The history of the Weimar Republic has assumed mythic proportions in the last seventy years. Founded in defeat and revolution after the unprecedented barbarity of the First World War, wracked by crisis after crisis during its short life, Weimar brought a brief flowering of the arts, of democracy, of modernity before being snuffed out in the darkness that became the Third Reich. Much of German thought and art produced in the republic remains fundamental to undertaking any critique of the contemporary West; Weimar's turbulent end is often evoked as a salient warning against mass complacency and the dangers of antidemocratic politics.

This course delves beneath the surface of the myths to explore the daily experiences of Germans after the Great War: their ultimately futile hopes of a return to prewar prosperity, their fears of national decline; their uneasy fascination with their great cities and the transformations wrought by modernity; and their analyses of their culture and time that remain penetrating and poignant to this day.
**Course Texts**

The following books are available for purchase from the University Bookstore in the SUB:


Additional reading selections will circulate by email.

**Class Format**

This course is taught mainly through seminar discussion. All students are expected to complete all assigned readings before the class meets. It is critical that students keep firmly in mind that *participation in seminar is a fundamental part of satisfactory performance in the course*. Lively discussion, friendly and collegial argument, and a spirit of collective scholarly enterprise ensure that the seminar will be most rewarding for everyone. (In other words, you get out of it what you put in).

**Doing the readings ahead of time, being present and participating in class is absolutely essential to satisfactory performance.**

**Assignments**

All written work is to be submitted electronically only, sent to me as an email attachment. Please ensure that it is produced in an accessible format (MS-Word preferred).

You may choose one of two grading schemes, based on the sorts of assignments you prefer to do:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme 1</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Thematic Anayyses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due Friday of weeks 4, 7, 10 and 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each one written on one of our weekly topics</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2 = 17.5% ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment on common themes and issues you see in our readings/documents/discussions (4-5 pages)</td>
<td>3 &amp; 4 = 20% ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar attendance and participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCHEME 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>Due the last Friday in March (10-12 pages)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Thematic analyses</td>
<td>Due Friday of weeks 4 and 7</td>
<td>20% each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Each one written on one of our weekly topics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comment on common themes and issues you see in our readings/documents/discussions (4-5 pages)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar attendance and participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ESSAYS**

Papers on topics other than those approved explicitly by Prof. Bingham beforehand will not be accepted (i.e., will receive a 0).

**Format guidelines** and research help are available online at the Dalhousie History Department’s Style Guide. Follow the links from history.dal.ca → “For Current Students” → “Style Guide.” A hard copy is available free in the History Department, 1158 McCain.

Essays are to be word-processed, and submitted in MS-Word (preferred) or Adobe pdf format. Double-space, number your pages, use a 12-point font (10-point for foot/endnotes only is acceptable), and leave 1-inch margins. *Any paper that does not conform to these basic guidelines will be docked 5 percentage points automatically.* Please submit your essay as electronic attachment via email.

In order to be fair to all students, **extensions will be given only in cases of documented health or family emergencies.** It is each student’s responsibility to ensure that essays reach me by 11:59 pm. on the due date. Assignments will be accepted up to five days late; however, a **late penalty of three percentage points (3%) will incur for each day after the due date, including weekends.**

Finally, as cloud-based backup space is available for free from various providers such as MS Onedrive, iCloud, etc., and is easy to set up so your computer files back up automatically, **no extension will be granted on the basis of computer malfunction or difficulty.**

**Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation**

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams
should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A.

A note taker may be required as part of a student’s accommodation. There is an honorarium of $75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom, untouched, so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.

**Academic Integrity**

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the academicintegrity.dal.ca website. *Ignorance of such policies is not accepted as an excuse for violations.*

Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence that may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism; prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the Policy on Intellectual Honesty contained in the Calendar or on the Online Dalhousie website. The Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer-readable format, and to submit any paper to be checked electronically for originality. Students will be submitting electronic copies of their essays via the SafeAssign tool on the course OWL (BbLearn) page.

As a student in this class, you are to:

- make electronic copies of different drafts as you write ("Save As" function - Draft1, Draft2, etc.)
- keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit
- keep all your research notes until you have received a final grade for the course

You may be required to submit at any time one or all of your writing drafts, as well as your research notes.

If you have questions, please ask. Dalhousie offers extensive resources to help students understand and avoid plagiarism <http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html>.
## Schedule of Topics and Readings

- ✓ = Required reading
- ☐ = Selection distributed by email

### Weimar Republic Sourcebook = primary documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 1</th>
<th>Introductory: Weimar as...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 Jan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 2</th>
<th>After the War: Memory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 Jan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**READING:**
- ✓ Weitz, Introduction and chap. 1

**SUPP.:**
- *Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, chap. 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 3</th>
<th>The Great Disorder: From revolution to hyperinflation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 Jan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**READING:**
- ✓ Weitz, chap. 4
- ☐ Otto Friedrich, “A Kind of Madness,” “Things Would Never Be So Good Again”

**SUPP.:**
- *Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, chaps. 2-3
- Bernd Widdig, *Culture and Inflation in Weimar Germany*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 4</th>
<th>Modernity, America, and the Metropolis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 Jan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**READING:**
- ✓ Weitz, chap. 2
- ☐ McElligott, ed., city documents (various); Joseph Roth, “Nights in Dives”

**SUPP.:**
- John Willett, *Art & Politics in the Weimar Period*, 95-167
- *Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, chaps. 15-16
- Janet Ward, *Weimar Surfaces: Urban Visual Culture in 1920s Germany*
- Online: Thomas Saunders, *Hollywood in Berlin*, chap. 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 5</th>
<th>Behind the Screen: Weimar Cinema</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Feb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
READING: ✓ Weitz, chap. 6

Weimar Republic Sourcebook, chap. 25
Richard McCormick, Gender and sexuality in Weimar modernity: film, literature, and “new objectivity”

WEEK 6
11 Feb
Out on the Town: Mass Entertainment


SUPP. Peter Jelavich, Berlin Cabaret
John Willett, Brecht in Context, chap. 7
Weimar Republic Sourcebook, chaps. 21-24

WEEK 7
25 Feb
Political Culture

READING: ✓ Weitz, chap. 3

John Willett, Brecht in Context, chap. 10
Weimar Republic Sourcebook, chaps. 6, 9, 13

WEEK 8
4 Mar
Utility and Beauty: Architecture and Design

READING: ✓ Weitz, chap. 5
✓ Joseph Roth, “Architecture”; Bauhaus documents

SUPP. Walter Gropius, The New Architecture and the Bauhaus
Weimar Republic Sourcebook, chaps. 17-18

WEEK 9
Drawing with a Razor: Visual Art
18 Mar

READING: ✓ Lewis, George Grosz, 121-71; Winter, 159-67


WEEK 10

25 Mar

Transformations of Sex in Everyday Life

READING: ✓ Weitz, chap. 8
✓ McElligott, city documents (various); Lewis, “Lustmord”

SUPP. Weimar Republic Sourcebook, chs. 8, 27-29 Richard McCormick, Gender and sexuality in Weimar modernity: film, literature, and "new objectivity"

WEEK 11

1 Apr

Intellectuals Figuring it out

READING: ✓ Weitz, chap. 7

SUPP. Weimar Republic Sourcebook, chs. 11-14

WEEK 12

8 Apr

The Great Depression and the Rise of Nazism

READING: ✓ Weitz, chap. 9

SUPP. ✓ W.S. Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power, chs. 1-9 Weimar Republic Sourcebook, ch. 5