

**History 2147A
Nazi Germany
Summer 2026**

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Office: **Department of History, Lawson Hall**

Office Hours: **by appointment**

This is a **draft** outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

Course Description

History 2147A explores the origins of the National Socialist (Nazi) movement; the goals and methods of the regime (in terms of domestic and foreign policy); the formulation of ideological platforms; the exercise of power in the regime; Nazi crimes at home and abroad (including schemes of mass murder); the nature of resistance to Nazism; and the reasons for the regime's ultimate collapse in 1945.

Antirequisite: History 1404E

Course Syllabus

History 2147A is a lecture course (online, asynchronous format) that surveys the history of National Socialist (Nazi) Germany. The course takes partly thematic and partly chronological approaches to the subject material. Some lectures trace specific themes throughout the Nazi period (economics, religion, or gender, for examples). Others situate a broad selection of developments within a chronological framework (for example, the lectures that focus on Germany at war between 1939 and 1945).

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- explain the origins of National Socialism and the Nazi state
- assess the impact of Nazi policies in Germany and in German-occupied territories
- describe how governmental, military, paramilitary, professional, and other organizations functioned and exercised power inside the Nazi state
- identify and assess salient controversies and debates in the scholarship on Nazi Germany
- explain impact of the Nazi legacy on German (and international) public memory

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This course operates in a distance learning (online, asynchronous) format. There are no scheduled in-person classes or in-person tests/exams. It is taught on the OWL Brightspace platform, which contains all course materials (except for the required textbook), including: weekly recorded (voice-over) PowerPoint lecture slides; the syllabus and test guidelines; announcements; mid-terms and final examination; and the gradebook.

The course is delivered in a six-week format, but it comprises the same volume of material that would normally be included in a typical fall or winter-term half course. The instructor will post four (4) separate lectures (approximately 45 to 60 minutes per lecture) each Monday throughout the course.

It is imperative to keep up with the weekly lectures and course reading material. Doing so will reduce the workload when preparing for the tests/exams. Effective time management is crucial.

In the **Course Schedule** (see below), the instructor has indicated which textbook chapters are best suited to each lecture topic. Keep in mind however, that some chapters are applicable to more than one lecture topic; students will benefit from revisiting chapter content as the course progresses. The chapters are quite brief and relatively easily accessible.

Methods of Evaluation

Tests and examinations in this course will be delivered online through the OWL platform, in take-home format. The tests/exams will typically be available to students for periods of approximately six to twelve hours, but once opened, they must be completed within a specified time frame (approximately 60 to 120 minutes, depending upon the number of questions involved). The tests/exams may include true/false, multiple choice, multiple selection, and/or brief written-response questions.

Exams:

Mid-term Test #1: 20% (15 May)

Mid-term Test #2: 35% (29 May)

Final Examination: 45% (date TBD)

Mid-term test #1 covers material from Weeks 1 and 2.

Mid-term test #2 covers material from Weeks 3 and 4.

The final examination is cumulative; it covers material from the entire course.

Undocumented absences are not permitted for Mid-term Test #1.

Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Advising. Please see https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

Students must complete both mid-term tests and the final examination in order to pass the course.

Course Materials

The **required** course text is:

Richard J. Evans, *The Third Reich in History and Memory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. (\$33.65 print; \$15.00 eBook, 180-day rental)

Course Schedule and Readings

4 May, Week 1

Part A: Introduction to Modern Germany (**Evans, Preface, Ch 2**)

Part B: *Der Weltkrieg*: Germany's First World War (**Evans, Ch 3, 13**)

Part C: German Life in the 1920s (**Evans, Ch 4, 5**)

Part D: Origins of the National Socialist Movement

11 May, Week 2

Part A: Adolf Hitler in History and Memory (**Evans, Ch 9**)

Part B: Media, Arts, Culture, and Aesthetics (**Evans, Ch 27, 28**)

Part C: *Rassenpolitik*: Nazi Racial Ideology (**Evans, Ch 1, 6**)

Part D: Work and Play (**Evans, Ch 12**)

15 May – Mid-term Test #1

18 May, Week 3

Part A: Youth and Education

Part B: Gender Ideology (**Evans, Ch 10**)

Part C: Church and State

Part D: Foreign Policy and Economy (**Evans, Ch 11, 15, 16**)

25 May, Week 4

Part A: National Socialism and the Jews

Part B: Fighting the Second World War, 1939-40 (**Evans, Ch 18**)

Part C: Building a New World Order (**Evans, Ch 23**)

Part D: Fighting the Second World War, 1941-42 (**Evans, Ch 21**)

29 May – Mid-term Test #2

1 June, Week 5

Part A: Living under German Occupation (**Evans, Ch 20**)

Part B: Fighting the Second World War, 1943-45 (**Evans, Ch 19**)

Part C: Evolution of Mass Murder (**Evans, Ch 24, 25**)

Part D: Perpetrators

8 June, Week 6

Part A: Victims

Part B: Life and Death on the Homefront (**Evans, Chs 7, 8**)

Part C: *Götterdämmerung*: Twilight of the Gods (**Evans, Ch 22, 26**)

Part D: Facing the Past (**Evans, Ch 14, 17**)

Additional Statements

Communication policies: Students may reach the instructor at any time via e-mail (aiarocc@uwo.ca), and where helpful, we may also communicate over Zoom at mutually convenient times.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.