his seminar will focus on the Weimar Republic, Germany’s first democratic state, its descent into National Socialism, and the continuing relevance of this history for contemporary German and European politics. In the first half of the seminar, we will examine the revolutionary political, social, and cultural developments that shaped Germany, and especially Berlin, between the end of World War I and Hitler’s rise to power. Two novels, Alfred Döblin’s *Berlin Alexanderplatz* (1929) and Irmgard Keun’s *The Artificial Silk Girl* (1933), will form the basis for discussions and conversations in which we explore the literary, artistic, scientific, and political developments of a rapidly modernizing society. In the second half of the seminar, we will investigate how the Weimar Republic as symbol for democratic collapse casts its long historical shadow on twenty-first century Germany and Europe.

Led by Gundolf Graml
Professor of German and Assistant Dean for Global Learning at Agnes Scott College
January 9, 2020: The Kaiser is Gone: World War I, Revolution, and a new German Republic
Topics: traumatic legacy of World War I; revolutionary turmoil in Germany; proclamation of the first republic; a new constitution for a new time.

January 16, 2020: Babylon Berlin: Between Modern Metropolis and Criminal Underworld
Reading: *Berlin Alexanderplatz*, chapters 4-6.
Topics: new visions of urban space; architectural developments; emerging theories of governing and policing metropolitan areas.

January 23, 2020: Hyperinflation: Weimar Germany and the Great Depression
Reading: *Berlin Alexanderplatz*, chapters 7-9.
Topics: the Great Depression in a German context; economic and political crises; the cultural effects of political turmoil.

January 30, 2020: The ‘New Woman’
Reading: Irmgard Keun: *The Artificial Silk Girl*.
Topics: women’s new visibility in the public sphere; the emergence of a female professional class.

February 6, 2020: Bodies and Sex
Film: Josef von Sternberg: *The Blue Angel* (1930).
Topics: changing social norms around sexuality.

February 13, 2020: Weimar Germany and National Socialism: Politics as Mass Spectacle
Reading/Films: Excerpts of political documents, diaries, newspaper articles, and films by Leni Riefenstahl and Luis Trenker.
Topics: National Socialism as disruption and continuity of Weimar; politics as “mass ornament;” anti-semitism as political weapon.

February 20, 2020: Weimar Legacies in Post-World War II East- and West-Germany
Reading: Excerpts of political documents, diaries, and newspaper articles.
Topics: Germany divided; communist vs. capitalist approaches to writing history.

February 27, 2020: (Weimar) Germany and Europe in the 21st Century
Topics: political fragmentation in the EU; return of anti-democratic tendencies in German politics.
The 34th annual Winter Seminar ASC’s Atlanta Alumnae Chapter is a series of classes for alumnae that provides the stimulation of the college classroom without the pressure of tests, papers or grades.

The Atlanta Chapter uses proceeds from the Winter Seminar to help fund an ASC student scholarship.

LOCATIONS

January 9-30
The home of
Lana Muller Jordan ’62
3657 Peachtree Rd NE
Apt. 7A
Atlanta, GA 30319-1284
404.264.9151

February 6-27
The home of
Ruth McManus Mansfield ’75
4243 W Club Ln NE
Atlanta, GA 30319-1139
404.231.9285

MEETING TIME

Thursdays from 9:45 a.m. ’til noon

Registration will be strictly online through Eventbrite.

FEE: $100 per person (non-refundable)
The eight sessions are a single unit.
No checks will be accepted.

Early-bird registration for former hosts will open on Tuesday, October 1, at 9 a.m. Former hosts will receive an email with the link to register that morning, and registration will remain open until the end of the day on October 15.

General registration will open on Friday, November 1, at 9 a.m. Please go to winterseminar2020.eventbrite.com to register. Registration confirmations will be sent via email, so please include your email address when you register online. Space is limited, so register in a timely manner—last year the seminar sold-out in 3 hours. You may register for yourself and one other alumna or previous WS attendee. If you have trouble registering online through Eventbrite, please call the Alumnae Office for technical support at 404.471.6323, M-F, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For general information, contact

Betty Derrick ’68 at bderrick1968@att.net or 404.256.1998
or
Janet Bolen Joiner ’73 at janet.b.joiner@gmail.com or 404.797.7492.