

## HISTORY 393N: GERMANY SINCE 1945

BARTLETT HALL RM 125 – TR 11:15 – 12:30 PM

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

**Dr. Jon Berndt Olsen**

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 2-3, Thursdays 10-11 or by appointment

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### OVERVIEW:

This course is a comparative study of East and West German history. We will examine Germany from both an international and domestic perspective – as part of the Cold War and as unique individual societies. Topics covered will include post-war reconstruction; the creation of two separate states; economic developments in each state; cultural life in East and West Germany; attempts to come to terms with the past; youth rebellion; reconciliation; and unification. We will look at a variety of primary and secondary sources, including several novels and films, and each student will write a research paper.

### GOALS:

From this class you should gain a better understanding of the development of the Germany between 1945 and the present and therefore a better understanding of the historical path that has culminated in contemporary Germany. Equally important, however, this course aims to develop your ability to *think critically* – to read and think about complex historical issues beyond the simple facts of the case. Certainly the facts are important, and the quizzes and exams will make sure that you are learning them. But beyond that, you will learn to think like an historian, trying to understand not only the ‘what’ of history, but also the ‘why’. You will then need to be able to express your views and interpretations in a clear, logical, and readable manner.

### EXPECTATIONS:

To succeed in this class you will need to keep up with the reading, participate actively in class discussions, and be prepared for quizzes and exams on the specified dates. If at any time you are having difficulties with the material or the assignments, or just need to talk, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

**Attendance:** I expect you to be here. You will do yourself a great disservice by not attending class – you will miss material and interpretations from that day’s presentation as well as the opportunity to ask questions and otherwise interact with your classmates – an important part of the learning process. There are occasionally good reasons to miss class (medical mishaps, religious holidays, family emergencies, athletic & musical contests); you do not need to keep me informed of the details. However, if you miss more than two weeks worth of classes (4), your final grade will drop one full letter. If you miss more than three weeks of classes (6), I strongly suggest you drop the course, because otherwise you will **fail automatically**. This is only reasonable: why should you earn college credit if you miss a substantial portion of the semester?

**Conduct in class:** You may drink any non-alcoholic beverage that suits your fancy. Please refrain from eating and from chewing tobacco. Also, **turn off cell phones** and other electronic messaging devices before class.

**Laptops** may be used for the sole purpose of taking notes in class. Any other use (such as instant messaging, emailing, surfing the web or like activities) will cause you to lose this privilege.

**Special needs:** The University of Massachusetts is firmly dedicated to making a college education available to all students with the appropriate academic preparation, regardless of physical or other conditions. If you are entitled to special arrangements in order to fulfill the course requirements, please bring verification from the Office of Disabilities within the first two weeks of class.

## GRADING AND REQUIRED WORK:

Midterm Exam	25%
Paper Prospectus	10% You will receive a separate handout covering the prospectus.
Final Paper	35% You will receive a separate handout covering the paper topics and format.
Quizzes	15%
Class Participation	15%

### Things to keep in mind:

- Please retain a second copy of papers until your graded paper is returned.
- Please hold all graded assignments until you receive your final grade.
- Please respect a 24-hour moratorium on discussing any individual grade.
- All late papers will be marked down 5 points for each day late (i.e. after one day, an 85 (B) becomes an 80 (B-), etc.).
- Letter grade equivalencies: A=92.5-100; A-=89.5-92.4; B+=87.5-89.4; B=82.5-88.4; B-=79.5-82.4; C+=77.5-79.4; C=72.5-78.4; C-=69.5-72.4; D+=67.5-69.4; D=62.5-68.4; D-=59.5-62.4; F=below 59.5.

**Please Note:** All course requirements must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the class. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are grounds for failing this course.

**Also Note:** Exams will only be rescheduled for a documented illness or other emergency.

## Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:

As a condition of continued enrollment in this course, you agree to submit all assignments to the Turnitin services for textual comparison or originality review for the detection of possible plagiarism. All submitted assignments will be included in the UMass Amherst dedicated databases of assignments at Turnitin . These databases of assignments will be used solely for the purpose of detecting possible plagiarism during the grading process and during this term and in the future.

What is Plagiarism? According to the UMASS Academic Regulations (2008-2009) Plagiarism is defined as “knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own work in any academic exercise. This includes submitting without citation, in whole or in part, prewritten term papers of another or the research of another, including but not limited to commercial vendors who sell or distribute such materials.” For more info please see page 7 of the regulations at <http://www.umass.edu/registrar/media/academicregs.pdf>.

**Honesty:** You may not engage in any form of academic dishonesty. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating on exams, helping another person cheat, or plagiarizing on written assignments. This also includes fabricating excuses for absences from class and signing in for another student. If you are caught cheating at any point during the semester, you will fail the entire course and I report you to the Academic Honesty Board.

## Writing Center:

The university offers a special resource for students who want some additional assistance with writing and research. The Writing Center is located in the northwest corner of the W.E.B. DuBois Library's Learning Commons. For more information, please visit the WC Website: <http://www.umass.edu/writingcenter>. The web site also offers information about the Center, such as current hours of operation and what to bring with you for your first consultation.

## READINGS:

The readings for this course have been chosen to compliment the lectures – they are no substitute. For the most part they are intended to illuminate one or more perspectives on a particular issue. We will discuss the books in class on the days specified in the class schedule. On those days you are to come prepared to discuss the material you have read. The textbook (Winkler) will work in conjunction with the lectures, but here too, the roles are complimentary – there will be material presented in the lectures not found in the text. You are responsible for material presented both in class and in the assigned textbook readings.

### Books: Please purchase the following books (available at the University Bookstore Textbook Annex)

- Boell, Heinrich, *Billiards at Half-Past Nine*, Marion Boyars Publishers Ltd (1965), ISBN-13: 978-0714501246
- Garton Ash, Timothy, *The File: A Personal History* (Paperback), Vintage; 1st Vintage Books Ed edition (1998), ISBN-13: 978-0679777854
- Plenzdorf, Ulrich, *The New Sufferings of Young W* (Paperback), Waveland Press (1996), ISBN-13: 978-0881338911
- Winkler, Heinrich August, *Germany: The Long Road West: Volume 2: 1933-1990* (Hardcover), Oxford University Press, USA (2007) ISBN-13: 978-0199265985

### Articles and Chapters: You will find electronic versions of these texts on SPARK

- Clay, Lucius D. "Berlin," in *Foreign Affairs* 41:1 (1962), pp. 47-58.
- Heilbrunn, Jacob, "Germany's New Right," in *Foreign Affairs* 75:6 (1996), pp. 80-98.
- Merkl, Peter H., "The German Janus: From *Westpolitik* to *Ostpolitik*," in *Political Science Quarterly* 89:4 (1974-1975), pp. 803-824.
- Olsen, Jon Berndt, "Recasting Luther's Image: the 1983 Commemoration of Martin Luther in the GDR," Andrew Plowman (ed.), *Divided But Not Disconnected: The German Cold War Experience* (New York: Berghahn Books, forthcoming 2009).
- Osmond, Jonathan, "The End of the GDR. Revolution and Voluntary Annexation", in Mary Fulbrook, ed., *20<sup>th</sup> Century Germany. Politics, Culture and Society, 1918-1990* (London, Arnold Publ., 2001), 270-289.
- Pence, Katherine, "Women on the Verge: Consumers between Private Desires and Public Crisis," in Katherine Pence and Paul Betts (eds.), *Socialist Modern: East German Everyday Culture and Politics* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2008), pp. 287-322.
- Ramet, Pedro, "Disaffection and Dissent in East Germany" in *World Politics* 37:1 (1984), pp. 85-111.
- Ross, Corey, "Before the Wall: East Germans, Communist Authority, and the Mass Exodus to the West," in *Historical Journal* 45:2 (2002), 459-480.
- Stern, Frank, "Occupiers, Germans and Jews in Postwar Germany," in Robert G. Moeller, *West Germany under Construction: Politics, Society and Culture in the Adenauer Era* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1997), pp. 199-229.
- Ulrich Herbert and Karen Hunn, "Guest Workers and Policy on Guest Workers in the Federal Republic," in Hanna Schissler (ed.), *Miracle Years: A Cultural History of West Germany, 1949-1968*, ch. 8, 187-218.

## FILMS:

Two films will be shown over the course of the semester. These films, like the readings, will highlight particular issues being dealt with in that unit of the class. While the films are entertaining in their own right, we will want to view them also with an eye to what they can tell us about the history of a particular time and place. We will view the films on the days specified in the class schedule. You will also be responsible for this film on your quizzes and exams, so if, for whatever reason you cannot attend one of the screenings, please make sure to make-up what you have missed outside of class.

- *The Lives of Others*
- *Good Bye, Lenin!*

## LECTURE SCHEDULE:

This is the intended series of lectures for this course, though I reserve the right to make adjustments, if necessary, as the semester progresses. Following each lecture topic you will find the pertinent pages in the textbook. I recommend you do the reading in advance of coming to class for that day as it will help you to better follow the lecture.

Date	Subject	Readings
Tuesday, Jan 27	Zero Hour?	
Thursday, Jan 29	Denazification	Stern: Occupiers, Germans and Jews in Postwar Germany Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 108-122
Tuesday, Feb 3	Sovietization in the East	Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 128-131
Thursday, Feb 5	Marshall Plan and the Berlin Blockade	Clay: <i>Berlin</i>
Tuesday, Feb 10	From SBZ to GDR	Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 141-146
Thursday, Feb 12	The Adenauer Years	Adenauer: <i>Germany and Problems of our Time</i> Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 122-128; 131-141; 154-171
Tuesday, Feb 17	Discussion: Billiards at Half-Past Nine	Böll: <i>Billiards</i> (all)
Thursday, Feb 19	The West German Economic Miracle	Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 146-154 <b>QUIZ #1</b>
Tuesday, Feb 24	The June 17 Uprising	
Thursday Feb 26	Consumer Culture in East and West	Pence: <i>Women on the Verge</i>
Tuesday, Mar 3	Building the Berlin Wall	Ross: <i>Before the Wall</i> Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 171-189
Thursday, Mar 5	Cultural Politics in East and West	Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 190-210
Tuesday, Mar 10	Mid-Term Exam	
Thursday, Mar 12	No Class	
March 17 & 19	No Class – Spring Break	
Tuesday, Mar 24	1968 in East and West	Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 210-256
Thursday, Mar 26	Willy Brandt's New Ostpolitik	Merkel: <i>The German Janus</i> Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 256-265, 271-296 <b>PAPER PROSPECTUS DUE</b>
Tuesday, Mar 31	The GDR under Honecker	Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 265-271, 296-298, 310-312
Thursday, Apr 2	Discussion: New Sorrows of Young W	Plenzdorf: <i>New Sorrows</i> (all)
Tuesday, Apr 7	Terrorism in the BRD	Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 298-310, 312-318
Thursday, Apr 9	"Normalcy" in East-West German relations	Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 331-337 <b>QUIZ #2</b>
TBA	FILM: <i>The Lives of Others</i>	Time and place to be announced
Tuesday, Apr 14	Guest Workers, Greens, and Citizen Action Groups	Herbert & Hunn: <i>Guest Workers</i> Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 318-330, 337-354
Thursday, Apr 16	The Return of the "Nation"	Olsen: <i>Recasting Luther's Image</i> Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 385-418
Tuesday, Apr 21	No Class: Patriot's Day (Monday Classes Meet on Tuesday)	
Thursday, Apr 23	Resistance in the GDR	Ramet: <i>Disaffection and Dissent in East Germany</i> Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 419-434
Tuesday, Apr 28	The Schmidt and Kohl Years	Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 354-385
Thursday, Apr 30	Revolution in the East	Osmond: <i>The End of the GDR</i> Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 435-467
TBA	FILM: <i>Goodbye, Lenin!</i>	Time and place to be announced
Tuesday, May 5	German Unification	Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 468-543
Thursday, May 7	Discussion: <i>The File</i>	Garton Ash: <i>The File</i> (all) <b>QUIZ #3</b>
Tuesday, May 12	Post-Unification Challenges	Heilbrunn: <i>Germany's New Right</i> Winkler: <i>Germany</i> , 543-588 <b>TERM PAPER DUE</b>