

GERMANY FROM WORLD WAR I TO WORLD WAR II (1918-1945)
HISTORY 3358
TU/TH 1:00-2:30 (online synchronous—live, not recorded)
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This course takes on added significance in 2021 because of the growth of neo-fascism in the world today.

In 1914 Germany was a proud and mighty Western nation, economically and scientifically dominant in many spheres—although fatefully with a feudal power structure. This course starts in 1918 with the defeat of Germany in the First World War and covers the tumultuous events of the 1920s and early '30s that led to Adolf Hitler—a high school dropout—becoming Chancellor and establishing the Third Reich. We will study the nature of the defeat Germany suffered in 1918 and its first attempts to become a democratic republic. We will learn about the life and times of Hitler, his attempts to gain national power, and the unique events by which he established himself as German's "Fuehrer," a totalitarian Leader. We will investigate various facets of the Nazi dictatorship and Hitler's success in ridding himself of the bonds imposed upon Germany by the Allies of World War I. The course concludes with a study of World War II and the Holocaust, the systematic ghettoization and murder of almost 6 million Jews. The requirements of the class are midterm and final exams and a comparative book essay.