This course will discuss major themes and questions in late nineteenth- and twentieth-century German history, including "modernity" and “modernization”; continuities and ruptures; German identities; and the connections of the German past to its present, as a nation-state and as a central power in the "new Europe." We will examine and compare scholarly interpretations of this history, sharpen skills in reading primary sources (readings, visual images, etc.) critically and analytically, and consider what meaning German history has for us and why we should care about it.

**Learning goals** for this course include the ability to assess assumptions and analyze evidence and arguments in primary and secondary sources; to critically consider ethical issues in German history; to employ historical reasoning; and to understand arguments concerning cultural, social, economic, and political organization in modern Germany. Students should be able to demonstrate these abilities and express their views in written and oral form. Class assignments help to assess your ability to evaluate primary documents, place them in broader historical context, and draw conclusions concerning their collective significance; to understand and compare the arguments of historians coming from a variety of methodologies, and to offer your own considered conclusions as a response to these arguments.

**Required work** for this course includes reading assigned texts, attending lectures and discussions, and writing a short reading response, a take-home midterm, an in-class quiz, and a final paper (12-15 pages). You are asked to attend at least one event at the Center for European Studies (CES) during the semester; I will make sure you are aware of events, including those particularly pertaining to Germany. Discussion attendance and participation throughout the course will constitute 25% of the grade, the reading response 10%, the midterm 25%, the quiz 10%, attendance at a CES event 5%, and the final paper 25%.

**Further notes toward success in this course.** Know that I want you to do well in this course. Your understanding of and attention to course expectations is key to this outcome. Our reading assignments are a major portion of the work for this course. This, along with attention to what happens in class, will be essential to successful completion of all the assignments and of the course. Regular discussion of this reading is an important part of practicing your analytical skills, learning from one another, and figuring out what you yourself think. It is therefore imperative that readings be completed before class, above all before the respective sessions devoted entirely to discussion. Please bring these readings with you every session, as possible, and absolutely for the formal discussions. Class participation is a regular part even of the lecture sessions. If you are skeptical about your ability to learn from fellow students or feel you will not be able to at least occasionally offer your own assessments in class, you may find that another course suits you better. To reach class members between class sessions, I will send out announcements via the course Sakai site. These will go out to whatever email the university has for you. **If you do not routinely check that email address, please provide me with one that you do check, so that you do not miss any important class information.** Students often find that the History writing tutors are a very useful resource when writing papers; please find more information at [http://history.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/history-writing-tutor](http://history.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/history-writing-tutor).
**Course Policies.** More than five absences from lecture sessions may result in a lowered final grade; grades may also be lowered for absence at from any formal discussion session outside of exceptional circumstances. Please plan to keep track of the number of absences you accumulate on your own. Unexcused late submission of assignments is grounds for lowering the grade on the assignment. If you need to request a late submission of any assignment, you should contact me as far in advance as possible to ask about it; I will consider such exceptions on a per-case basis. You should not plan to take the course if you have other commitments that will necessitate regular late arrival or early departure; these may be counted as absences. Please plan on remaining in the classroom for the duration of class each session. Faculty are encouraged to turn cases of plagiarism over to the relevant dean; first-time known offenses may result in suspension for a semester. If you have any question about what constitutes plagiarism, see http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/ and/or consult me.

**Required texts** for this course include the following:
Mary Fulbrook, *A History of Germany 1918-2014: The Divided Nation:* NY: Blackwell, 2014. $46.95 (NB: all prices here are *list* prices for new books; the bookstore should have used copies. Be sure to get the 2014 edition of *this* book; it may be much cheaper elsewhere)

These books are available for purchase at the B&N/Rutgers University Bookstore, 100 Somerset St., New Brunswick; you can of course buy or borrow them from where you wish to. Required readings other than those above are available online at our course website, accessible via https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/.

**Sept. 5 Introduction: Which Germany? The Past in the Present in Germany**

**Sept. 10 Paths to German Unification. The Second Empire. “Modernization”**
Readings: Web Blackbourn, pp. 235-64; Web Railway
Optional: Web Law on Nationality and Citizenship

**Sept. 12 Class Society: Shifting Structures and Upheaval**
Film selection: W. Ruttmann, *Berlin: Symphony of a Great City* (1927)
Readings: Web Blackbourn, pp. 265-303; Web Viersbeck, Elias

**Sept. 24 Mass Politics. A Process of Democratization?**
Readings Web Blackbourn, pp. 304-347; Web Bismarck

**Sept. 26 Modernism and Anti-Modernism: Culture at the Fin de Siècle**
Readings: Web Mann, *Man of Straw*, pp. 72-130

**Oct. 1 Imperialism; Prelude to War**
Oct. 3 Who Wants War and Why?
   Readings: Web Kramer, Davis

Oct. 8 DISCUSSION: The Second Empire
   Readings: M. Fulbrook, Divided Nation, pp. 1-36
   Optional: Theweleit

Oct. 10 War Weariness; Revolution – Failed?

Oct. 15 Film: G. W. Pabst, Joyless Streets (1925)
   Readings: The Weimar Republic, pp. 52-106; Web Kaes

   Readings: The Weimar Republic, pp. 107-163
   Optional: The Weimar Republic, pp. 164-177

Oct. 22"Years of Stability." Weimar Culture. Social Experimentation
   Readings: The Weimar Republic, pp. 178-192, 207-246
   Optional: The Weimar Republic, pp. 193-206

Oct. 24 TAKE-HOME MIDTERM AVAILABLE on Sakai course site
   Why did Weimar Collapse? Depression. Political Polarization
   Readings: Divided Nation, pp. 37-54; Weimar Republic, pp. 247-286

Oct.29 DISCUSSION: The Weimar Republic
   Readings: Divided Nation, pp. 55-78; Web NSDAP Rally Report, Web Lewy

Oct.31 “Seizure of power.” Who were the Nazis? Who voted for Hitler?
   Readings: Fritzsche, Life and Death, 1-38; Kaplan, Between Dignity and Despair, 5-31

Nov. 5 MIDTERM DUE on Sakai course site
   Paths to the Nazis State: Economy; Domestic Policy
   No Readings for Discussion

Nov. 7 Foreign Policy is War Policy; War and Reversal of Fortune
   Readings: Life and Death, pp. 76-142; Dignity, pp. 94-144

Nov. 12 QUIZ
   Film: L. Riefenstahl, Triumph of the Will (1935) (selection)
   Readings: Divided Nation, pp. 79-104; Life and Death, pp. 202-224
Nov. 14 **The Holocaust. How did it happen? How could it happen? Jews, Roma, and Others**
Readings: *Life and Death*, pp. 225-271; Web Klee

Nov. 19 **DISCUSSION: Nazi Germany**
Readings: *Dignity*, pp. 173-238

Nov. 21 **NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!**

Nov. 26 **End of War and Division. Stunde Null? “Denazification.” Reconstruction**
Readings: *Divided Nation*, pp. 107-36; Web Herbert, Boehling

Nov. 28 **Two Germanies: “People's Democracy” v. “Consumer Democracy”? The Wall**
Readings: *Divided Nation*, pp. 137-59; Web Expellees
Optional: Web Poiger

Dec. 3 **Recommended proposal due date for those writing an Option A final paper**
Final paper assignment Option B available on Sakai course site
Alternative politics and “Reform.” FRG as "Western"? GDR as "German"?
Readings: *Divided Nation*, pp. 160-178; Web Lindenberger

Dec. 5 **DISCUSSION: Postwar Germanies**
Readings: *Divided Nation*, pp. 214-234; Web Dutschke
Optional: *Divided Nation*, pp. 179-213

Dec. 10 **Film: Schlöndorff/von Trotta, The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum (1975)**
Readings: *Divided Nation*, pp. 235-256; Web *Forever in the Shadow of Hitler*
Optional: Web New Social Movements

Dec. 12 **From One “Turn” (“Wende”) to Another: Crisis in the GDR; Fall of the Wall**
Readings: *Divided Nation*, pp. 257-282; Schneider, *German Comedy*, vii-19

Readings: *German Comedy*, pp. 20-65; Web *Der Spiegel*

Dec. 19 **DISCUSSION: Unification; The Future of Germany; Germany and Europe**
Readings: *German Comedy*, pp. 92-108, 137-172; Web Helm
Optional: *The Guardian*

**FINAL PAPERS DUE on the Sakai course website by 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 21st**