SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2015-2016

HI 4015-SPECIAL SUBJECT
HITLER

30 Credits, 11 Weeks

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:
The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure. You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM
Course Co-ordinator: Prof. Thomas Weber
E-Mail: t.weber@abdn.ac.uk
Office Hours: See School Webpages

Discipline Administration:
Mrs Barbara McGillivray/Mrs Gillian Brown
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TIMETABLE
For time and place of classes, please see MyAberdeen.

Students can also view their university timetable at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php
COURSE DESCRIPTION
Hitler is omnipresent in modern life. He appears everywhere in the media and he is invoked all the time in public and private discourse. Yet Adolf Hitler remains an enigma. While he tends to be reduced to a one-dimensional cardboard cutout villain outside of academia, inside academia there has been a tendency in recent years to diminish Hitler’s importance and to push Hitler to the sidelines.

During the course, we will take examine the degree to which Hitler did, or did not, matter as an actor in his own right. We shall do so by studying Hitler’s Mein Kampf, as well as a number of other selected documents. In the process, we shall discuss, amongst other questions, what difference Mein Kampf made, how Hitler staged himself, why Hitler staged himself in the way that he did, as well as how Hitler’s transformation and radicalization had come about.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
This course aims to examine, understand and analyse Adolf Hitler’s place in the history of the first of the twentieth century through detailed study of contemporary sources as well as secondary literature. By the end of the course students should be able:

- to understand and critique the evolution of Adolf Hitler from a nobody to the leader of the National Socialist Party.
- to comprehend and analyse scholarly debates surrounding Hitler
- appreciate and practice methodological and conceptual issues relevant to the study of Hitler
- to offer analytical explanations rather than mere descriptions of the key developments in the period based upon a critical engagement with both sources from the period and subsequent histories of the event.
- to assess and judge issues which were and remain, controversial and emotionally charged
- to appraise critically relevant primary and secondary literature
- appreciate and practice the skills characteristic of the professional historian
- enhanced their skills in written and verbal communications, through essay and examination work, seminar presentation and discussion
- enhance their teamwork skills, through collaboration with other students in group work
- enhance their ability to learn independently, through preparation for seminars and written work
- enhanced their IT skills, through use of bibliographical tools, as demonstrated in the library session

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
Week 1:
Seminar 1: Presentation Assignments, Seminar Format, Aims and Objectives; general discussion about Hitler.
Seminar 2: Composing a bibliography on Hitler (part 1).

Week 2:
Seminar 3: Composing a bibliography on Hitler (part 2); Hitler’s childhood and adolescence
Seminar 4: Hitler’s Vienna years
**Week 3:**  
Seminar 5: Private Hitler’s first war  
Seminar 6: Pasewalk; introduction to quantitative text analysis

**Week 4:**  
Seminar 7: Hitler’s state of health and of his mental mind  
Seminar 8: Revolution

**Week 5:**  
Seminar 9: Hitler’s time in the Reichswehr; the Gemlich letter  
Seminar 10: Gobbets & discussion of essay writing techniques.

**Week 6: Reading week**  
No classes

**Week 7:**  
Seminar 11: Gobbets Test  
Seminar 12: Hitler’s initiation into the German Worker’s Party (DAP)

**Week 8:**  
Seminar 13: The party programme of the NSDAP  
Seminar 14: Hitler takes over the helm of the NSDAP

**Week 9:**  
Seminar 15: Intellectual influences on Hitler, 1920-1923  
Seminar 16: Hitler’s speeches, 1920-1923

**Week 10:**  
Seminar 17: The Putsch  
Seminar 18: Hitler’s trial

**Week 11:**  
Seminar 19: The writing of Mein Kampf  
Seminar 20: Bringing Hitler to the screen (UFA Fiction TV series on Hitler)

**Week 12: Revision Week:**  
Revision seminars will be available as per the established class timetable.

**Note that the order of sessions may have to be adjusted.**

**READING LIST, IF APPLICABLE**

- Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (various editions)  
  - The 1941 Houghton Mifflin edition is available through The Internet Archive: https://archive.org/stream/meinkampf035176mbp/meinkampf035176mbp_djvu.txt  
  - You may want to purchase a hardcopy of Mein Kampf too, as this is the core text for our course. I would suggest that you will get either the translation by Reynal & Hitchcock or by Ralph Manheim
  - For a German edition of Mein Kampf, see, https://archive.org/stream/MeinKampf2/HitlerAdolf-MeinKampf-Band1Und2855.Auflage1943818S_.djvu.txt

-You may also find Jeremy Noakes and Geoffrey Pridham’s *Nazism: A Documentary Reader* (Exeter, various editions) as well as Roderick Stackelberg’s *The Nazi Germany Sourcebook* (various editions) of use to you.

A secondary reading list on Hitler will be drawn up by the class in Week 1 and Week 2 and subsequently placed on MyAberdeen.

Gobbets in the exam will come from either *Mein Kampf* or from Subsection 12 of Section on 1918/19-1933 of the German History in Documents and Images website of German Historical Institute Washington D.C.,

**ASSESSMENT**

100% Exam (3 hours: 1 ‘Gobbet Question & 2 Essay-style responses)

Formative Assessment: One 2,000 word essay.

Feedback on all assessment should be timely and *normally* provided within a maximum of three working weeks (excluding vacation periods) following the deadline for submission of the assessment.  
*Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).*  
*Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).*

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**

Class Essay: Thursday 12 November, 12 noon.

**TEACHING & LEARNING**

*Seminars* are held twice a week (see specific details regarding the timetable above). Attendance at seminars is compulsory and will be monitored. Failure to attend will result in the withdrawal of the Class Certificate.

*Each student will give a c. 30 minute presentation, convene a seminar, as well as contribute to small group work.* The presentation topic should not overlap with the theme chosen for the class essay. After each presentation there will be a general discussion. Presentations have to be accompanied by a handout, which has to be available to all members of the seminar at least 48 hours in advance. The handouts have to include a suggested reading list of secondary titles, as well as extracts from primary sources which will be analysed during and after the presentation.
Students are expected to discuss their presentation, in advance, with the course co-ordinator. Students may choose to lecture, assign discussion questions, and/or organise group work – indeed, any method of ‘presenting’ which suits their needs, interests, or abilities. Everyone will read the assigned material for the presentation. Students can (but are not required to) make use of PowerPoint in their presentations. Those not presenting will be expected to respond and:

- Overview and analyse of the main argument(s) in the material under discussion
- Critique the argument(s) in the material under discussion
- Support for the argument(s) advanced in the material under discussion

FORMATIVE WRITTEN WORK

Class essay of about 2,000 words. NB: FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE CLASS ESSAY WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF THE CLASS CERTIFICATE. Essays have to be submitted in word-processed format. They must be accompanied by a bibliography and foot- or endnotes conforming to established academic conventions. Students will select an essay topic not related to their own seminar presentation.

- **Gobbet Test.** Students will comment on 4 gobbet extracts under exam conditions to familiarise themselves with the requirements of the degree examination.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

The Department requires ONE official electronic copy submitted by the deadline plus ONE paper copy of all assignments with the TurnitinUK receipt, attached as follows:

**Electronic Copy:** One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen.

**Hard Copy:** One hard copy with the Turnitin receipt attached together with an Assessment cover sheet, typed and double spaced – this copy should have your ID number CLEARLY written on the cover sheet, with NO name and NO signature but EVERYTHING ELSE filled in – and should be delivered to the History Department [Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds].

Please note: Failure to submit both to Turnitin, and also one identical hard copy with the Turnitin receipt attached will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to Turnitin will result in a zero mark.

Past exam papers can be viewed at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/. Note that this is a new special subject, which means that you will only be able to view past exam papers for other special subjects.