Germany, Europe, and the Wider World: Readings in Transnational History
History 601G / Fall 2007

The purpose of this reading seminar is methodological: it is designed to help students re-imagine the place of the nation-state in history writing. Most of the books we will read are new and important in the field; but the point is less to survey current German historiography than to provide examples of how “transnational” history might be conceptualized. As such, the course is intended not solely for specialists on Germany, but for students of European history or even trans-Atlantic history more generally.

Course Requirements and Policies

As in any graduate course, regular attendance and participation is expected as a matter of course. Students are allowed one pre-arranged absence for the semester. In case of illness, please contact me as soon as you become aware of your condition.

To ensure the best use of our seminar time, all students will be required to submit two discussion questions to me in advance of each class session (due by Wednesdays at noon). I will edit these questions and distribute them to the class as a kind of “agenda” for that day’s discussion.

The course grade will be calculated as follows: 40% for class participation, and 60% for the final paper. Students are responsible for seeking regular consultation concerning the final paper, whether during office hours or by appointment. My office hours in UNIV 328 will run on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1:30 – 3:00. The phone number there is (765) 494-4160, but it’s usually easiest to catch me via e-mail at <wggray@purdue.edu>.

In most cases I expect the final paper to consist in a more thorough, fifteen-page exploration of the historiography and methodology discussed in one of our class sessions; however, I am open to other ideas you may have. My hope is that you will use this paper, as any graduate school paper, to advance your understanding of the broader themes you have set out to study in this program.

Course Readings and Class Schedule

Please note: all of the materials listed on the following pages will be made available either on 24-hour reserve in the library (in the case of whole books), as PDFs (in the case of book chapters), or on-line (in the case of journal articles). In the event that you choose to purchase any of the full books assigned below, complete ordering information appears on the final page of this syllabus.
I. INTRODUCTION: NATIONAL, TRANSNATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL (AUG. 22)


H-German forum on transnational history


II. IMPERIAL GERMANY IN A WIDER WORLD (AUG. 29)


David Blackbourn, “‘Taking the Waters’: Meeting Places of the Fashionable World,” in ibid., 435-457

Harold James, “The Mark and the Kaiserreich: Cosmopolitan or National Currency?” (Discussion paper, University of St. Gallen Department of Economics, Sept. 2001; available as a PDF)

III. ENCOUNTERS WITH ANTHROPOLOGY (SEPT. 5)

H. Glenn Penny, Objects of Culture: Ethnology and Ethnographic Museums in Imperial Germany (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002)


Rainer Buschmann, “Colonizing Anthropology: Albert Hahl and the Ethnographic Frontier in German New Guinea,” in Worldly Provincialism, 230-255
IV. GENOCIDE AND WAR (SEPT. 12)


Holger Herwig, “Total Rhetoric, Limited War: Germany’s U-Boot Campaign, 1917-1918,” in *Great War, Total War*, 189-206

V. DRANG NACH OSTEN? (SEPT. 19)


VI. WEIMAR REVISIONISM (SEPT. 26)

David Thomas Murphy, *The Heroic Earth: Geopolitical Thought in Weimar Germany, 1918-1933* (Kent: Kent State University Press, 1997)


William Mulligan, “The Reichswehr, the Republic and the Primacy of Foreign Policy, 1918-1923,” *ibid.*, 347-368

VII. THE “PEACETIME” ECONOMY OF THE THIRD REICH (OCT. 3)


Volker R. Berghahn, ed., *Quest for Economic Empire: European Strategies of German Big Business in the Twentieth Century* (Providence: Berghahn, 1996), 1-64 (essays by Berghahn, Schröter, Hayes)
VIII. THE WARTIME ECONOMY OF THE THIRD REICH (OCT. 10)

Tooze, The Wages of Destruction, 326-676


IX. POPULATION POLITICS IN THE EAST (OCT. 17)


X. THE EXPULSIONS AND A “POST-NATIONAL” GERMANY (OCT. 24)


Benjamin Frommer, "To Prosecute or to Expel? Czechoslovak Retribution and the 'Transfer' of Sudeten Germans," 221-240


Pertti Ahonen, “Taming the Expellee Threat in post-1945 Europe: Lessons from the Two Germanies and Finland,” Contemporary European History 14, 1 (February 2005): 1-21

XI. THE AMERICAN – OR EUROPEAN? – SPHERE (OCT. 31)


XII. THE AMERICAN SPHERE: CONSUMER CULTURE (NOV. 7)


Heide Fehrenbach, “Afro-German Children and the Social Politics of Race,” in *German History from the Margins*, 226-251

XIII. THE SOVIET SPHERE (NOV. 14)


XIV. MIGRATION AND “GUEST WORKERS” (NOV. 28)

Rita Chin, *The Guest Worker Question in Postwar Germany* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Karen Schönwälder, “The Difficult Task of Managing Migration: The 1973 Recruitment Stop,” in *German History from the Margins*, 252-267

XV. FINAL GATHERING – RECEPTION AT DR. GRAY’S (DEC. 5)
Books Assigned

Note: the books I consider to the best value – and most useful to consider purchasing – are marked with an asterisk. In other cases, it will depend on your own particular research interests.

H. Glenn Penny, *Objects of Culture: Ethnology and Ethnographic Museums in Imperial Germany* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002). 0807854301 (paper); $27.50 on amazon


David Thomas Murphy, *The Heroic Earth: Geopolitical Thought in Weimar Germany, 1918-1933* (Kent: Kent State University Press, 1997). 0873385640 (hardcover); $39.00 on amazon


Rita Chin, *The Guest Worker Question in Postwar Germany* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007). 0521870003 (hardcover); $75 on amazon