Germany

I. Critical Historical Junctures
II. Governance and Policy-Making
III. Representation and Participation
IV. Political Economy
V. Culture and Identity
I. Critical Historical Junctures

- Unification and Empire (1871-1918)
  - ‘Marriage of Iron and Rye’
- Weimar Republic (1919-33)
  - Problems of German Democracy
- Nazi Era (1933-45)
- Defeat and Division
- Establishment of the Federal Republic

Burning worthless paper money in Weimar Germany
Allied Zones of Occupation 1945
II. Governance and Policy-Making

A. The ‘Basic Law’ (*Grundgesetz*)

- Basic Rights and Civil Liberties
  - Constitutional Court & Judicial Review
- Federalism
  - *Länder* and division of powers
- Governmental Stability
  - Constructive Vote of No Confidence
  - Five Percent Rule
- Executive Authority
B. Governing Institutions

- **Legislature:** Bundestag (Federal Diet) and Bundesrat (Federal Council)
- **Executive:** Chancellor and President
- **The Länder**
- **Constitutional Court**
Germany’s Two-Ballot Elections
III. Representation and Participation

- Christian Democrats (CDU-CSU)
- Social Democrats (SPD)
- Free Democrats (FDP or ‘Liberals’)
- Greens (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen)
- The Left Party (Die Linke)/ Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS)

Germany’s CDU Chancellor
Angela Merkel
IV. Political Economy

The ‘Social Market Economy’ (*Sozialmarktwirtschaft*)

- Role of the State
  - ‘Growth with Equity’ with High Taxes
- Capital and Labor
  - Coordinating between Banks and Large Corporations
  - Co-determination (*Mitbestimmung*)
- Culture
  - Social Partnership and Negotiated Change
- Strains on the ‘High Everything’ Economy
V. Political Culture and Identity

- Legitimacy of Democracy
- Ethnicity and National Identity
  - Gastarbeiter (‘Guest Workers’)
- East-West Division
  - Wessies and Ossies
  - The ‘Wall in the Mind’
- Germany in Europe and the World
Q: On which period of German history should we focus?

Nazi Era?  Postwar Democracy?