

Hist. 329.201/LACS 321.201

“Germans on the Move: German Migration and Local Communities
in Latin America and the Caribbean”

Summer Half Term 2015

Class hours: Mon/Wed 9:00am-12:00pm in G 127 Angell Hall

Instructor: Lenny A. Ureña Valerio

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Office: 3661 SSWB/International Institute (1080 S. University Ave.)

Office hours: Mon 2:00-3:30pm or by appointment

Course Description

Building upon recent developments in the history of German migration and transnational studies, this course will analyze the formation of the German nation from the perspective of Germans abroad and their relationship with local communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. We will study German colonial settlements in places like Brazil, Mexico, La Hispaniola, Venezuela, Chile, and Argentina, paying particular attention to the cultural relations that Germans established with indigenous and Afro-Latino societies amidst competing colonial/imperial projects in the region. What major political influences did the cultural dynamics of the so-called “New World” have on German subjects? What types of social networks and political connections did German migrants maintain with fellow Europeans and Germans in the “Old World”? How did they define and promote their “German-ness”? To what extent were they able to contribute to ideas shaping colonial/imperial processes, racial theories, and national identities?

Our study of the German diaspora in Latin American countries will focus on a variety of primary and secondary sources taken from the disciplines of literature, visual arts, philosophy, medicine, politics, and history. We will explore questions about race, ethnicity, and gender during major upheaval moments in history ranging from the national uprisings motivated by the French and Haitian Revolutions to outright projects of colonial domination and national expansion advocated by many in Imperial and Nazi Germany. We will analyze different types of German transatlantic movements throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries identifying major political tensions and cultural transformations across the Atlantic divide. Students will be able to compare and contrast the agendas of various social and ethnic groups (for example Poles and Jews) that came from German speaking lands in Central Europe and interacted with local populations.

Students taking the course will learn about different theoretical approaches to migration and colonial/imperial studies. They will also be able to understand how historians construct the past and how to make connections across time and space.

Course Requirements

Course requirements will consist of attendance and class participation, a midterm take-home exam, a book review, and a final presentation with a paper.

Grades

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and class participation	25%
Midterm Essay (2-3 pages)	25%
Book Review (3-5 pages)	25%
Final Presentation/Paper (3-5 pages)	25%

Attendance and Class Participation

Please come to class prepared to discuss the readings. A significant portion of your grade will be based on your active participation and contributions to the material presented in class. Active participation means making contributions to class discussions, demonstrating engagement with the course's subject matter in small-group exercises, and sending one or two questions about the readings the day before class on C-Tools.

I will take attendance during each class meeting. You may accrue one unexcused absence without incurring any penalty as far as your participation grade is concerned. I will, however, lower your participation grade by one increment (i.e., A- to B+) for each additional unexcused absence.

Midterm Essay

The midterm is a take-home exam that will be handed to you 7 days before its due date. The exam will be based on the lectures, discussion, and assigned readings. You will receive a choice of three questions and will answer one in an essay format (2-3 pages long). The midterm is due on Sunday, July 26, by 5:00pm on C-Tools.

Book Review

You are expected to write a critical review of Leo Spitzer's *Hotel Bolivia: The Culture of Memory in a Refuge from Nazism*. In a 3-5 page, double-spaced essay you will provide your own interpretation of the author's arguments and comment on the quality of the book. This assignment will be due on Monday, August 5, during class. You will be evaluated on your writing skills and overall analysis of the book.

Final Presentation and Paper

You are required to do an in-class presentation on the history of another major ethnic group that emigrated to Latin America/Caribbean (e.g. Italians, Japanese, Chinese, Ukrainians, Russians, Middle Easterners, Indians, etc.) during the nineteenth century and/or the first half of the twentieth century. Making comparisons with the experiences of German-speaking immigrants by drawing on the material discussed in class is strongly encouraged. You and your partner will have 30 minutes to present the researched information to class.

Even though you are working together in the presentation, your grade will be based on the final paper you will be submitting on Monday, August 17, by 5:00pm on C-Tools. The paper will be graded on three main points: logical coherence of your thesis, how well the paper is supported by evidence from documents (at least three reputable, academic sources), and your writing skills. The use of primary sources is highly recommended, but not required.

Readings

Leo Spitzer's *Hotel Bolivia: The Culture of Memory in a Refuge from Nazism* is currently out of print. But you may find used copies of this book on Amazon.com and other online bookstores. A copy of the book will also be available on reserve at the Shapiro Undergraduate Library.

A number of articles and book chapters will be available in pdf format on our C-Tools site. Please find them in the appropriate folder labeled by week under the "resources" tab.

Weekly Calendar and Reading Assignments

Week 1 Introduction

July 1 The German-Speaking World and Latin America: Overview of Themes

Week 2 The World Turned Upside Down: The French and Haitian Revolutions and the Reinvention of Europe and Latin America?

July 6 The Cultural and Political Effects of the French and Haitian Revolutions
Readings: Heinrich von Kleist, "The Betrothal in Santo Domingo," in *The Marquis of O- and Other Stories*, pp. 231-269.

July 8 A German Columbus?
Readings: Mary Louise Pratt, "Alexander von Humboldt and the Reinvention of América," in *Imperial Eyes*, pp. 111-137.
Fragments of Alexander von Humboldt and Aimé Bonpland's *Personal Narrative of Travels to the Equinoctial Regions of the New Continent*.

Week 3 Mass Migration to the New World

July 13 The Cases of Mexico and Venezuela
Readings: Jürgen Buchenau, "Blond and Blue Eyed in Mexico City, 1821 to 1975," in *The Heimat Abroad*, pp. 85-110.

Holger H. Herwig, "The German Community: Deutschtum as a Trojan Horse?," in *Germany's Vision of Empire in Venezuela*, pp. 47-79.

July 15 The Cases of Chile and Brazil
Readings: Giralda Seyferth, "German Immigration and Brazil's Colonization Policy," in *Mass Migration to Modern Latin America*, pp. 227-244.

Week 4 The Question of Gender and Race

July 20 Women and Immigration: The Cases of Argentina and Paraguay
Readings: Donna Guy, "On the Road to Buenos Aires," in *Sex and Danger in Buenos Aires*, pp. 5-36.
Ben McIntyre, "Asunción Docks, Paraguay, 15 March 1886" and "Elisabeth in Llamaland," in *Forgotten Fatherland: The Search for Elisabeth Nietzsche*, pp. 1-6 and 119-148.

July 22 The Anti-Slavery Movement
Readings: Martha Abreu, "Slave Mothers and Free Children: Emancipation and Female Space in Debates on the 'Free Womb' Law, Rio de Janeiro, 1871," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, pp. 567-580.

Midterm take-home exam is due on **Sunday, July 26, 2015 by 5:00pm (on C-Tools)**.

Week 5 Migration and Indigenous Communities

July 27 Exhibiting Indigenous Peoples and Human Zoos in Central Europe
Screening of Hans Mülchi and Christian Baez's *Calafate, Zoológicos Humanos* (2011).

July 29 Library visit to work on group presentations and final paper
Location TBA

Week 6 World Wars and Migration Movements

August 3 German Communities during the World Wars
Reading: Tammy M. Proctor, "'Patriotic Enemies': Germans in the Americas," in *Germans as Minorities During the First World War: A Global Comparative Perspectives*, pp. 213-234.

August 5 Anti-Semitism and Jewish Migration to Latin America
Reading: Allan Wells, "Our Ethnic Problem," in *Tropical Zion: General Trujillo, FDR, and the Jews of Sosúa*, pp. 3-27.
Leo Spitzer, *Hotel Bolivia* (**book review is due today in class**).

Week 7 Presentations

August 10 Groups will present their work in class

August 12 Groups will present their work in class

Week 8 Concluding Remarks

August 17 The Specter of Nazi Germany in Postwar Latin American Culture
Reading: Meredith Hoffman, "A Visit to Bariloche: Argentine's Haven for Fugitive Nazis," *Tablet Magazine*, pp. 1-12.

Final paper based on presentation and research work is due on **Monday, August 17, 2015 by 5:00pm (on C-Tools)**

Statement on Disabilities

If you need academic adjustments or accommodations because of a disability, please see me during the first week of class. Also, if you have not yet done so, you should notify the Disability Services Office, located in G 219 Angell Hall (phone 763-3000), of any special needs.

Statement on Academic Dishonesty

In the event that a student is discovered to have committed academic dishonesty, including cheating or plagiarism, the student will receive no grade on the assignment in question and the final grade will be calculated with no credit for the incomplete work. The matter may also be referred to the Dean's Office at the discretion of the instructor. Plagiarism includes the use of unattributed passages from printed or internet sources, even if the wording is altered or paraphrased. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please come to office hours.

Policies on Grading

Requests for reconsideration or changes in an assignment's or final grade should be made within a week of receiving your grade. You must turn in original copies of the assignment (or all the assignments in case of final grade), with the instructor's comments, in order to have your grade reconsidered.

Bibliography

- Abreu, Martha. "Slave Mothers and Free Children: Emancipation and Female Space in Debates on the 'Free Womb' Law, Rio de Janeiro, 1871." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 28, no. 3 (Oct. 1996): 567-580.
- Buchenau, Jürgen. "Blond and Blue Eyed in Mexico City, 1821 to 1975." In *The Heimat Abroad: The Boundaries of Germanness*. Edited by Krista O'Donnell, Nancy Reagin, and Renate Bridenthal, 231-269. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2005.
- Herwig, Holger H. "The German Community: Deutschtum as a Trojan Horse?," in *Germany's Vision of Empire in Venezuela 1871-1914*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1986.
- Hoffman, Meredith. "A Visit to Bariloche: Argentine's Haven for Fugitive Nazis." *Tablet Magazine*, April 29, 2014.
- Guy, Donna. *Sex and Danger in Buenos Aires: Prostitution, Family, and Nation in Argentina*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1991.
- McIntyre, Ben. *Forgotten Fatherland: The Search for Elisabeth Nietzsche*. London: Macmillan, 1992.
- Mülchi, Hans, and Christian Baez. *Calafate, Zoológicos Humanos (The Human Zoo: The Final Journey of Calafate)*. New York: Icarus Films, 2011.
- Pratt, Mary Louise. *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation*. London and New York: Routledge, 1992.
- Proctor, Tammy M. "'Patriotic Enemies': Germans in the Americas," in *Germans as Minorities During the First World War: A Global Comparative Perspectives*. Panikos Panayi, 213-234. Surrey, England, and Burlington, Vermont: Ashgate, 2014.
- Seyferth, Giralda. "German Immigration and Brazil's Colonization Policy." in *Mass Migration to Modern Latin America*. Edited by Samuel L. Baily and Eduardo Míguez, 227-244. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 2003.
- Spitzer, Leo. *Hotel Bolivia: The Culture of Memory in a Refuge from Nazism*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1998.
- Von Kleist, Heinrich. "The Betrothal in Santo Domingo." In *The Marquis of O- and Other Stories*. London and New York: Penguin Books, 1978.

Von Humboldt, Alexander and Aimé Bonpland. *Personal Narrative of Travels to the Equinoctial Regions of the New Continent*. Translated by Helen Maria Williams, Vol. IV. London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, and Brown, Paster Noster Row, 1819.

Wells, Allan. *Tropical Zion: General Trujillo, FDR, and the Jews of Sosúa*. Durnham: Duke University Press, 2009.

Young, George F. W. *The Germans in Chile: Immigration and Colonization, 1849-1914*. New York: Center for Migration Studies New York, 1974.