**Cultural Foundations of Germany  
Syllabus**

470:381:01, index 18706

German House 102

Spring 2014 (MTh 11:30am-12:50pm)

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Office Hours: Mondays 2-3pm and by appointment

**Course Description**“Was ist des Deutschen Vaterland?" (“What is the fatherland of the German?”) The miracle of German unification, a process which evolved over centuries amidst convulsive religious, social and political strife.

Survey of the main political, social, and religious movements from the first empire founded by Charlemagne to the final unification of independent states under Bismarck. Politically, we shall discuss the pervasive strife, conflict and compromise that ended in unification and in a new, profound sense of German identity and patriotism. Socially, we shall explore dislocations, such as the belief in and prosecution of witches, the crusades including the fatal children's crusade, the Reformation and repeated rebellions against political and religious authorities.

**Taught in English.**

**Final grade:**1. Midterm examination 25%  
2. Semester paper 30%  
3. Final examination 25%  
4. Presentation 10%  
5. Class participation 10%

**Grade distribution**

A=90-100%; B+=85-89; B=80-84; C+=75-79; C=70-74; D=65-69; F=64 and below

**Final Exam**Thursday, May 8  
8am – 11am

**Required texts**, available online:

1. Einhard: The Life of Charlemagne, translated by Samuel Epes Turner (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1880)

[www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/einhard.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/einhard.html)

2. Tacitus on Germany, by Tacitus, translated by Thomas Gordon. <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2995/2995-h/2995-h.htm>

3. Handouts

**Cell phones:** Cell phones and all other technological devices (beepers, iPods, MP3players…) must be turned off during class out of respect for the instructor and fellow students. Please schedule all important phone communications outside of class time.

**Departmental Attendance Policy**

All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse should expect a one-step reduction in the course grade (i.e. an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). Every additional three absences may entail a further one-step grade-reduction. Three late arrivals count as one absence. Note: It is the responsibility of students who have been absent (for any reason) to find out what they have missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.

**Photocopies**

There will be numerous handouts for which the department charges $0.05 per page as well as online course materials.

**Disability Support Services**

Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>. It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with teachers about these issues at the beginning of the term.  All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

**Academic Integrity**  
Violations of academic integrity are an extremely serious matter, and can lead to a student’s failing the course and being referred to the University’s Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. When referring to ideas other than your own, always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely, whether you are quoting or paraphrasing. Note also that use of online translation services is not permitted as a tool for generating work that you submit for course credit. Please see the University’s policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>, and discuss with your instructor any questions you may have about this and related issues.

Th. 23 Jan. Introduction

M 27 Jan. The Germans

Tacitus (historian of the late first century to the early second century)

Goths – King Theoderich the Great (454?-526), Christian but Arian, like all his people

Franken: King Chlodovig (466?-511) – conversion to Orthodox Christianity

Th 30 Jan. The Frankish Empire

Two cultures: Roman and Germanic

Two dynasties: the Merovingians and the Carolingians

Two religions: Pagan and Christian

M. 3 Feb. The seizure of power of the Carolingians with the help of the Pope

Th. 6 Feb. Charlemagne (742-814)

M. 10 Feb. The disintegration of the empire

The development of vernacular languages, French and German

Th. 13 Feb. The survival of the idea of the Empire – the Ottos

The Terratorien and the princes in the kingdom

Germany and Italy

M. 17 Feb. The imperial election of Hohenstaufen

The beginning of the medieval splendor in the realm of art and literature

Love and chivalry as the main topics

Th. 20 Feb.) Barbarossa (1123?-1190) and Friedrich II (1194-1250)

M. 24 Feb.) “

Th. 27 Feb. Midterm

M. 3 Mar. The disintegration of the power of the Empire and the development of cities

Th. 6 Mar. Crusades and trade

M. 10 Mar. The power of religion: Piety and Here Sien or heresy

Th 13 Mar. The Renaissance: Emperor Maximilian or the last knight (1493-1519)

M. 24 Mar.) Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Th. 27 Mar.) “

M. 31 Mar. The Reformation and Counter-Reformation

Th. 3 Apr. Witch hunts

M. 7 Apr. The Habsburgs and the Spanish influence on German culture

Th. 10 Apr. Baroque – government, society – The Thirty Years War (1618-48)

M. 14 Apr.) The 18th Century – The Enlightenment – Language and Literature

Th. 17 Apr.) “

M. 21 Apr. The Napoleonic Era

Th. 24 Apr. The patriotism and the desire for political and personal freedom

M. 28 Apr. Bismarck and the unification of Germany

Th. 1 May. Semester paper due (tentative)

M. 5 May Review

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