

GERM 305-001 (2022/23 T2)

The Culture of Nazism

Tuesday / Thursday 11:00 - 12:30
Frederic Lasserre 102

Acknowledgement

UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people. Musqueam traditional sites exist throughout the area now occupied by UBC buildings. Please visit the UBC Vancouver Aboriginal Portal <https://aboriginal.ubc.ca/> to learn more about the history of Aboriginal presence on the locations of the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses and about the UBC programs and research that support Aboriginal communities and organizations.

Instructor:

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Office hours:

Tuesday 14:00 - 15:00 or by appointment
Buchanan Tower 919 (**students do not make sufficient use of office hours**)

Teaching Assistant

Steve Commicheau (PhD cand., CENES)
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Office hours

TBA

Reading Material:

Norman Ohler, *Blitzed: Drugs in Nazi Germany*
Heather Pringle, *The Master Plan: Himmler's Scholars and the Holocaust*

Further reading material will be posted on Canvas in the **FILES section** (see syllabus)

GERM 305 Course overview

Note: This course deals with the culture of the Third Reich. It contains offensive and disturbing material.

Decoding this syllabus:

<u>Read</u>	means	all students are expected to read this
<u>View</u>	means	all students are expected to see this
<u>Background reading</u>	means	helpful but not obligatory
<u>Background viewing</u>	means	helpful videos (excerpts may be used in class) but not obligatory
<u>Tip</u>	means	keywords helpful for preparing difficult points (in most cases, Wikipedia will do)

I Introduction

Tuesday, 10 January

Introduction to the course
What this course is/is not about
Did the Third Reich lose all its wars?
Formalities

Thursday, 12 January

What is an Aryan?
From Language to Race: The Background of Nazi Racism

Background reading:
Pringle, *Master Plan*, chapter 3 ("Aryans"), pp. 27-36.

Tip:
Research *Indo-European*

Tuesday, 17 January

Hitler's doctrine: What is the "Master Race"?

Read:
Mein Kampf, Chapter 11 ("Nation and Race")

<https://archive.org/details/mein-kampf-by-adolf-hitler-ralph-manheim-translation/page/vi/mode/2up>

Go to page 284 (chapter XI)

Thursday, 19 January

How did the Third Reich work?
(Or, how can we define German Fascism?)

Tip:

Research *palingenetic ultranationalism; functionalism vs. intentionalism debate*

II Nature, Species, Race: Autobahn, Ants and the Aurochs

Tuesday, 24 January

“Sinuous Curves” and Monuments:
What was the Nazi autobahn?

Read:

File **AUTOBAHN** on CANVAS/FILES

Pp. 669-677 only; focus on text **#321** (Todt, “Nordic Man and Transportation”) and text **#322** (Tamms. “Marvel”)

Thursday, 26 January

De-extinction I: Resurrecting the Aurochs

Read:

Heinz Heck, “The Breeding Back of the Aurochs”

File **HEINZ HECK** on CANVAS/FILES

View:

“Hitler’s Jurassic Monsters”

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2u49p5>

Tip:

Research *aurochs, de-extinction*

Tuesday, 31 January

De-extinction II: Rewilding the Aurochs

Read:

Driessen, “Back-breeding the aurochs: the Heck brothers, National Socialism and imagined geographies for nonhuman Lebensraum”

File **DRIESSEN AUROCHS** on CANVAS/FILS

Tip:

Research *rewilding, Pleistocene Park*

Thursday, 2 February

What did the Nazis plan in the East?

Tip:

Research *Generalplan Ost*

Tuesday, 7 February

Southern Exposure: Attack of the Almost Aryan Army Ants

Read:

Carl Stephenson, "Leiningen versus the Ants"

<https://www.classicshorts.com/stories/lvta.html>

Thursday, 9 February

Is Nazi Germany comparable to a Termite Colony?

Read:

Karl Escherich. "Termite Craze"

File **ESCHERICH TERMITE CRAZE** on CANVAS/FILES

Tuesday, 14 February

Northern Exposure: A Trip to Muskox Territory

What is the Most Masterly Master Race?

Read:

Terje Emberland, "Neither Hitler nor Quisling"

(file **EMBERLAND** on CANVAS/FILES)

Tip:

Research *Why did Germany occupy Norway*

Thursday, 16 February

In-class exam 1

Tuesday, 21 February

No class. Reading break.

Thursday, 23 February

No class. Reading break

III Bodies on Speed: Drugs and Blitzkrieg

Tuesday, 28 February

Introduction: Medical Doctors in the Third Reich

Background viewing:

“Science and the Swastika”

Episode 1: “Hitler’s Biological Soldiers”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQAdwjYc_VE&t=480s

Thursday, 2 March

What is *Leistung*? Civilian Pervitin 1938-45

Read

Ohler, *Blitzed*, 1-49 (Chapter 1)

Snelders and Pieters, “Speed in the Third Reich”

File **SNELDERS PIETERS PERVITIN** on CANVAS/FILES

Tip:

Research *Methamphetamines*

Tuesday, 7 March

“The German Way of War”: Pervitin in the Military

Read:

Ohler, *Blitzed*, 49-125, 232-262

Tip:

Research *Blitzkrieg*

Thursday, 9 March

Hitler the Junkie: Does it matter?

Read:

Ohler, *Blitzed*, 126-231, 263-end.

Tuesday, 14 March

Age: From Beautiful Bodies to Future Senicide:
You work until the day you die

Thursday, 16 March

Youth: Students in the Third Reich

Re-read

The last three pages of Escherich, “Termite Craze”

File **ESCHERICH TERMITE CRAZE** on CANVAS/FILES

Tip:

Research *National Socialist German Students' League*

Tuesday, 21 March

In class exam II

IV. To Tibet and Beyond: Around the SS Ahnenerbe

Thursday, 23 March

Amateurs, Academics and Aryans:
The Origin of the SS *Ahnenerbe*

Read:

Pringle, *Master Plan*, pp. 1-98

Tip:

Research SS (*Schutzstaffel*)

Tuesday, 28 March

Himmler's Indiana Jones:
The Nazi Quest for the Holy Grail

Tip:

Research *Holy Grail* (important), *Cathars*, *Templars*,
Montségur (mountain fortress)

Thursday, 30 March

Tibet

Read:

Pringle, *Master Plan*, pp. 145-192

View:

"Geheimnis Tibet / The Enigma of Tibet"

Documentary made by the *Ahnenerbe* Tibet expedition,
released 1943. Subtitled, slightly fuzzy, annoying music:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TE8IFBYlc3o>

Tuesday, 4 April

Tibet (continued)

Thursday, 6 April

Eyes and Bones: From the *Ahnenerbe* to Auschwitz

Read:

Pringle, *Master Plan*, 259-279

Halioula and Marmor, "The eyes of the angel of death:
Ophthalmic experiments of Josef Mengele"

File **MENGELE** on CANVAS/FILES

Tip:

Research *Josef Mengele*

Tuesday, 11 April

The End I: Thor's Hammer and the V-2:
The Logic of Miracle Weapons

Read:

Pringle, *Master Plan*, 281-290

Background Viewing

"Science and the Swastika"

Episode 4: "The Good German"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbAyU3LLngM>

Thursday, 13 April

The End II: Nazi Ruin Aesthetics ("We will have been")

Read:

Keiko Ishida, Albert Speer's "Theory of Ruin Value"

File **ISHIDA SPEER** on CANVAS/FILES

Final exam date T.b.a.

“Reckless plagiarism is often the result of careless research, poor time management, and a lack of confidence in your own ability to think critically.” Think about this when setting aside time to do your work. What counts as academic dishonesty?: using other people’s ideas or words as though they were your own; memorizing an answer (eg. an analysis of a poem) and writing it on an in-class test or exam; using Wikipedia as an uncited source; improperly citing other people’s research and integrating it into your own work; buying a paper; just putting a name in brackets at the end of a sentence or a paragraph; having another student completely edit your paper; submitting someone else’s paper as your own; and submitting the same paper to two different classes, among other things.

If you are stuck on what to write and panic, please feel free to get in touch with me. I really am happy to brainstorm with you or to read over the introduction to an early draft. I will spend time with you and help you over the writer’s block hurdle.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let me know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, filming schedules, or other similar commitments, cannot assume you will be accommodated, and should discuss your commitments with me before the drop date.