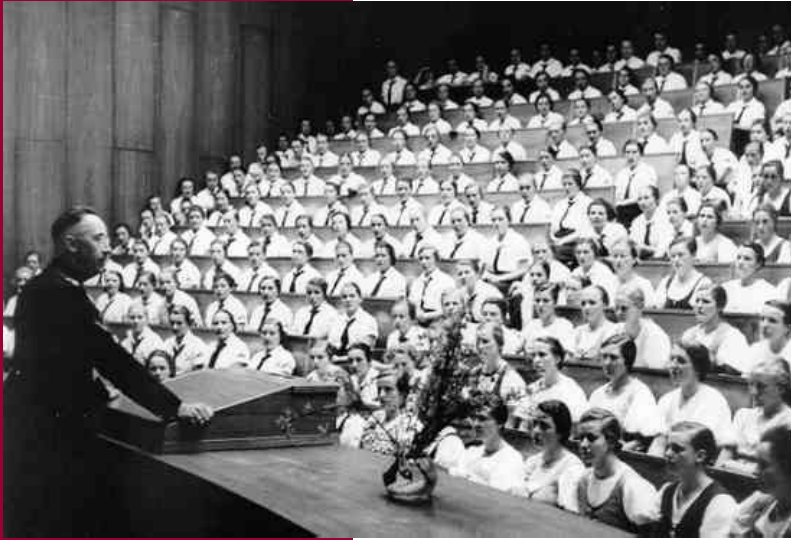


Summer 2009



## Modern Germany: Germany in the Age of Total War

History 420.201

*Professor Kathleen Canning*

This course begins with Germany's place in Europe on the eve of the First World War and ends with the division of Germany in the aftermath of the second World War. The course explores how the first total war transformed German society, culture and politics, shaping Germany's first democracy—the Weimar Republic—which was founded in 1919 and dismantled by the Nazis in 1933. We will take the project of Weimar democracy seriously, exploring its new visions of political culture, while analyzing the ways in which the Nazis rose amidst this Republic and defined themselves in opposition to it. We will examine the conditions and outcomes of the Nazi seizure of power, analyzing the place of both race and war in the practices of the Nazi state and in the new "people's national community." In particular we will investigate the connections between racial persecution and the war of conquest launched by the Nazis in 1939.

This course is not recommended for students who have completed History/German 322 as it covers very similar material. No prerequisites required, although basic background in modern European history will be very helpful. Course materials will include not only historical texts, but also film, art, literature, and personal memoirs from the Weimar and Nazi periods.

**Meets Mon/Wed  
4:00-7:00 p.m.  
Nat Sci Aud**