Course Description and Goals

In twenty-first century America, the murder of approximately six million European Jews by Nazi Germany remains a central event in our political, moral, and cultural universe. Nevertheless, the Holocaust still confounds historians' efforts to understand both the motivations of the perpetrators and the suffering of the victims. In this course, we will study the origins and implementation of the Holocaust from the divergent perspectives of perpetrators and victims. We will investigate deeply the interaction of individual lives and world historical events. We will also examine the Holocaust within the larger context of the history of World War II in Europe and historians' debates about Germany's exterminatory war aims.

This course has four main goals:

• to deepen your understanding of the events and experiences known as the Holocaust, challenging received knowledge and investigating particular areas of interest;
• to introduce you to different approaches to the study of the Holocaust;
• to explore the relationship between personal experience, historical events, and forms of representation;
• to challenge you to develop your skills at reading, writing, discussing, and analyzing.

Assigned Readings

The following books are for sale in the bookstore. They are also on reserve in the library.


In addition, a course packet with required readings is available for purchase in the History Department Office (Stetson 310).

**Course Requirements**

You are expected to abide the Honor Code in executing all course assignments. If you are uncertain about how the Honor Code applies to your work in this class, please come speak to me. You can also consult the Student Handbook for more information concerning the Honor Code.

1) Readings and Discussions

You are expected to attend all class meetings and to complete the readings by the date assigned. Participation in the discussions of these readings is an essential part of the course. In addition, we will watch a number of films outside of class. The films are part of the course requirements. Attendance at the films is mandatory. All films are in Griffin 5. Participation is worth 30% of your final grade.

2) Written Assignments

   a) **Six papers** (4 double-spaced typed pages, standard margins, Times 12-point font) based on the readings and films are required. I will give you questions to write about in advance. **Papers are due at the beginning of class.** I will not accept late papers. These papers are worth 40% of your final grade.

   b) **Final paper** (6-8 double-spaced typed pages) is a short research paper exploring one aspect of the history or historiography of the Holocaust. I can recommend topics and texts. You need to meet with me to discuss your plan for the paper before spring break. **Due date: Monday, May 16th at 5 pm in my Stetson mailbox.** This paper is worth 25% of your final grade.
c) **Map Quiz: Monday, February 21**. You should be able to locate the following places on a blank map of Europe. To prepare, use the maps in your books and an atlas of the Holocaust, if necessary. Some places are spelled differently in different atlases. Ask if you are unsure about a place-name. The quiz is worth 5% of your final grade.

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**Weekly Schedule**

**Thursday, February 3**: Introduction: Why study the Holocaust? Terminology

**Monday, February 7**: Modern Anti-Semitism, German Anti-Semitism


**Thursday, February 10**: Nazi Anti-Semitism: Redemptive?

**PAPER DUE

**Monday, February 14: Jewish life in Europe before the Third Reich: hope of emancipation, diversity, coping with anti-Semitism**


**Thursday, February 17: Nazi racial state before the war, 1933-1935**


**Monday, February 21: Jewish life in the Third Reich, 1933-1938**

Readings: Marion Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, 17-73; 94-118.

**MAP QUIZ**

**Thursday, February 24: Toward genocide? 1938-1939**


**PAPER DUE**

CLASS MEETS IN SAWYER LIBRARY WITH REFERENCE LIBRARIAN LORI DUBOIS.

***Film Screening – Sunday, February 27***

"Paragraph 175" (81 min.) in GRIFFIN 5 at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

**Monday, February 28: Nazi Persecution of the Disabled, Homosexuals, "Asocials"**

Film: "Paragraph 175"

**Thursday, March 3: Invasion of Poland: Expulsion and Concentration, 1939-1941**

Readings: Christopher Browning, *Path to Genocide*, 3-56 (packet).

**Monday, March 7: Jewish Life in the Warsaw Ghetto (I)**
Readings: Chaim Aron Kaplan, *Scroll of Agony*.

**Thursday, March 10: Jewish Life in the Warsaw Ghetto (II)**
Readings: Chaim Kaplan, *Scroll of Agony*.

**PAPER DUE**

**Monday, March 14: Jewish Responses in Eastern and Western Europe**

**Thursday, March 17: "The Final Solution": Plans and Decisions**

Enjoy spring break!!

**Monday, April 4: Ordinary Men (I)?**
Readings: Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men*.

**Thursday, April 7: Ordinary Men (II)?**
Readings: Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men*.

**PAPER DUE**

***Film Screening – Sunday, April 10***
"Come and See" (142 min.) in GRIFFIN 5 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

**Monday, April 11: Operation Barbarossa and the Barbarization of Warfare**

Film: "Come and See"

Thursday, April 14: Neighbors
Readings: Jan T. Gross, Neighbors.

Monday, April 18: Perpetrators: the Possibilities of Empathy
Readings: Gitta Sereny, Into That Darkness.

Thursday, April 21: Perpetrators: the Limits of Empathy
Readings: Gitta Sereny, Into That Darkness.

**PAPER DUE**

Monday, April 25: The Implications of the "Racial State" for Other (non-Jewish) "Social Outsiders" to the Third Reich

Thursday, April 28: Auschwitz

***Film Screenings – "Shoah"***

Thursday, April 28:
"Shoah" disc one (141 min.) in GRIFFIN 5 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 1:
"Shoah" disc two (141 min.) in GRIFFIN 5 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Monday, May 2: Perpetrators, Collaborators, Bystanders (I)
Discussion of "Shoah"

***Film Screenings – "Shoah"***

Tuesday, May 3:
"Shoah" disc three (141 min.) in GRIFFIN 5 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
**Wednesday, May 4:**
"Shoah" disc four (141 min.) in GRIFFIN 5 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

**Thursday, May 5: Rescue, Resistance (II)**
Discussion of "Shoah"

**Monday, May 9: Jewish Resistance and Survival**

**PAPER DUE**

**Thursday, May 12: Representation, Memory, and the Second Generation**
Readings: Art Spiegelman, *Maus I and II*.

**FINAL PAPERS DUE MONDAY, MAY 16 at 5 pm**