

EUH 3035 – Nazi Germany

Spring 2026
Keene-Flint Room 105
MWF, 10:40 - 11:30 AM

Instructor: Professor Christopher Goodwin
Keene-Flint 221
cgoodwin1@ufl.edu
(352) 392-0271 (office phone, no texts)

Office Hours: In-person: Fridays, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Zoom: By appointment

Grading: Letter, 3 credit hours

I. Course Description

Nazi Germany has become synonymous with evil after the Third Reich's final defeat in 1945. During twelve years, the Nazi regime perpetrated horrific crimes against humanity, crimes that culminated in the most well-known genocide in history, the Holocaust. At the same time, Nazi Germany offered numerous inclusionary policies in its bid to create a self-sufficient National Community. This course will examine the history of the Third Reich in ways that encourage us to think about the ways in which Germany's history in the first half of the twentieth-century still resonate in crucial ways in the world today.



The course will focus on the crucial elements of Nazism as a historical phenomenon: Nazi ideology, exclusionary policies, the attempted construction of the inclusionary National Community (Volksgemeinschaft), and the idea of the Third Reich as a “racial state.”

II. Course Goals

- **Explain Nazism as a historical system rather than a moral abstraction** – Students will be able to analyze Nazism as a coherent (if internally contradictory) political, social, and ideological project, understanding how racial ideology, state power, and everyday governance functioned in the Third Reich.

- **Analyze the relationship between exclusion, violence, and inclusion in Nazi Germany** – Students will be able to evaluate how genocidal policies and mass violence coexisted with and were enabled by inclusionary measures aimed at constructing the Volksgemeinschaft, rather than treating terror and consent as separate phenomena.
- **Assess the Third Reich as a “racial state” in theory, law, and practice** – Students will be able to examine how race structured law, citizenship, welfare, labor, family policy, and warfare, and to distinguish between ideological claims and lived realities within Nazi Germany.
- **Connect the history of Nazi Germany to enduring questions in the modern world** – Students will be able to apply historical insights from the Third Reich to contemporary issues such as nationalism, state violence, racialization, propaganda, and collective memory, while recognizing the specific historical conditions that made Nazism possible.

III. Course Requirements

Course Readings

- Textbook: Thomas Childers, *The Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany*. 2018. ISBN: 978-1451651140.
- Additional reading: Ernst Jünger, *Storm of Steel*. Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition. ISBN: 978-0142437902. (Any edition will work, however).

Technology

A laptop, desktop computer, or a tablet will be required for the distribution of course materials.



Attendance

Attendance is a crucial component of this course for our productive classroom discussions and for your success in 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.”

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

Assignments and Weighting

Midterm #1	30%
Midterm #2	30%
Final Exam	40%

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 (1/12) – Course Introduction and the First World War
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Introduction • Syllabus • Read: Childers, Chapter 1
Week Two (1/19) – Origins of National Socialism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Class – January 19 - Holiday • Read: Childers, Chapter 2 • Jünger, Storm of Steel (Orainville, Trench Warfare Day by Day, The Overture to the Somme Offensive, Guillemont, At St. Pierre Vaast, The Battle of Cambrai, My Last Storm)
Week Three (1/26) – Weimar Culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Childers, Chapters 3, 4
Week Four (2/2) – Weimar Politics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm Exam # 1 – Friday, February 6 • Read: Childers, Chapters 5, 6
Week Five (2/9) – Seizing Power and Gleichschaltung
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Class – February 9 • Read: Childers, Chapters 7, 8

Week Six (2/16) – Culture and Propaganda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Childers, Chapter 9
Week Seven (2/23) – Making the Volksgemeinschaft
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Childers, Chapter 10
Week Eight (3/2) – Racial Ideology and Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Childers, Chapters 11, 12
Week Nine (3/9) – Foreign Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midterm Exam # 2 – Friday, March 13 Read: Childers, Chapter 13
Week Ten (3/23) – The Second World War Erupts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Childers, Chapter 14
Week Eleven (3/30) – The Nazi Empire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Childers, Chapter 15
Week Twelve (4/6) – War Crimes and the Holocaust
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Childers, Chapter 16
Week Thirteen (4/13) – Total War and Defeat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Childers, Chapter 17
Week Fourteen (4/20) – Memory of Nazi Germany
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam – Wednesday, April 22

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](#).