

HIS 359 GERMANY & CENTRAL EUROPE 1618-1918

Kenneth J. Orosz
Fall 2020
Class Meetings: Online

Office Hours: W 10:00-11:00 &
By appointment
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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

REQUIREMENTS:

Academic misconduct (including cheating and plagiarism) will not be tolerated. Buffalo State College policies on academic misconduct, including the possible use of textual similarity detection software, are outlined on page 144 of 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order to earn more than a B on the essay portion of the exams you must make use of the relevant assigned readings and historical documents.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 (Lons' *The Warwolf* and Mann's *Buddenbrooks*) 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 13**. Failure to submit a passing proposal means that your paper will not be accepted and you will earn an F 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 Blackboard or by clicking the syllabi link at <http://faculty.buffalostate.edu/oroszkj> Help for Blackboard can be found at https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/Reference/Blackboard_Learn_Videos.

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%
Lons Analysis	15%	Research Paper	20%
Mann Analysis	15%		

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.

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>	978-0-333-65244-2
John Breuilly, <u>Nineteenth Century Germany</u>	978-0-340-76235-6
Hermann Lons, <u>The Warwolf</u>	978-1-594-16245-9
Thomas Mann, <u>Buddenbrooks</u>	978-0-679-75260-8

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:

Supplemental readings (indicated in italics on the syllabus) 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 Blackboard or on my web page at <http://faculty.buffalostate.edu/oroszkj> Please note that the “Broadcast” links will take you to a central index where you will need to click on the title to hear the file. 2) Journal articles listed below can be accessed via the library’s Academic Search Premier or JSTOR databases; 3) highlighted readings are available in Blackboard under the Content tab.

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.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Students must complete all work on their own. There are no group projects.
2. All documents uploaded to Blackboard must be in .doc or .dox formats only.

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.

LECTURES

This course will be taught in an asynchronous fashion by posting Powerpoints with embedded audio and video to the Content section of Blackboard. What that means to you, is that you can log in, download and watch the Powerpoints at any time. Lectures have been broken into smaller, more manageable chunks of 20-30 minutes each. Please watch them in order and stay on schedule as there will be far too much to cover if you try to catch up at the last minute. Embedding audio and video means that the Powerpoint files are quite large and will quickly exhaust your data plans. I strongly recommend that you use Wifi only and that you download batches of files during off peak hours to watch later.

The lecture Powerpoints are set up to mimic the experience you would have had in class minus the ability to ask questions. When you open the Powerpoint click on the “Slide Show” tab at the top of the screen; then click on the “From the beginning” button in the upper left of your screen. The Powerpoint will then play like a video from start to finish. If you need to pause the lecture, right click on the slide and select pause from the menu. To resume, either right click or hit the Escape button on your keyboard.

If you want to slow things down further or re-watch pieces of the lecture, open the Powerpoint and place your cursor on top of the desired slide. Left click once to highlight the slide and then click on the “From Current Slide” button at the top of the screen to play the slide show from that point. You can also watch slides on an individual basis. To do that, double click on the desired slide to open a larger version and then click on the speaker icon in the lower right corner of the slide to start the audio.

OFFICE HOURS

While you are always free to email your questions/concerns, I will be holding virtual office hours every Wednesday 10:00-11:00 for additional help as well as to discuss the readings. These virtual office hours are optional, open to the entire class, and will take place via Blackboard Collaborate. To access them open Blackboard Collaborate by clicking the link on the left side of the course menu, click on the “Course Room” tab and then click on “Join Session.” Additional hours for private sessions are available on request via video chat or telephone.

PAPER PROPOSALS

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. Normally I would direct you to books, but the likely closure of libraries means that you will probably have to rely heavily on journal articles instead. You can find those by using the library’s JSTOR and Project Muse databases; both databases can be accessed from anywhere by logging in through the library portal and contain PDF versions of articles that you can download or read on the screen. Other

critical databases to use are Worldcat Discovery and the Internet Archive's Open Library for copies of e-books.

The bibliography of passed proposals can be amended via a simple email to your instructor. While proposals are due October 13, 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 by the time your research papers are due, 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 10 you run the risk that your proposal will fail and your paper will be rejected unread.

EXAMS

Will be conducted online via Blackboard and will become available under the Content tab at 8:00 on the assigned date. While you may take the exam at any time on the assigned date, all answers must be submitted by 11:59 PM. The exam will consist of two essay questions; you will have a total of two hours in which to complete both essays. Exceptions for additional time have already been entered for those students who qualify for learning accommodations. Once you begin the exam, the time cannot be stopped. While you can manually save and submit your answers as soon as you are finished with the exam, once time ends your answers will be automatically submitted. Please note that answers must be typed into the box on Blackboard; cutting and pasting material has been disabled. Since I have to assume that you will be using your notes when writing those essays, I will be expecting more complete and more detailed answers. If you encounter any problems let me know as soon as possible so that we can work out a solution.

Class Schedule

September 1	Introduction
September 3	Pre-Reformation Central Europe
Read:	Wilson Ch 1; Ingrao Ch 1
September 8	Origins of the Reformation
Read:	Wilson Ch 2-3; 95 Theses
September 10	Beyond Luther: Zwingli, Calvin and Mathys
Read:	Wilson Ch 4; Sixteenth Century Theologies
September 15	Religious Warfare
Read:	Ingrao Ch 2; Thirty Years War sources ; Destruction of Magdeburg
September 17	Political Fragmentation
Read:	Lons novel; <i>Scribner</i> ; "Witchcraft and Judgement;"
September 22	The Polish Commonwealth 1569-1795
Read:	Lubamersky, "Women;" Tazbir, "Polish National Consciousness;" Murphy, "Burghers vs Bureaucrats"
September 24	Poland: Deluge and Partition
Read	Konczacki, "Economic & Social Thought"; Lukowski, "Poland-Lithuania;" Division of Poland

September 29 Read:	Absolutism and the Rise of Brandenburg Prussia Wilson Ch 5-6; Lons analysis due
October 1 Read:	Frederick the Great Wilson Ch 7; <i>Duties of a Prince</i> ; <i>Political Testament</i> ; <i>Instructions to Officers</i>
October 6 Read:	Absolutism in Austria Ingrao Ch 3-4; <i>Turkish Defeat</i>
October 8 Read:	Maria Theresa and Joseph II Ingrao Ch 5-6; <i>Maria Theresa Describes Joseph II</i> ; <i>Patent on Serfdom</i> ;
October 13 Read:	Central Europe and the French Revolution Wilson Ch 8; Ingrao Ch 7-8; <i>To the German Nation</i> Paper topics due
October 15 Read:	Napoleonic Central Europe Breuilly Ch 1-2
October 20 October 22 Read:	Midterm Metternich and the Congress of Vienna Berend Ch 1-2; <i>Sedgwick: Student Life</i> ; <i>Carlsbad Decrees</i>
October 27 Read:	Vormärz Breuilly Ch 3-4; <i>Prussian Reform Edict</i>
October 29 Read:	Revolutions of 1848 Breuilly Ch 5-6; <i>Frederick IV's Refusal of Imperial Crown</i> ; <i>Look Back at 1848</i>
November 3 Read:	Austrian Neo-Absolutism 1848-1866 Berend Ch 3-4;
November 5 Read:	Otto von Bismarck and German Unification Breuilly Ch 7; <i>Otto von Bismarck</i> ; <i>Bismarck in Reichstag & home</i> ; <i>Ems Dispatch</i> ; <i>Documents of German Unification</i> ;
November 10 Read:	Bismarckian Germany Breuilly Ch 8; Anderson, "Voter, Junker, Landrat, Priest" <i>Bismarck and the Polish Question</i> ; <i>Bismarck on Kulturkampf</i> ;
November 12 Read:	Industrialization and Social Change in Germany Breuilly Ch 9; Reagin, "Imagined Hausfrau"; <i>Anti-Socialist Law</i> ; <i>School in fight vs. Socialism</i> ; <i>Paul Goehre on living conditions</i> ; <i>Moritz Bromme on living conditions</i> <i>Friedrich Harkort on Social Question</i> ;

November 17	The German Colonial Empire
Read:	Mann novel; Bismarck on Colonial Policy ; Imperialism: a German viewpoint ;
November 19	The Ausgleich
Read:	Berend Ch 5; Memoirs of the Ausgleich ;
November 24	The Dual Monarchy
Read:	Berend Ch 6; Mann analysis due
November 26	No Class
December 1	Wilhelmine Germany: Culture and Social Change
Read:	Breuilly Ch 10; Bismarck's fall from power ; Uriah Letter ; Day with the Kaiser ; Erfurt Program ; Caprivi on fight vs Socialists ; German Banking 1910
December 3	Wilhelmine Foreign Policy
Read:	Breuilly Ch 11; Program of Pan-German League ; A Place in the Sun ; If I were Kaiser ; Daily Telegraph Interview ;
December 8	WW I
Read:	Breuilly Ch 12; Berend Epilogue; Blank Check ; Zimmerman Telegram ; SPD response to war ; Hindenburg Program ;
December 10	Spartakist and other Revolts
Read:	Berend Epilogue; Brudek, "Revolutions (East Central Europe)" ; Leidinger, "Revolutions (Austria-Hungary)" ; Research paper due
December 17	Final Exam

Guidelines for Writing Assignments

While your papers will be graded primarily on content, grammatical accuracy, style, presentation and organization will also be taken into account. **All papers are required to adhere to the History Style Sheet** which is available in Blackboard and on my web site under Course Materials. 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 feel free to paraphrase or quote suitable passages that illustrate your points. However, if you 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.**² 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 (Lons' *The Warwolf* and Mann's *Buddenbrooks*). 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

²Buffalo State College, *Undergraduate Catalog 2019-2020*, 144.

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 reviews should draw upon and cite specific examples from the novel as well as corroborating evidence. There is ample material on which to base your papers in my lectures and your textbooks; outside materials, although always welcome, are not required.

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 13**. Complete proposals will outline your topic, specific issues you intend to address, and must include a bibliography. 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 10**.

Possible paper topics include

The Stein Reforms	Frederick the Great and Enlightened Absolutism
The Revolutions of 1848	The Kulturkampf
The Bismarckian Legacy	Metternich and the Congress of Vienna
The German Enlightenment	The Thirty Years War
Austrian Neo-Absolutism	Hungary under the Dual Monarchy