

The University of Texas at Tyler

Political & Public Leadership: Germans into Nazis.

Syllabus for POLS 4393.060

POLS 4393.060

Germany Travel Study August 4 to
August 20, 2025, and Fall 2025.

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Office Hours: Fall 2025, Tuesdays and
Thursdays 11a to 2p and 3:30 to 5p and by
appointment.

Course Information

This political science travel study to Germany will focus on the study of political and public leadership and the conditions and ideological factors that led Germans to embrace Nazism during the 20th century. Through visits to historical sites such as concentration camps, museums, and memorials, students will gain a deeper understanding of the political, social, and economic conditions that allowed the rise of the Nazi party. Additionally, meetings with local historians, politicians, and activists will provide insight into contemporary debates surrounding Germany's past and efforts to combat extremist ideologies. This immersive experience will allow students to critically analyze the complexities of ideology and its impact on society, both past and present.

Course Objectives

After this travel study course, students will:

1. Understand the historical context and factors that contributed to the rise of Nazism in Germany.
2. Analyze the impact of Nazi ideology on German society and politics during the 1930s and

1940s.

3. Examine the role of propaganda and indoctrination in promoting Nazi beliefs and values.
4. Evaluate the legacy of Nazism in contemporary German society and its implications for politics and ideology.
5. Compare and contrast the ideologies of Nazism with other political ideologies, such as liberalism, conservatism, and socialism.

Required Reading Materials

There are two (2) books required for this course:

1. Freiheit!: The White Rose Graphic by Andrea Grosso Ciponte, ISBN: 978-0874863444.
2. Vertigo: The Rise and Fall of Weimar Germany by Harald Jähner, ISBN: 978-1541606203.

Method of Instruction

The method of instruction for this political science travel study course focused on the study of ideology and Germans into Nazis in Germany will involve a combination of traditional classroom lectures, discussions, and readings, as well as immersive experiential learning opportunities in Germany.

The course may begin with a series of lectures and readings exploring the historical and theoretical foundations of ideology, particularly as it relates to the rise of Nazism in Germany. Students will also engage in discussions and debates on the various factors that contributed to the spread of Nazi ideology and the implications for contemporary politics.

In addition to classroom-based instruction, students will visit key historical sites related to the Nazi regime, such as concentration camps, memorials, and museums. These visits will provide students with a firsthand understanding of the impact of Nazi ideology on German society and the lasting legacy of the Holocaust.

Throughout the course, students would be encouraged to critically analyze and reflect on the complex intersections of ideology, politics, and society, both in historical and contemporary contexts. Assignments include a travel journal, essays, and a presentation that require students to apply their knowledge and understanding of ideology and Nazism to real-world political issues.

Assessment Instruments and Values

Travel Study Journal.	33.33
Why: An Essay.	33.33

Video Presentations.	33.34
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Travel Study Journal: Throughout your time in Germany, you will be visiting various concentration camps, memorials, and museums that shed light on the atrocities committed during the Nazi regime. As you explore these sites, reflect on the role of ideology in shaping the actions of Germans who became Nazis. Consider how propaganda, nationalism, and other factors contributed to the rise of the Nazi Party and the perpetuation of the Holocaust.

Your task is to keep a daily journal for the duration of the trip, documenting your thoughts, observations, and reflections on the readings and discussions we have had in class, as well as your experiences at the various sites we visit. Each journal entry should be at least one page in length and should address the following questions:

1. How did ideology play a role in the rise of the Nazi Party and the perpetuation of the Holocaust?
2. What factors contributed to the transformation of ordinary Germans into Nazis?
3. In what ways did propaganda and nationalism influence the actions of Germans during this time period?
4. How do the sites we visit in Germany help to deepen your understanding of the impact of ideology on individuals and society?

Your journal entries should demonstrate critical thinking, engagement with the course material, and a willingness to grapple with difficult and complex topics. Be honest and reflective in your writing, and use specific examples from your experiences and readings to support your arguments.

At the end of the trip, you will have the opportunity to share and discuss your journal entries with your classmates, providing a space for further reflection and dialogue on the themes explored during our time in Germany.

Why: An Essay: Exploring the Roots of Nazism in Germany: A Political Science Analysis

During your travel study course to Germany, you have had the unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the country's rich history, culture, and political landscape. Throughout the course, you will have engaged with various readings and discussions on the rise of Nazism in Germany, exploring the ideologies and factors that contributed to this very dark chapter in history. Now, it is time to reflect on your experiences and learning to answer the question: Why did it all happen?

In a well-structured essay, draw upon your in-country experiences, readings, and study of ideology to analyze the complex factors that led to the rise of Nazism in Germany. Consider the following questions as you craft your response:

1. How did your experiences in Germany shape your understanding of the country's history and political landscape?
2. What key ideologies and beliefs were central to the Nazi movement, and how were they promoted and perpetuated by the regime?

3. How did economic, social, and political factors contribute to the rise of Nazism in Germany?
4. What role did German society and culture play in enabling the spread of Nazi ideology?
5. In what ways did the international context and historical events influence the rise of Nazism in Germany?

In your essay, be sure to provide specific examples and evidence to support your arguments. Consider how the lessons learned from studying the rise of Nazism in Germany can inform our understanding of contemporary political movements and ideologies.

Your essay should be well-organized, clearly written, and demonstrate a thorough understanding of the complex historical and political factors that contributed to the rise of Nazism in Germany. Make connections between your in-country experiences, readings, and study of ideology to provide an analysis of why it all happened.

Word Count: 1500-2000 words. Remember to cite your sources and provide a bibliography at the end of your essay. Good luck!

Short Travel Study Video: Objective: To showcase your travel study experiences in Germany through a creative and engaging Instagram or TikTok-style video.

1. During your time in Germany, capture photos and short video clips of your experiences, including sightseeing, cultural activities, interactions with locals, and any other memorable moments.
2. Create a short video (approximately one minute in length) that highlights the best moments of your travel study experience in Germany. You can use apps like Instagram, TikTok, or any other video editing software to create your video.
3. Your video should include a mix of photos and short video clips, along with music and captions or text overlays to provide context and share your thoughts and feelings about the experience.
4. Be creative and showcase your personality in the video. Use music, filters, and other editing techniques to make your video visually appealing and engaging.
5. Once your video is complete, share it with your classmates and here in Canvas. You may also choose to post it on your personal social media accounts to share your travel study experiences with friends and family.

Remember to have fun and be authentic in capturing and sharing your travel study experiences in Germany!

The Video Presentation: For this assignment, you will create a video presentation from your essay that reflects on your experiences during the travel study course in Germany. Your presentation should address the question: Why did the ideology of Nazism gain traction in Germany and ultimately lead to the rise of the Nazi party?

Assignment Instructions:

1. Begin by reflecting on your experiences in Germany, including visits to historical sites, museums, and discussions with local experts. How did these experiences shape your understanding of German history and the factors that contributed to the rise of Nazism?
2. Consider the readings and discussions from the course that focused on the ideology of Nazism and the social, economic, and political conditions in Germany during the early 20th century. How did these factors influence the rise of Nazism and the support for the Nazi party among the German population?
3. Analyze the role of propaganda, nationalism, anti-Semitism, and other key elements of Nazi ideology in shaping public opinion and mobilizing support for the Nazi party. How did these factors contribute to the success of the Nazi party in gaining power and implementing their agenda?
4. Reflect on the lessons learned and consider the implications for understanding the dynamics of political movements and ideologies in contemporary society.
5. Create a 5 to 7-minute video presentation in which you address the above points and share what you learned. What had the most impact on you and why? In your powerpoint use images you took in Germany, and other multimedia elements to enhance your presentation.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Clarity and coherence of the presentation
- Depth of analysis and critical thinking
- Integration of course materials and real-world experiences
- Creativity and effectiveness of visual aids
- Overall quality of the presentation and adherence to submission guidelines

Remember to engage with the material, reflect on your experiences, and present your insights in a clear and compelling manner. Be creative and engaging in your presentation.

Late Work: *Life happens.* If you miss an assignment due date, please email or talk with me and let me know. I don't necessarily need to know why (you can tell me if you want). You are an

adult and do not need to explain to me. My mission is to have you be successful in learning the content of this course. To that end, I am happy to accept late assignments. I will deduct a full letter grade for late work, but again, I want you to be successful.

UT Tyler Students Resources, Rights, & Responsibilities

[Student Resources](#)

[University Policies and Information](#)

Student Resources:

Faculty can update student resources to provide additional supports appropriate for each course.

Resources to assist you in the course

- UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resource (SAR) Office (provides needed accommodations to students with document needs related to access and learning)
- UT Tyler Writing Center
- The Mathematics Learning Center
- UT Tyler PASS Tutoring Center
- UT Tyler Supplemental Instruction
- Upswing (24/7 online tutoring) - covers nearly all undergraduate course areas
- Robert Muntz Library and Library Liaison.
- Canvas 101 (learn to use Canvas, proctoring, Unicheck, and other software)
- Digital Support Toolkit (for supported courses only. Students are automatically enrolled in the toolkit for supported courses)
- LIB 422 -- Computer Lab where students can take a proctored exam

- The Career Success Center
- UT Tyler Testing Center
- Office of Research & Scholarship Design and Data Analysis Lab

Resources available to UT Tyler Students

- UT Tyler Counseling Center (available to all students)
- MySSP App (24/7 access to Student Support Program counseling through phone or chat and online wellness resources available in a variety of languages)
- Student Assistance and Advocacy Center
- Military and Veterans Success Center (supports for our military-affiliated students)
- UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry
- UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships
- UT Tyler Student Business Services (pay or set up payment plans, etc.)
- UT Tyler Registrar's Office
- Office of International Programs
- Title IX Reporting
- Patriots Engage (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

University Policies and Information

Withdrawing from Class

Students may withdraw (drop) from this course using the Withdrawal Portal. Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully read the implications for

withdrawing from a course and the instructions on using the Withdrawal portal.. Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career*. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule. CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the Office of International Programs before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. CAUTION #3: All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. CAUTION #4: All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the Military and Veterans Success Center.

* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. Refer to the About This Course section of the UT Tyler Syllabus Module for specific information on appropriate use of AI in your course(s).

Final Exam Policy

Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an

exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy

If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average. The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

Grade Appeal Policy

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the

Registrar's Form Library.

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email saroffice@uttyler.edu, or call 903.566.7079."

Military Affiliated Students

UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The Military and Veterans Success Center (MVSC) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Students on an F-1 Visa

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.

- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct

The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the Student Conduct and

Discipline policy in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA

UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in University Policy

5.2.3. The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities

This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for University Events or Activities as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays

This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Pregnant Students

This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excuse absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the

Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at parents@uttyler.edu and also complete the Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form.

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.