

# EUH 4463 – Nineteenth Century Germany

Fall 2025

Matherly Hall 13

Tuesdays, 8:30 - 10:25 AM; Thursdays, 9:35 – 10:25 AM

Instructor: Professor Christopher Goodwin

Keene-Flint 221

[cgoodwin1@ufl.edu](mailto:cgoodwin1@ufl.edu)

(352) 392-0271 (office phone, no texts)

Office Hours: In-person: Tuesdays, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Zoom: By appointment

Grading: Letter, 3 credit hours

## I. Course Description

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Germany was a collection of over 300 kingdoms, duchies, ecclesiastical enclaves, and other small polities. One hundred years later the united German empire had clawed its way to a preeminent position in Europe. Militarily more powerful than France, economically more dynamic than Britain, Imperial Germany sought—through cultural achievements, industrial innovation, or, if need be, with guns, battleships, and bombs—its place on the world stage. How did this transformation come to pass? How did Germany, once thought of as a rural nation of provincials, come to inspire in Europe worries over “the German question”?



Throughout This course examines these key moments of rapid transformation. We will explore how Germans examined and redefined themselves, how the very idea of “the German” was created, and how radical upheavals consolidated a myriad of states into a powerful empire. Throughout the course we will witness the clash between tradition and modernity, from bursts of democratic activism met by the reactions of the old order, to an agricultural economy confronting industrialization as the city rivaled the town. We will see the contestation of what it meant to be German: how did the Saxon or the Bavarian, with different dialects and different outlooks on life, sometimes different religious confessions, fit into the new Prussian-led Germany? How did one go about “making a German”? From Frederick the Great’s positioning of Prussia as a European power to be reckoned with, to Otto von Bismarck’s policy of blood and iron, and on to Kaiser Wilhelm’s bloody and ruinous gamble for world power, this course explores Germany and “the German” from the perspectives of Germans themselves, their European neighbors, and their colonial subjects.

## II. Course Goals

- Provide you a broad overview of German history in the nineteenth century and its impact on the European and global scales
- Develop your analytical skills through primary and secondary source analysis
- Grow your ability to lay out and support an argument through writing
- Acquire digital history skills that improve your research skills

## III. Course Requirements

### *Course Readings*

- Blackbourn, David. *History of Germany, 1780-1918: The Long Nineteenth Century*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Blackwell. 2002. ISBN: 9780631231967.
- Ritter, Gerhard. *Frederick the Great: A Historical Profile*. University of California Press. 1975. ISBN: 9780520027756.
- Wetzel, David. *A Duel of Giants: Bismarck, Napoleon III, and the Origins of the Franco-Prussian War*. University of Wisconsin Press. 2001. ISBN: 9780299174903.
- Roth, Joseph. *The Radetzky March*. Overlook Press. 2002. ISBN: 9781585673261.

### *Technology*

A laptop, desktop computer, or a tablet that can do word processing of nearly any age, make, or model is necessary for this course.



### *Attendance*

Attendance is a crucial component of this course for our productive classroom discussions. Each unexcused absence will lower your grade as a proportion of the attendance grade. A fourth unexcused absence will result in the loss of the entire attendance portion of your grade. A sixth unexcused absence results in failure of the course.

According to the Office of the University Registrar, “acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused.”

### *Late Work Policy*

Except for approved late submissions, 5% will be deducted from the assignment’s final score for each 24-hour period beyond the due date and time. After 72 hours, the submission will not be accepted. Exemptions are permitted for serious illnesses, family emergencies, and university-

approved functions, but students must notify me before the deadline. For unforeseen emergencies, contact me as soon as possible.

#### *Accommodations*

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center.](#) It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

## IV. Assignments and Grading

**The current cumulative grade you see on the course website is not reflective of your actual grade. To calculate your cumulative (and final) grade, calculate it using the weights below.**

#### *Assignments and Weighting*

Attendance and Participation	10%
Quizzes (4 @ 5% each)	20%
Short Papers (2 @ 15% each)	30%
Revolution of 1848 Podcast Script	15%
Final Project	25%

#### *Grading Scale*

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 and below	F

## V. Course Schedule

Week One (8/21) – The German Question
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Introduction</li> <li>• Syllabus</li> </ul>
Week Two (8/25 – 8/29) – The Holy Roman Empire and the Habsburg Monarchy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackbourn, History of Germany, Prologue</li> <li>• Begin Ritter, Frederick the Great, chapters 1-4</li> </ul>
Week Three (9/1 – 9/5) – Prussia, Frederick the Great, and Enlightened Absolutism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finish Ritter, Frederick the Great, chapters 5-7, 8, 10</li> <li>• Immanuel Kant, What is Enlightenment?</li> <li>• Fromme, An Inspection Tour with Frederick II</li> <li>• Barsewisch, The Battle of Hochkirch of 1758</li> </ul>

Week Four (9/8 – 9/12) – Romanticism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kleist, The Beggarwoman of Locarno</li> <li>• Hoffmann, The Sandman</li> <li>• Arndt, The German Fatherland</li> <li>• Fichte, To the German Nation</li> </ul>
Week Five (9/15 – 9/19) – Napoleon and the Age of Metternich
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackbourn, History of Germany, Chapter 1</li> <li>• Blackbourn, History of Germany, Chapter 2</li> <li>• Hardenberg, Riga Memorandum</li> <li>• Metternich, Political Confession of Faith</li> <li>• Metternich, Of the Necessity of a Censorship of the Press</li> <li>• Metternich, Secret Memorandum to Czar Alexander I</li> </ul>
Week Six (9/22 – 9/26) – The Revolutions of 1848
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No Class – Thursday, September 25</b></li> <li>• Blackbourn, History of Germany, Chapter 3</li> <li>• Selected Documents on the Revolutions of 1848</li> <li>• Begin Wetzel, Duel of Giants</li> </ul>
Week Seven (9/29 – 10/3) – Blood and Iron: Bismarck and the Unification of Germany
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Due: 1848 Podcast Script, October 2, 2025 at 11:55 PM</b></li> <li>• Blackbourn, History of Germany, Chapter 4</li> <li>• Blackbourn, History of Germany, Chapter 5</li> <li>• Finish Wetzel, Duel of Giants</li> <li>• Ems Dispatch</li> </ul>
Week Eight (10/6 – 10/10) – The Structure of the German Empire and the Kulturkampf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackbourn, History of Germany, Chapter 6</li> </ul>
Week Nine (10/13 – 10/17) – Class War and Attempts at Internal Cohesion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackbourn, History of Germany, Chapter 7</li> <li>• Autobiography of Moritz Bromme</li> <li>• Autobiography of A Barmaid</li> </ul>
Week Ten (10/20 – 10/24) – Antisemitism and Science and Race
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smith, Konitz 1900: Ritual Murder and Antisemitic Violence</li> <li>• Mendelssohn, Why I have Raised You as a Christian</li> <li>• Marr, The Victory of Judaism over Germandom</li> <li>• Stoecker, What We Demand of Modern Jewry</li> <li>• Fritsch, The Racists' Decalogue</li> <li>• Begin Roth, The Radetzky March</li> </ul>
Week Eleven (10/27 – 10/31) – Colonialism and Multiracial Empire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hull, Absolute Destruction, Chapters 1 and 2</li> <li>• Deak, Excerpts from Beyond Nationalism</li> <li>• Continue Roth, The Radetzky March</li> </ul>
Week Twelve (11/3 – 11/7) – Austrian Splendor and Wilhelmine Germany's "Special Path"

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackbourn, History of Germany, Chapter 8</li> <li>• Finish Roth, The Radetzky March</li> </ul>
Week Thirteen (11/10 – 11/14) – Countdown to World War
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No Class – Tuesday, November 11 – Veterans Day</b></li> <li>• Blackbourn, History of Germany, Chapter 9</li> </ul>
Week Fourteen (11/17 – 11/21) – Germany, the German Way of War, and WWI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackbourn, History of Germany, Epilogue</li> <li>• Treitschke, The Greatness of War</li> </ul>
Week Fifteen (12/1 – 12/5) – The German Question, Revisited
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Due – Final Project – December 2, 2025 at 11:55 PM</b></li> <li>• Course Conclusion</li> </ul>

## VI. Other Information

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students—especially concerning disability services, course evaluations, the University Code of Conduct, and In-Class Recording policies—please see [this link](#).

