

# Fall 2014

## HIGR 230: Research Seminar in European History

Instructor: Frank Biess

Place: HSS 5086

Time: Wed. 9-12

Office Hours: Wed 1-3 and by apt.

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### Course Description:

This seminar is the first part of a formal two-quarter seminar. The second part will be taught in the Spring of 2015. However, I encourage all of you to sign up for an independent study course 298 with your respective advisors in Winter quarter and use that quarter for work on your research project. Your research paper will then become a three-quarter, all-year project.

The most important assignment for this course is the completion of a major research paper by the end of your first year. This research paper might lead to a published article. But it could also serve as a preliminary study of your potential dissertation project. So you can think of this paper also as the first version of a potential dissertation chapter, which then will lead to a dissertation, and then to a published monograph. The key point here is that the essay will be useful for your trajectory in our Ph.D. program.

The seminar in the fall serves two purposes. First, it is supposed to help you in developing a feasible, original, and interesting research project. This can be a daunting task (and it poses essentially the same challenges as choosing a dissertation topic). So we will break down this job into several parts. How do you define an interesting and innovative research question? How can you determine that your topic is original, i.e. that there is room in the literature for you to write (one hint: one of my professors once said that "reading is the best protection against originality!")? How do you find primary and secondary sources? How do you write a research proposal? By the end of the quarter, you all should be able to submit and discuss a 8-10 page proposal of your research project. The seminar in the spring will then be devoted to peer-review and discussion of various drafts of your paper.

Secondly, the seminar also seeks to introduce you to an important theme in the history and historiography of Europe: the history of violence. The topic for your research project can but does not have to be drawn from this general theme. We will

analyze the assigned readings also with an eye to the questions above, i.e. how do they approach issues of originality, sources, conceptual framing, evidence, and argument? Our discussions of the historiography are also supposed to help you in honing your critical skills in discussions with your peers. For some of you, the readings might also be useful in constructing a reading list for your major field exam.

## **Course Requirements:**

All of you will receive a grade of IP for the first half of the seminar. You will receive a final grade for both parts of the seminar at the end of the spring quarter. For your final grade, the research paper will count for about half of your grade, the other half will be based on your classroom performance.

Attendance and active participation in our classroom discussions is essential. There will also be a series of smaller writing assignments, presentations, and peer-reviews throughout the quarter. For each week, I would like you to post short summaries of the readings (app 400 words) plus two questions for discussion to the Ted website. Please post your summaries no later than Tuesday, 4 pm. This will help me prepare for our classroom discussions.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** It is your responsibility to know and observe all university rules concerning academic integrity and plagiarism. Any student found to have committed a substantial violation of the university rules concerning academic integrity will fail the entire course. I view it as one of my chief responsibilities to help each of you produce first-rate professional work. If you have any questions whatsoever about what constitutes plagiarism, how to properly credit the work and ideas of others, how to evaluate sources for quality and reliability, and so forth, please feel free to talk to me.

## Course Readings:

The course assumes a basic familiarity with Modern European History. If you need some more background in this area, I suggest the following works.

Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent. Europe's Twentieth Century*  
Jonathan Sperber, *Europe 1850-1914*

I did not order any books for this course. I suggest that you order some of the monographs we will discuss through amazon.com. Other readings will be made available through the Ted website, on e-reserve, or distributed one week in advance in class. It is essential that you complete all the reading assignments before class.

## Course Schedule

### **October 8 : Theoretical Perspectives: What is violence? Why does it occur? How can we think about it historically?**

Max Weber, "The Types of Legitimate Domination" in *Economy and Society* (1922), 212-54

Sigmund Freud, "Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego " (1922) and "Why War? Letter to Albert Einstein" (1932)

Georg Simmel, "The Sociological Nature of Conflict" in idem. *Conflict* (1908), 13-55.

George Sorel, "The Decadence of the Bourgeoisie and Violence" and "The Proletarian Strike" in *Reflections on Violence*, 65-86, 109-142

Hannah Arendt, *On Violence* (1969) [available on Amazon Kindle]

### **October 15: Violence in the Early Modern World**

Lyndal Roper, *Witchcraze: Terror and Fantasy in Baroque Germany* (New Haven, 2004)

*Defining a Research Question*

### **October 22: The First Total War? War and Violence in the Napoleonic Age**

David Bell, *The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It* (Boston, 2008), 1-51, 120-85, 223-317.

H-France Discussion Forum (<http://www.h-france.net/forum/h-franceforumvol2.html>)

Carl Schmitt, *Theory of the Partisan. Intermediate Commentary on the Concept of the Political*, 1-67.

*Research Question Due/Assessing the State of the Field*

## **October 29: Colonial Violence**

Daniel Bloxham et al, "Europe in the World: Systems and Cultures of Violence" in idem. et al., eds., *Political Violence in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Europe*, 11-39

Isabel Hull, *Absolute Destruction. Military Cultures and Practices of War in Imperial Germany*, 1-92, 324-33.

Dirk Moses, "Conceptual Blockages and 'Definitional Dilemmas' in the Racial Century: Genocides of Indigenous People and the Holocaust," in *Patterns of Prejudice* 36/4 (2002): 8-36

Toyin Falola, "Violence and Colonial Consolidation," in *Colonialism and Violence in Nigeria* (Bloomington, 2009), 55-78.

*Preliminary Literature Review Due*

*Finding More Primary and Secondary Sources: Meeting with Sam Dunlap*

## **November 5: Combat**

John Keegan, „The Somme“ in idem. *The Field of Battle* (New York, 1976), 207-89.

Michael Geyer, "How the Germans Learned to Wage War. On the Question of Killing in the First and Second World War," in Paul Betts et al, eds., *Between Mass Death and Individual Loss: The Place of the Dead in Twentieth-Century Germany*. New York; 2008, 25-50.

Joana Bourke, "The Pleasures of War" and "Love and Hate" in idem., *An Intimate History of Killing. Face to Face Killing in Twentieth Century Warfare*, 1-32, 127-58

Omer Bartov, „The European Imagination in the Age of Total War,“ in *Murder in our Midst. The Holocaust, Industrial Killing, and Representation* (New York, 1996), 33-52.

*Discussion of Primary Sources/Refining the Research Question*

## **November 12: Ethnic Cleansing and Genocide**

Mark Mazower, "Violence and the State in the Twentieth Century," *AHR* (December 2002): 1147-67.

Michael Mann, "The Argument" in idem., *The Dark Side of Democracy. Explaining Ethnic Cleansing* (New York, 2005), 1-33.

Norman Naimark, *Fires of Hatred. Ethnic Cleansing in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Europe* (Cambridge, 2002), 57-107

Roger Peterson, "An Emotion Based Approach to Ethnic Conflict", "Resentment", "Fear, Hatred, Rage," "Yugoslavia" in idem., *Understanding Ethnic Violence: Fear, Hatred, and Resentment in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe*, (New York, 2002), 17-83, 208-53.

*Annotated Bibliography of Primary and Secondary Sources Due*

## *Defining a Conceptual Framework*

### **November 19: Civil Wars: Italy in World War II**

Michael Geyer, "Civitella della Chiana on 29 June 1944: The Reconstruction of a German 'Measure,'" in Hannes Heer and Klaus Naumann, eds., *War of Extermination. The German Military in World War II* (New York: Berghahn, 2000)

Claudia Pavone, "Violence" in *A Civil War. A History of the Italian Resistance* (New York, Verso 2013), 495-613

Stathis N. Kalyvas, "The Ontology of Political Violence. Action and Identity in Civil Wars," *Perspectives on Politics* 1/3 (2003): 475-494.

John Foot, "Nazi Massacres and Divided Memory. Stories, Causes, Scapegoats, and Memoryscapes" in idem. *Italy's Divided Memory*, 125-46.

## *Writing a Proposal*

### *Theoretical Paragraph on Conceptual Framework Due*

### **November 26: Sexual Violence**

Norman Naimark, "Soviet Soldiers, German Women, and the Problem of Rape" in idem., *The Russians in Germany* (Cambridge, 1999), 69-140.

Anonyma, *A Women in Berlin, Eight Weeks in the Conquered City*, 1-61.

Na'ama Shik, "Sexual Abuse of Jewish Women in Auschwitz Birkenau" and Teresa Iacobelli, "'The Sum of Such Actions: Investigating Mass Rape in Bosnia-Herzegovina through a Case Study of Foca,'" in Dagmar Herzog, ed., *Brutality and Desire. War and Sexuality in Europe's Twentieth Century* (New York, 2009), 221-46, 261-83

Jamie Leatherman, "Dimensions of Sexual Violence" and "Sexual Violence and the Onset of Armed Conflict" in *Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict* (Cambridge, 2011), 32-88.

## *Discussion of Proposals*

Taylor

Matthew

Yolanda

### **December 3: Violence and Decolonization**

Frantz Fanon, "Preface by JP Sartre" and "Concerning Violence" in *The Wretched of the Earth*, xliii-62.

Paul Aussaresses, *The Battle of the Cabash. Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Algeria, 1955-57*, 1-54.

Raphaelle Branche and Jim House, "Silences on state violence during the Algerian War of Independence: France and Algeria, 1962-2007," in Efrat Ben-Ze'ev et al., eds., *The Shadows of War. A Social History of Silence in the Twentieth Century*, 115-37

Fabian Klose, "The Unleashing of Colonial Violence" in *Human Rights in the Shadow of Colonial Violence. The Wars of Independence in Kenya and Algeria* (Philadelphia, 2012, 138-91).

*Discussion of Proposals*

Maria

Sky

Ivana

## **December 10: Terrorism**

Karen Henshaw, "The German Autumn, 1977" in idem., *Terror and Democracy in West Germany* (New York, 2012), 192-235.

Bernd Weisbrod, "Terrorism as Performance. The Assassinations of Walter Rathenau and Hans Martin Schleyer," in Heinz Gerhard Haupt et al, eds, *Historical and International Perspectives on Violence in Modern Societies* (New York, 2011) (for download: <http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-1-4419-0383-9>).

Ulrike Maria Meinhof, "Counter-Violence" (1968), in *Everybody Talks about the Weather... We don't..... The Writings of Ulrike Meinhof*, 234-38 in 234-38

Red Army Faction, "The Urban Guerilla Concept;" "'The Black September Action' in Munich: Regarding the Strategy for Anti-Imperialist Struggle;" "The Schleyer Communiques," in *The Red Army Faction. A Documentary History, Vol.1.*, 83-104, 205-36, 498-508.

Gershon Shafir and Cynthia A. Schairer, "The War on Terror as Political Moral Panic," in idem et al, eds., *Lessons and Legacies of the War on Terror* (London, 2012).

*Discussion of Proposals*

Jill

Amanda