Nazi Politics and Medicine
Wed 11:45-1:30pm
Callaway S103

Instructors: Prof. Sander Gilman (S420-Callaway, Sander34@aol.com)
Asst. Prof. Astrid M. Eckert (217 Bowden Hall, ph: 7-1096, aeckert@emory.edu)

Office Hours: Prof. Gilman by appointment (please email Dr. Gilman to set up an appointment)
Prof. Eckert Wed, 2-4pm and by appointment.

Course description: Medicine in Germany from 1933 to 1945 provides extreme examples of the excesses of modern medical culture. This course, sponsored by the Holocaust Museum (Washington), will examine questions such as the biologization of politics; models of public health - euthanasia and sterilization; the death camps and medical research - race and genetics; alternative medicine; gender roles in medicine: doctors and nurses in Nazi culture; disability and citizenship -- the origin of informed consent and the Nuremberg Medical Code. All of these questions will be introduced by an overview of the political history and ideology of German culture from the 1920s to 1945. This class is simultaneously offered in the College (History, IDS, ILA); The Schools of Medicine, Public Health and Nursing.

Course Requirements:

40% Attendance and active participation
5% annotated bibliography
5% draft topic
10% first draft
40% final draft

The papers for graduate students in this class are 20-25 pages in length, those for College undergraduates 15-20pp. Further details for course requirements are to be worked out with the instructors based on the requirements of each college.

Course Website & Communication:

This class is sponsored by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). The Museum grants us exclusive access to a website containing images and primary sources. A lot of this material has been translated for our class and is available for the first time in English. Please make active use of these materials for your papers. You find the website here: http://resources.ushmm.org/deadlymedicine/class/
The site is password protected. You will receive username and password in class.

For this class, a LearnLink conference has been set up which will be our main communication platform. Please check the conference frequently, it will contain announcements, further information and, hopefully, some discussion.
Books to Buy

Available at the Emory Bookstore:


Note: The bookstore will begin returning books by September 7! Make sure to have your books before that date!

Course Policies:

This course adheres to the Emory College’s Honor Code, found at: http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html

This course follows the rules outlined in the Honor Code, especially where plagiarism is concerned. If we suspect that any writing assignment (including the draft paper) is plagiarized, either in part or in its entirety, we are required to hand the matter over to the Honor Council. This also applies to “patching,” the practice of copying a sentence and exchanging a word or two. If you are not fully aware of what plagiarism is, ask us and/or refer to the honor code. It is your duty to be fully aware what plagiarism is. If in doubt, ask!

Assignments must be turned in on the day and time indicated on this syllabus. Late submissions will be marked down by half a grade per day late. For example, if you have written a B paper, you will receive a B- if you have turned it in one day late, a C+ for two days late, etc. Papers with frequent grammatical and spelling errors are ineligible for any grade better than B.

Grading Scale:

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-94</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>93-90</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>86-83</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>64 or lower</td>
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Course Schedule

W 9/2 The healing-to-killing road of Nazi Medicine

How did the health-science profession in Germany get on the trajectory from healing to killing? What is the relevance of the Nazi medical crimes to the health-science profession today? Is scientific research ‘neutral’? Is it ethically permissible to use data from Nazi experiments for research today?
How do human rights and medicine intersect?

Readings:


**W 9/9** The 19th century intellectual roots of eugenic thinking, social engineering and hygiene

Readings:


Primary Sources:
1) Charles Darwin: “The Origins of Species” (1859)
   2) Francis Galton: “Eugenics: Its Definition, Scope and Aims” (1909)

   Please note: both texts are in ONE file on e-reserve.

Extra Graduate Student Reading:

**W 9/16** The Weimar Years, 1919-1933

Readings:


(on e-reserve)

Extra Graduate Student Reading:

**W 9/23** The Rise & Consolidation of National Socialism

Readings:


Primary Sources: Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, excerpts

**W 9/30** Women in National Socialism: The Politics of the Reproducing Body

Readings:


**W 10/7** Race and Medicine -- Doctors and Patients

Readings:

DEADLINE: Submit the annotated bibliography, listing 3 monographs and 5 articles pertaining to your project. If you want to include a title that is already part of this syllabus, you may do so but need to find an extra one so that your own research contribution is still 3 books and 5 articles.

W 10/14 The Disabled: The Deaf in the Nazi Social Order

Readings:
Please note: these texts are three different files on e-reserve.

DEADLINE: TOPIC DUE
Submit a 1-2 page proposal of your research paper. What is your topic? What do you want to find out, what questions are you asking? Why does your topic matter? Which sources do you want to draw upon? This is a formal piece of writing.

W 10/21 Writing a Research Paper – Some Practical Tips

In this meeting, we will talk about the nuts ‘n bolts of writing a research paper: How to develop a question, structure a paper, write an introduction, assemble a bibliography, avoid plagiarism. The session is mandatory.

W 10/28 Homosexuality under National Socialism

Guest Lecture by Dr. Richard F. Wetzel, German Historical Institute (GHI), Washington, D. C.

Readings:


Primary Sources:
Josef Meisinger on "Combating Homosexuality as a Political Task" (April 5-6, 1937)
Eugenics and Euthanasia: Mental Health and the Question of “Superfluous Life”

Guest Speaker: Rosemarie Garland Thomson, ILA


Proctor, *Racial Hygiene*, ch. 4, pp. 95-117. – on sterilization law

Proctor, *Racial Hygiene*, ch. 7, pp. 177-222. – on “lives not worth living”

Primary Source: Eye witness account by Lilly Offenbacher about Euthanasia (“T4”) Program, September 1941

Signed Letter by Hitler Authorizing Euthanasia Killings (backdated Sept. 1, 1939)

Nursing and Alternative Medicine in the 3rd Reich


http://www.baycrest.org/Winter%202002/article4.htm


The Problem of “Good” Medical Science: Tobacco and Cancer vs. “Bad” Medical Science: Mengele and the Twin Experiments


Eva Mozes Kor, *Echoes from Auschwitz: Dr. Mengele's Twins, the Story of Eva and Miriam Mozes*. (Terre Haute, IN: Candles, 1995), pp. v-iii, 91-137. (the book is on reserve, but not the excerpt)

**DEADLINE:** Draft 1 due. Submit a draft of your paper. The draft must be complete and contain the bibliography (not annotated).

**W 11/25** Viewing “Out of the Ashes” film based on the memoirs by Gisella Perl, *I was a doctor at Auschwitz*

It is College Policy that classes take place on Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

No readings – a chance to work on your papers

**W 12/2** The Nuremberg Medical Trials and the Origins of Informed Consent in the United States: The “Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital Case”

This is the last class meeting.

Readings: Nuremberg Trial excerpts

Primary readings: http://www.ushmm.org/research/doctors/index.html


**W 12/9** no class

**DEADLINE:** FINAL DRAFT DUE BY Wednesday, Dec. 9. Please email your papers in standard file format (doc or docx) to Sander34@aol.com and aeckert@emory.edu. Please do not mail your papers via LearnLink. LL is unreliable.