

Germany from 1815 to 1918

(Petition for Honors credit)

Course & Class Num: HIST 3357, 22280
 Time & Location: TTH 10:00 – 11:30, 201 AH
 Instructor: Hannah S. Decker

Eighteen years ago, many people in Western society were highly aroused (and some even fearful) when Germany, which had been divided into two separate countries, was united. This course will try to explain the reasons for this arousal and fear. The course starts at a time when “Germany” was just a miscellaneous collection of small and large dukedoms and kingdoms, one of which was Prussia. Then Otto von Bismarck, the Prussian Prime Minister, decided to unite all these states under Prussia so that Prussia could call the shots in a large, united Germany, which would become a European power. The legacy of Bismarck’s rule, however, was to set Germany on a disastrous path, both at home and abroad, culminating in World War I (1914-1918). Germany lost the war, was severely punished by the Allies, and became a democratic but much-hated republic instead of the authoritarian empire it had been. The course will end with the fallout from World War I and the dictated peace that Germany was forced to sign. This is the vital background to understand the rise of Hitler, World War II, and the undoing of Germany’s unification. Students will write two in-class exams, one comprehensive review of two books, and a final exam.

History of the Modern Middle East

(Petition for Honors credit)

Course & Class Num: HIST 3378, 22284
 Time & Location: TTH 11:30 – 1:00, 202 AH
 Instructor: Dina Al-Sowayel

The course will examine the events and the forces that led to the creation of the modern “Middle East.” We will consider how borders and boundaries occurred as we familiarize ourselves with the nation-states that comprise this geographic region. We will also assess the accomplishments and the challenges that the region faces since the turn of the century. Requirements include three short quizzes (announced in advance), one 8-page research paper on a topic of the student’s choosing, and the oral presentation of that paper in the class. It is assumed that students will participate actively in class through the semester.

Honors

Readings in Medicine & Society

Course & Class Num: HON 3301H, 22512
 Time & Location: Th 4:00 – 7:00, 212S L
 Instructor: Helen K. Valier

In this hybrid course we consider the social and cultural meanings of medicine, health, wellness, disease, and disability from a variety of perspectives including historical, sociological, anthropological, and clinical. We focus primarily on medicine as it is practiced and consumed in the U.S., but do so with an eye to the international and cross-cultural context of American medicine.

In addition to such “macro” level analysis, we also seek to explore the local phenomenon of Houston as a “hospital city,” home as it is to the largest medical center in the world.

Antiquity Revisited

Course & Class Num: HON 4390H, 22520
 Time & Location: Arrange
 Instructor: William F. Monroe

This upper-division course provides an opportunity for advanced students to reconsider from a more mature perspective significant literary and intellectual texts and issues from antiquity. Under the direction of Honors faculty, students in the course will participate in the Human Situation: Antiquity as both learners and teachers. As learners, students will read the works assigned to regular students in the course, conduct some independent reading and research on the texts, and write a term paper on some aspect of the course content. As teachers, they will meet informally with regular students to assist them in the writing of papers, discuss texts and lectures, occasionally conduct discussion groups for the professors to whom they are assigned, and perform other pedagogical tasks associated with the larger course.