German 376: 
The Holocaust as History

This course explores the causes and consequences of what was arguably the most horrific event in all of history. Topics include both the long-term origins of the Holocaust in European racism and anti-Semitism and the more immediate origins in the dynamics of the Nazi state and the war against the Soviet Union. Particular attention will be given to debates and controversies, including the motivations of German and non-German perpetrators, bystanders, and collaborations, the place of the Jews and non-Jews in Holocaust historiography, the continuities of racism and genocide and their comparability, and the consequences of the Holocaust for memory and world politics.

To Purchase at Amherst Books (8 Main St, tel. 256-1547):


All books are available on two-hour reserve at DuBois library.

To Download and Print from WebCT

Coursepack articles in .pdf format (see appendix)

WebCT

All students must have an OIT account and regularly check the WebCT site for this course. The WebCT site contains this syllabus, the reading assignments, the lecture outlines (posted by 2pm on the day before class), and handouts like exam review questions and paper topics. Students are encouraged to print the outlines before class for note-taking during lecture and discussion. You can also check your grades on assignments on WebCT; rest assured that WebCT prevents other students from seeing your grades.

Assignments and Grade Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of final grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Reading Assignments</td>
<td>(not graded, see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Essay, 5-10 pages</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus on Reading Assignments</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Letter grade equivalencies:  
A=92.5-100; A-=89.5-92.4; B+=87.5-89.4; B=82.5-88.4; B-=79.5-82.4;  
C+=77.5-79.4; C=72.5-78.4; C-=69.5-72.4; D+=67.5-69.4; D=62.5-68.4; D-=59.5-62.4;  
F=below 59.5.

**Discussion**

The discussion grade is based on attendance and participation. Keep in mind that participation includes engaging and listening to other students.

**Reading Assignments**

The weekly reading assignments are ungraded—that is, students will receive 100% if they submit them on time and make a good-faith effort to answer all the questions. The assignments will be posted one week prior to the due date on WebCT. Answers do not have to be in full sentences but must sufficiently answer the questions. I strongly prefer typed answers. Students who handwrite their answers must have them approved and returned by me in the minutes before class. Students who come late to class must turn in their assignments to me upon entering.

One of the purposes of these assignments is to give students incentive to prepare for discussion in class. Hence, reading assignments turned in late without a legitimate excuse will be marked down 40 points. There is no penalty for turning in the assignments early to my box in Herter Hall 513.

Students do not need to complete all the assignments to get an A in the class, though doing them all will surely help in that goal. To get 100 on the reading assignment portion of the grade, students need to have a weighted average of 80 percent or above on all the reading assignments. Students with an average over 80 percent will receive only 100 on their reading assignment portion of their grade but will have bonus points added to their final grade according to the following formula: 

\[
\text{Bonus Points} = \frac{(\text{weighted average on all reading assignments}) - 80}{10}
\]

Thus, students who complete all the reading assignments on time will have 2 bonus points added to their final grade. Some examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
<th>Pages in Assignment</th>
<th>Grades, Student A</th>
<th>Grades, Student B</th>
<th>Grades, Student C</th>
<th>Grades, Student D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Pages: 1492

Percentage of Reading Completed: 100  
Final Reading Assignment Grade: 100  
Bonus Points Added to Final Grade: 2.0
An additional incentive to complete the reading assignments: More than half of the questions on the exams will come from the reading assignments.

Exams

The exams will consist of about ten short-answer questions like the reading questions. Students chose about seven to answer. The final exam is not cumulative: It covers only the reading and lecture material after March 17th. Prof. Donson will post a list of the possible exam questions ten days before the exam.

Paper

Papers may be on any topic on the history of the Holocaust, including representations of the genocide. Students are not expected to consult outside readings for the paper. If they wish to write a research paper, however, they must submit a brief proposal and bibliography and get approval by May 8th. Topics and style sheets for the five- to ten-page paper will be available two weeks before the draft of the paper is due. Students may rewrite their papers for a higher grade as many times as they wish provided they submit a first draft by May 8th.

Turnitin.com

Students must submit their papers to turnitin.com to be verified for their originality before they are due. First, if you don’t already have a user name and password for turnitin.com:

1) Go to www.turnitin.com
2) Click on “New User,” just above the login, upper right corner.
3) Enter as user type: student.
4) Enter the class ID 1455644 and the course password “Wallenberg”.
5) Enter your email address
6) Select a turnitin.com password. Passwords are case-sensitive and require at least one letter and one number.
7) Select a secret question and question answer.
8) Enter your name.
9) Agree to the disclaimer.
10) Click end wizard and log in.
11) Follow the online instructions. Don’t forget your personal password!

If you already have a user name and password for turnitin.com:

1) Go to www.turnitin.com
2) Login with email address and turnitin.com password
3) Click on my classes
4) Click on enroll in a class
5) Enter the class ID 1455644 and the course password “Wallenberg”.
6) Follow the online instructions from there

Second, when you are ready, submit your paper to turnitin.com:

1) Logon www.turnitin.com with your email address and personal password (not the course password).
2) Click on the link below “enter a class” (in the middle of the page)
For the appropriate assignment, click on submit. Click on “Browse” and choose the computer file of your paper (you can give it a title if you want); click “Open” in the first dialogue box; and click submit in the second dialogue box. Or on the drop-down menu at the top of the box, select submit paper by “cut & paste”; copy your paper to the clipboard and paste it in the white box; and click submit.

Student Responsibilities

- A late paper without a legitimate excuse may be marked down five points for each day it is late. Students who speak to Prof. Donson promptly about late papers will have fewer points deducted than those who avoid the issue.
- Paper not submitted to turnitin.com will receive a grade of zero.
- Please give Prof. Donson a paper copy of your paper as well as submitting it electronically to turnitin.com.
- Late reading assignments will be marked down forty points. The last day to submit late assignments is May 17th.
- Papers and reading assignments may not be emailed unless you receive prior written permission and have a legitimate reason.
- There will be no make up for exams without a legitimate excuse.
- Legitimate excuses: To receive a legitimate excuse, a student should show good faith by contacting Prof. Donson in person or by email or telephone before the paper is due or the exam is given. Some examples of a legitimate excuse are illness or death of a friend or family member (there are others as well). Having too much homework is not a legitimate excuse.
- Please retain a second copy of your paper until it is returned.
- Please hold all graded assignments until you receive your final grade.
- Please respect a 24-hour moratorium on discussing any individual grade.
- For all written assignments, use of internet sites is unacceptable. Students must write about texts assigned unless they receive prior written permission.
- Plagiarizing or cheating, including passing off someone else’s work as your own, is a serious violation of academic integrity. If you are panicked and can’t finish your paper or assignment, plan to hand it in late and take a penalty of a few points. We happily work with students who are having trouble. We reserve the right to lower the grade of a student caught plagiarizing or cheating or to fail him or her for the entire course. Students found to have committed acts of academic dishonesty may also face suspension or expulsion from the University. Note that we regularly use tools like turnitin.com, which makes detecting plagiarism easy. For the University of Massachusetts’s academic honesty policy, see www.umass.edu/dean_students/rights/acad_honest.htm

Calendar of Exams, Papers, and Readings Assignments

- Please read the selections in the order they appear on the schedule.
- Readings with a number are on electronic reserve on WebCT (not at the library).

1 Wed Feb 1 Introduction
   Fri Feb 3 History of the Jews

2 Mon Feb 6 Long-Term Origins of the Holocaust

Reading Assignment #1 due (104 pp.)
Bergen, War & Genocide, 1-28

Wed Feb 8  Long-Term Origins of the Holocaust II
Fri Feb 10 Long-Term Origins of the Holocaust III
3  Mon Feb 13 Long-Term Origins of the Holocaust IV
   Last day to drop without a W

**Reading Assignment #2 due (86 pp.)**
Bergen, *War & Genocide*, 29-80 (Nazism, Third Reich)

Wed Feb 15 The Rise of the Nazis
Fri Feb 17 The Third Reich I

4  Mon Feb 20 No class. Presidents Day
   Tue Feb 21 The Third Reich II
   **Follow your Monday schedule**

**Reading Assignment #3 due (90 pp.)**
Bergen, *War & Genocide*, 81-131

Wed Feb 22 The Third Reich III
Fri Feb 24 The Third Reich IV

5  Mon Feb 27 War, Occupation, and Ghettoization

**Reading Assignment #4 (67 pp.)**
Bergen, *War & Genocide*, 131-44

Wed Mar 1  War, Occupation, and Ghettoization II
Fri Mar 3  War, Occupation, and Ghettoization III

6  Mon Mar 6  Representations of Genocide I

**Reading Assignment #5 due (200 pp.)**
Spiegelman, *Maus*, vol. 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>Representations of Genocide II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Mar 10</td>
<td>Representations of Genocide III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Operation Barbarossa: The War against the Soviet Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Reading assignment #6 due (89 pp.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bergen, <em>War &amp; Genocide</em>, 144-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>Exam review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Mar 20</td>
<td>No class. Spring break.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Mar 22</td>
<td>No class. Spring break.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Mar 24</td>
<td>No class. Spring break.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>The Final Solution: Origins I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Reading Assignment #7 due (84 pp.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bergen, <em>War &amp; Genocide</em>, 161-204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Mar 29</td>
<td>The Final Solution: Origins II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Last day to drop with a W</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Mar 31</td>
<td>The Final Solution: Origins III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>The Wannsee Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Reading Assignment #8 due (102 pp.)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bergen, <em>War &amp; Genocide</em>, 205-220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Apr  5</td>
<td>The Perpetrators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Apr  7</td>
<td>The Goldhagen Debate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Representations of Genocide IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Reading Assignment #9 due (180 pp.)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6
Spiegelmann, *Maus*, vol. 2
11. Marrus and Paxton, *Vichy France and the Jews*, 343-72

Wed Apr 12  Italy

Fri Apr 14  France

11 Mon Apr 17  Representations of Genocide VI

**Reading Assignment #10 due (208 pp.)**
Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

Wed Apr 19  Denmark and Holland

Fri Apr 21  Poland I

12 Mon Apr 24  No class. Patriots Day.

Wed Apr 26  Poland II

**Reading Assignment #11 due (100 pp.)**

Fri Apr 28  Eastern Europe

13 Mon May 1  Bystanders (75 pp.)

**Reading Assignment #12 due (75 pp.)**
Horowitz, “Places far away, places very near,” in Bartov, 204-19

Wed May 3  Rescue

Fri May 5  Comparative Genocide I

14 Mon May 8  Comparative Genocide II
**Last day to submit a draft of a paper for comments.**

**Reading Assignment #13 due (107 pp.)**
Bergen, *War & Genocide*, 221-29
Wed  May 10  Memory I
Fri  May 12  Memory II
15  Mon  May 15  Open

**Paper due.**

Wed  May 17  Exam review

**Last day to turn in late assignments without written permission.**

**Final exam:**  Date to be announced.
Coursepack for History 197: The Holocaust
Prof. Andrew Donson

The following are available on electronic reserve on WebCT: