This course concerns an event of world-historical significance: Nazi Germany's attempt during the Second World War to exterminate European Jews. How did the Holocaust happen, step by step? What patterns can be found in who died and who survived, who murdered and who saved? What can we learn from such extremes about politics, and about ourselves?

Students who enrol in this course do not need to have studied the Holocaust before. On the other hand, students with considerable background will still find much new material, and many new opportunities for insight and challenge. Regardless of background, everyone should be clear at the outset that studying the Holocaust is deeply upsetting. All of us, at various points during the semester, will find ourselves disturbed and unnerved.

Reading assignments will average about 120 pages each week. Class sessions will blend lecture and discussion. Feel free to contact me one-on-one with questions, suggestions, reactions, or concerns.

### Course requirements

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<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>(30%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Take-home midterm exam, due October 18</td>
<td>(30%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-home final exam</td>
<td>(40%)</td>
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### Texts

Part of the readings for this course will be made available on-line. Please print out these materials, mark them up, and bring them to class. The following five books are recommended for purchase, although the Library has copies on reserve:


### Schedule of Topics and Readings

1. Thursday, September 8
   - **INTRODUCTION**
Film screening in class: *Night and Fog* (France, 1955), directed by Alain Resnais

2. Tuesday, September 13
   WHERE DOES THE STORY START?
   Readings: Hilberg, *Destruction of the European Jews*, 5-15
   *Dwork and van Pelt, *Holocaust: A History*, xvii-xx, 3-49

3. Thursday, September 15
   WEIMAR AND HITLER
   Readings: Kershaw, *Hitler*, 1-17, 41-53
   *Nazi Party program, 1920 (Arad, 15-18)
   *Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, 50-65, 300-8, 324-29

4. Tuesday, September 20
   THE NAZI SEIZURE OF POWER
   Readings: Kershaw, *Hitler*, 61-93
   *documents on the army (Noakes & Pridham, 624, 633-36)

5. Thursday, September 22
   NAZI PROPAGANDA
   Readings: Kershaw, *Hitler*, 53-59, 105-117
   *Klemperer, *I Will Bear Witness*, 5-17, 40-42, 74-77
   *Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, 176-86, 579-89
   Film screening in class: excerpts from *The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl* (Germany, 1993), directed by Ray Muller

6. Tuesday, September 27
   ARYAN AND JEW
   *Nazi legislation, 1933-1935, and documents on Kristallnacht (Arad, 37-42; Noakes & Pridham, 530-41; Arad, 102-17)

7. Thursday, September 29
   1939: WAR ON SLAVS AND JEWS
   Readings: Hilberg, *Destruction of the European Jews*, 64-96
   *documents on the Nazi occupation of Poland (Noakes & Pridham, 922-41)

8. Tuesday, October 4
   NAZI-OCCUPIED EUROPE
   Kershaw, *Hitler*, 146-57
   *documents on euthanasia (Noakes & Pridham, 1019-43)

9. Thursday, October 6
   MASS MURDER IN THE EAST
   *documents on Einsatzgruppen*, 1941-42 (Noakes & Pridham, 483-509)
10. Thursday, October 13
   THE FINAL SOLUTION
   Readings: Hilberg, *Destruction of the European Jews*, 138-68
   *Browning, "From 'Ethnic Cleansing' to Genocide," 1-25

11. Tuesday, October 18
   **Midterm exam due**, 11:00AM
   Film screening in class: *The Wannsee Conference* (Germany, 1984), directed by Heinz Schirk

12. Thursday, October 20
   NEIGHBORS
   Readings: Gross, *Neighbors*,

13. Tuesday, October 25
   POLISH AND GERMAN PERPETRATORS
   Readings: Gross, *Neighbors*,
   Hilberg, *Destruction of the European Jews*, 263-93

14. Thursday, October 27
   DEPORTATION
   *Browning, *Ordinary Men*, 26-37

15. Tuesday, November 1
   THE EXTERMINATION CAMPS
   *documents on Chełmno, Belżec, Sobibór, Treblinka (Noakes & Pridham,\(^2\) 544-65)
   *Höss, *Death Dealer*, 155-64

16. Thursday, November 3
   CLASS CANCELED

17. Tuesday, November 8
   Film screening in class: excerpts from *Shoah* (France, 1985), directed by Claude Lanzmann

18. Thursday, November 10
   Film screening in class: more excerpts from *Shoah*

19. Tuesday, November 15
   AUSCHWITZ
   Readings: *documents on Auschwitz (Noakes & Pridham,\(^2\) 583-607)

20. Thursday, November 17
   THE END
*Wiesel, *Night*, 76-109

21. Tuesday, November 22
ATTEMPTS AT RESISTANCE AND RESCUE
Readings: Hilberg, *Destruction of the European Jews*, 293-331
Film screening in class: more excerpts from *Shoah* (interview with Karski)

THANKSGIVING BREAK

22. Tuesday, November 29
THE POLITICS OF SILENCE

23. Thursday, December 1
CONFRONTING THE HOLOCAUST IN AMERICA?

24. Tuesday, December 6
CONFRONTING THE HOLOCAUST IN POLAND?
Film screening in class: *Birthplace* (Poland, 1992), directed by Paweł Łoziński

25. Thursday, December 8
COMPARISON
Readings: Novick, *Holocaust in American Life*, 267-81
*Gordon, "The Theater of Terror," 252-73

26. Tuesday, December 13
CONCLUSIONS
Readings: Kershaw, *Hitler*, 205-17
*Deak, "The Incomprehensible Holocaust," 67-88
*Wiesel, "A Plea for the Dead," 67-77
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Author, title, etc. [original date, if different from that of the English translation]</th>
<th>page #s</th>
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<td>&quot;Gentile Life under German Occupation,&quot; and &quot;Jewish Life under German Occupation.&quot; In Dwork and van Pelt, Holocaust: A History.</td>
<td>153-65, 227-38</td>
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ASSIGNED READINGS
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PART II


