own thoughts and arguments. To strengthen your argument(s), however, your analyses must draw upon and cite specific examples from the novel as well as corroborating evidence from more than one source. **There is ample material on which to base your book analyses papers in assigned course materials (lectures and readings); if you wish to use outside materials, you must first obtain permission from me in writing.**

Research Paper

In addition to the book reviews, all students will write a 10-12 page (3000-3600 word) paper on a topic of their own choice. While the actual topics for your papers are up to you, they must remain within the geographical and temporal confines of this course. The paper should analyze some facet of German or Central European history in detail. To that end, and to help you identify sources, all paper topics must be cleared with me first in the form of a written paper proposal due no later than **October 7**. Complete proposals will outline your topic, specific issues you intend to address, and must include a bibliography of 8-10 scholarly sources. If, after you have begun researching and writing your paper, you choose to use additional sources, you must submit an amended bibliography to me in writing. **Papers that use unauthorized materials will not be accepted. Similarly, papers that deviate significantly from your research proposal will also not be accepted.** This does not mean, however, that you are permanently locked in to a particular paper topic; if you change your mind and opt to pursue some other topic you must submit a new paper proposal which may or may not be accepted at my discretion. Completed papers are due in class on **December 4**.

Possible paper topics include

The Stein Reforms
The Revolutions of 1848
The Bismarckian Legacy
The German Enlightenment
Austrian Neo-Absolutism

Frederick the Great and Enlightened Absolutism
The Kulturkampf
Metternich and the Congress of Vienna
The Thirty Years War
Hungary under the Dual Monarchy