

**Seminar in Historical Topics:
The German Military Tradition**
History 492 / Fall 2009

This course is devoted to an exploration of the role of the military in Central Europe over the past several centuries. Three key problems are central to our study:

- Was there a specifically German approach to conducting warfare, and if so, how did it evolve over time?
- How and why did formal military structures and personnel undergo a process of radicalization – and barbarization – during the major wars of the 19th and 20th Centuries?
- Why did the military come to hold such a central place in German society? How, in turn, have anti-militarist sentiments influenced the structure and missions of the German armed forces in recent decades?

Course Readings

The following paperbacks are required for this course and available from Follett's or the University Bookstore. In case you wish to search for these items from an on-line retailer, be sure to make use of the ISBN numbers below to ensure that you wind up with the right edition.

- Robert M. Citino, *The German Way of War: From the Thirty Years' War to the Third Reich* (University Press of Kansas, 2008) [\$16.47 on amazon] ISBN-13: 978-0700616244
- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, trans. Michael Howard and Peter Paret, ed. Beatrice Heuser (New York: Oxford, 2007) [\$11.01 on amazon] ISBN-13: 978-0199540020
- Hannes Heer and Klaus Naumann, eds., *War of Extermination: The German Military in World War II* (New York: Berghahn, 2004) [\$29.95 on amazon] ISBN-13: 978-1571814937.
- Isabel Hull, *Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006) [\$22.45 on amazon] ISBN-13: 978-0801472930
- David Clay Large, *Germans to the Front: West German Rearmament in the Adenauer Era* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996) [\$24.95 on amazon] ISBN-13: 978-0807845394
- Geoffrey Wawro, *The Franco-Prussian War: The German Conquest of France in 1870-1871* (New York: Cambridge, 2005) [\$24.99 on amazon] ISBN-13: 978-0521617437

Course Requirements

This is a reading-intensive course. In some cases, we will be covering entire books in just three class sessions; so you will want to take account of the semester schedule and plan your reading accordingly. In such a small seminar, you will be expected to contribute regularly to class discussions. Note that fully 25% of your course grade will be determined by your participation.

On October 1, there will be an in-class midterm exam featuring essay and short answer questions covering the readings to date.

On November 3, a five-page formal written paper will be due. Students are expected to follow carefully the terms of the assignment, which will be available two weeks prior to the due date. This paper will be judged based on strength of argumentation, handling of evidence, and quality of writing.

Finally, students will complete a take-home final in lieu of the assigned in-class final exam. This will feature one “cumulative” essay question and one question pertaining specifically to the final one-third of the course. Unlike the formal paper, grammar and writing style will not be an issue on the final exam; students will be graded exclusively on their arguments and command of the course material.

Grade determination

Participation	25%
Midterm Exam	20%
Paper Assignment	25%
Take-Home Final Exam	30%

Course Policies

Attendance is essential. You are allowed four unexcused absences; after that, each absence will be counted against your participation grade. It is not my job to “approve” absences one way or another, but if you expect to be representing the university in an official capacity (sports, band, etc.), please let me know in advance.

Common courtesy suggests that you should arrive on time. If you must leave early, please inform us ahead of time and then raise your hand at the appropriate time. A classroom discussion is not the same thing as a television viewing! Your coming and going may represent a significant distraction.

Academic integrity: The assignments in this course require you to formulate complex thoughts in your own words. Attempts to pass off another’s words as your own – be it on an exam or in your primary source exercise – will carry harsh penalties. Plagiarized papers will earn a “zero” for the assignment and may lead to further consequences, including notification of the Dean of Students Office. The “University Regulations” handbook contains further information on dishonesty.

Disclaimer: In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted, once the course resumes, on the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructor via email or phone.

Contact Information

Prof. Gray (wggray@purdue.edu)
Office hours in University Hall 328: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30 – 4:00
Office phone (765) 494-4160

Please note: for updated announcements and other information, refer to the course website:
<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~wggray/Teaching/His492/Index.html>

Seminar and Reading Schedule		
Aug. 25	Introduction: the military & militarism in German history	
Aug. 27	The “Great Elector” and his wars	Citino, xi-xix and 1-33
Sept. 1	Frederick’s Prussia, Part I	Citino, 34-62
Sept. 3	Frederick’s Prussia, Part II	Citino, 63-103
Sept. 8	Crushed by Napoleon	Citino, 104-128 Clausewitz, 7-69
Sept. 10	Wars of Liberation	Citino, 128-141 Clausewitz, 73-156
Sept. 15	Roon’s reforms	Clausewitz, 159-265
Sept. 17	The duel: Prussia vs. Austria	Citino, 142-173
Sept. 22	Taking on Napoleon III	Wawro, 1-84
Sept. 24	A united Germany goes to war	Wawro, 85-163 Citino, 174-190
Sept. 29	Victory at Sedan	Wawro, 164-229
Oct. 1	The problem of partisans	Wawro, 230-314
Oct. 6	MIDTERM EXAM	
Oct. 8	Genocide in the desert	Hull, 1-90
Oct. 13	FALL BREAK	
Oct. 15	Military culture in Imperial Germany	Hull, 91-196

Oct. 20	The Schlieffen Plan	Citino, 191-237
Oct. 22	World War, 1914: the problem of atrocities	Hull, 197-334
Oct. 27	World War, 1917-18: going for broke	Herwig article
Oct. 29	Weimar: the army as a “state within a state”	Citino, 238-267
Nov. 3	Rearmament under Hitler [PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE]	Heer, 1-35
Nov. 5	Striking Poland	Rossino article
Nov. 10	1940 and the aura of invincibility	Citino, 268-290
Nov. 12	Operation Barbarossa	Citino, 290-305 Heer, 80-91, 237-271
Nov. 17	Anti-Partisan Warfare	Heer, 92-126, 146-216, 272-313
Nov. 19	The Wehrmacht and the Holocaust	Heer, 39-79, 219-236, 314-344
Nov. 24	The July 20 plot	Heer, 127-145
Dec. 1	Building legends: military tradition under fire	Heer, 381-429 Large, 1-30
Dec. 3	The decision to rearm Germany	Large, 31-107 (read) Large, 111-175 (skim)
Dec. 8	A citizens’ army?	Large, 176-270
Dec. 10	New tasks: the Bundeswehr goes international	