

Pforzheim University - ISP / IMEP
Lecture: The History of Post-War Germany
Lecturer: Leopold Steinbeis
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Winter Semester 2017
Thursday 19:00 – 20:30
Room: W1 3.02

Program:

October 05, 2017: Germany 1945: Unconditional Surrender, Occupation, Division

October 12, 2017: West Germany during the Adenauer Era (1949-1963)

Presentation 1: The Economic Miracle

October 19, 2017: West Germany after Adenauer until 1969

Presentation 2: The Student Movement and the APO

October 26, 2017: East Germany during the Ulbricht Era (1950-1971) I

Presentation 3: The Political System of East Germany

November 02, 2017: East Germany during the Ulbricht Era (1950-1971) II

Presentation 4: The Stasi

November 09, 2017: West Germany and the Social-Liberal Coalitions (1969-1982)

Presentation 5: Leftwing Terrorism

November 16, 2017: West Germany during the Kohl Era (1982-1989)

Presentation 6: Gorbachev, Glasnost and Perestroika

November 23, 2017: East Germany during the Honecker Era (1971-1989)

Presentation 7: The Inner German Border

November 30, 2017: The Break-Down of the GDR and the Reunification of Germany

Presentation 8: International Support and Opposition

December 07, 2017: Germany after the Reunification

Presentation 9: New Rightwing Movement and Rightwing Terrorism

December 14, 2017: Germany in the 21st Century

Presentation 10: The European Migrant Crisis

December 21, 2015: Exam

Course outline:

This lecture will provide a survey of German political and social history since the end of World War II in 1945. Starting with the unconditional surrender of Germany we will take a closer look at the events leading towards the division of Germany and the foundation of the two separate German states. We will then compare the historical developments in East and West Germany up to the reunification in 1990. Last but not least the lecture will deal with Germany's challenges after the reunification and in the 21st century.

Recommended literature:

Mary Fulbrook: A History of Germany 1918-2008 – The Divided Nation, Malden 2009.
Martin Kitchen: A History of Modern Germany – 1800 to the Present, Malden 2009.

Requirements:

A good command of the English language is absolutely necessary to be able to follow the complex topics of this class. Students have to be able to understand English well enough to process the information given and condense it into their own notes. There will be no script handed out.

For additional information on the topics presented students are required to consult the recommended literature which will be permanently present at the university library. Ask the staff at the front desk for the books for this lecture.

Attending the lectures is mandatory. Students can not miss more than 2 classes unexcused. Missing more than 2 classes unexcused means they failed and can not take the final exam. If students have already missed 2 classes and realize that they won't be able to attend further classes, they are required to inform the teacher in advance and get his ok.

Students are required to give a presentation in order to qualify for the exam. The topic of the presentation can either be one of the topics suggested by the teacher (see above) or students can propose a topic of their own within the frame work of this lecture. The presentation should take between 15 and 20 minutes and will be given during the lecture.

The final exam will be a mix of multiple choice questions and questions the students have to answer in their own words. There will not be negative points given for incorrect answers.

Examples:

Example 1: Who was the first Federal President of the Federal Republic of Germany? (1 Pt.)

Konrad Adenauer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theodor Heuss	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kurt Schumacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	Walter Ulbricht	<input type="checkbox"/>

Solution: The (1 Pt.) indicates that you can gain 1 point by choosing the correct answer (Theodor Heuss). It also indicates that only 1 answer is correct. Checking multiple boxes will result in 0 points.

Example 2: Which of the following were key concepts for Konrad Adenauer's policies? (3 Pts.)

Construction of Socialism	<input type="checkbox"/>	Western integration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rearmament	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anti-Communism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eastern integration	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political isolation	<input type="checkbox"/>

Solution: The (3 Pts.) indicates that you can gain 3 points by checking the correct boxes (Western integration, Rearmament and Anti-Communism). It also indicates that there are 3 correct answers. Checking more than 3 boxes will result in 0 points, regardless if any of the boxes were correct answers.

Example 3: Describe why the early years of Erich Honecker's rule over East Germany are often referred to as the "golden years" of the GDR. (3 Pts.)

Solution: This question requires you to answer in your own words. The (3 Pts.) indicates that you should mention 3 specific key words or aspects to gain all 3 points for your answer.

A possible correct answer would be:

The early days of the Honecker era are referred to as the golden years of the GDR because Honecker managed to significantly improve the living conditions for the people, increased industrial production and wages while at the same time achieving important foreign policy goals like membership of the United Nations Organisation.

Final Mark:

The final mark will consist of the mark for the presentation (25%) and the mark of the final exam (75%).