

Faculty of Humanities, Department of History #39267

Biographies of Evil: The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler

Semester 2, Spring 2020, Thursdays 12:30-14:15 (via Zoom)

Dr. Amos Bitzan

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Dept. of History and Center for Jewish Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

1. Course Introduction (March 26)

2. Hitler's Youth (April 2)

Mein Kampf, Ch. 1-2

3. Decadence in Vienna and Mobilization in Munich (April 23)

Mein Kampf, Ch. 3-4

4. The War (April 30)

Mein Kampf, Ch. 5-6

5. Hitler's Entry into Politics (May 7)

Mein Kampf, Ch. 7-9

6. Hitler's Antisemitism and Nazi Political Organization in Weimar (May 14)

Mein Kampf, Ch. 10-12

7. Hitler's First Years in Power 1933-1935 (June 4)

Saul Friedländer, Vol. 1., Chapters 2-3

8. From Exclusion to Racial War 1935-1940 (June 11)

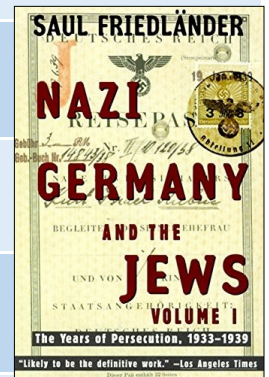
Readings to be determined

9. The Final Solution 1941-1943 (June 18)

Readings to be determined

10. Downfall 1944-1945 (June 25)

Readings to be determined



Requirements

Final Essay due on last day of course

50%

Participation

50%

Was *Mein Kampf* a blueprint for Nazi policies and for Hitler's style of governing? (1000-1500 words)

In this seminar, students will learn about recent biographical scholarship on Hitler and other high-level Nazi figures as well as current historiography on the origins and implementation of the Final Solution in mini-lectures. Students will read part of *Mein Kampf*, about which they will write a seminar paper. Long-standing problems that the seminar will tackle include the following: Hitler's political formation pre-WWI and during the early Weimar Republic, the sources of Hitler's antisemitism, Hitler's leadership style, the role of Hitler in racial policy, intentionalist vs. functionalist interpretations of the Nazi genocide, and Hitler's position as pioneer or mediator in Nazi Germany.