GER 331: Topics in Holocaust Studies: Children in the Shadow of the Swastika
Crosslistings: L56 Children’s Studies 3331; L75 JNE 387; L97 IAS 3318; L79 EuSt 3318; L22 History 3331
Fall 2007

Course Info:
Instructor: Dr. Erin McGlothlin
Class time: Monday/Wednesday, 2:30-4
Class location: Eads 215
Telephone: 935-4288
E-mail: mcglothlin@wustl.edu
Office: 421 Ridgley
Office hours: Wednesday 4-5; Friday 2-3

Course Description:
This course will approach the history, culture and literature of Nazism, World War II and the Holocaust by focusing on one particular aspect of the period - the experience of children. Children as a whole were drastically affected by the policies of the Nazi regime and the war it conducted in Europe, yet different groups of children experienced the period in radically different ways, depending on who they were and where they lived. By reading key texts written for and about children, we will first take a look at how the Nazis made children – both those they considered “Aryan” and those they designated “enemies” of the German people, such as Jewish children - an important focus of their politics. We will then examine literary texts and films that depict different aspects of the experience of European children during this period: daily life in the Nazi state, the trials of war and bombardment in Germany and the experience of expulsion from the East and defeat, the increasingly restrictive sphere in which Jewish children were allowed to live, the particular difficulties children faced in the Holocaust, and the experience of children in the immediate postwar period. Course conducted entirely in English. OPEN TO FRESHMEN. Credit: 3 units.

Texts:
Bauer, Elwira Trust No Fox on His Green Heath and No Jew on His Oath (ERES)
Louis Begley Wartime Lies
Fritz Brennecke The Nazi Primer: Official Handbook for Schooling the Hitler Youth (ERES)
Michael Burleigh and selections from The Racial State: Germany (ERES)
Wolfgang Wipperman
Fritz Fink selections from The Jewish Question in Education (ERES)
Günter Grass Cat and Mouse
David Grossman “Momik” (ERES)
Erich Hackl Farewell Sidonia (ERES)
Ernst Hiemer The Poisonous Mushroom (ERES)
Imre Kertész Fatelessness
Jost Hermand A Hitler Youth in Poland
Ruth Klüger Still Alive
Harry Mulisch The Assault
Lisa Pine selections from Nazi Family Policy, 1933-1945 (ERES)
Wolfgang W. E. Samuel selections from The War of Our Childhood (ERES)
Nicholas Stargardt  selection from *Witnesses of War: Children’s Lives Under the Nazis*  
Time-Life Books  *The New Order* (ERES)  
Hans-Ulrich Treichel  *Lost* (ERES)

All texts are available at the bookstore, with the exception of those marked “ERES.” To access and print these texts, go to: [http://eres.wustl.edu/courseindex.asp](http://eres.wustl.edu/courseindex.asp) and look up my name under the instructor prompt. Click on the link for German 331. At the password prompt, type in “kinder”.

**Course Requirements:**
Midterm Exam: 20%  
Final Exam: 20%  
Two 3-5 Page Essays: 40% (20% each)  
Participation: 20% (includes attendance, preparedness)

**Film Screenings:** Over the course of the semester, we will view five films that portray some aspect of children’s lives in the Third Reich and/or World War II. I will screen these films on certain Monday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in Ridgley 15. If you are unable to attend the screenings, you will need to arrange to view them on your own; the films will be held on reserve in Olin Library and can be viewed there. Questions as to the content from the films will appear on the midterm and final exams.

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. I expect you to come to class having read and thought about the assignment. Unexcused absences will be recorded and will affect your participation grade. **If you wish to be excused because of sickness, family emergency or religious holiday, you must contact me by phone or e-mail before you miss the class in question.**

**Writing Assignments:** In this course you will write 2 essays 3-5 pages in length (due 10/15 and 12/3) in which you will address a particular aspect of one of the texts we have read or compare two of the texts. The papers will be graded based on content, organization, style and basic grammar. Be aware that I place a premium on organization. In other words, I expect your essay to have a well-crafted introduction (with a clearly-formulated and interesting thesis) and a conclusion. I will give you a handout detailing requirements a couple of weeks before the first paper is due. You are welcome to come and talk to me about your papers beforehand. If you are not satisfied with your grade on an essay, I will accept a rewrite anytime within two weeks following the date the essay is returned. I will then average the two grades.

**Exams:** The midterm and final tests will be in-class examinations. There will be no cumulative final exam. Both tests will include short term identification and essay questions. I will give you a handout with the essay questions in advance so that you can prepare for the exam.

Please get in touch with me if you have any questions about either the syllabus or the course.
McGlothlin
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Wednesday, August 29  Introduction to course; timeline of the Third Reich and the Holocaust

Monday, September 3  Holiday

Wednesday, September 5  Youth in the Third Reich
Read: Stargardt, Witnesses of War, pp. 3-19; Burleigh and Wipperman, “Youth in the Third Reich” from The Racial State (ERES); Pine, “Education and Socialisation” from Nazi Family Policy (ERES; pages 47-55 in the original PDF document are copied badly, so print those pages instead from the 2nd PDF document listed with ERES)

Monday, September 10  Teaching Anti-Semitism
Read: Fink, from The Jewish Question in Education (ERES); Hiemer, The Poisonous Mushroom (ERES; read all the pages and look at the corresponding images); Bauer, Trust No Fox on His Green Heath and No Jew on His Oath (ERES)

Wednesday, September 12  The Hitler Youth Movement

Monday, September 17  Life in the Hitler Youth
Read: Stargardt, Witnesses of War, pp. 23-56; Hermand, A Hitler Youth in Poland, ix-31

Wednesday, September 19  Life in the Hitler Youth
Read: Hermand, A Hitler Youth in Poland, 32-103

Monday, September 24  Life in the Hitler Youth
Read: Hermand, A Hitler Youth in Poland, 104-125; Stargardt, Witnesses of War, pp. 57-80, 105-138

Wednesday, September 26  German Youth and War
Read: Grass, Cat and Mouse, pp. 7-100

Monday, October 1  German Youth and War
Read: Grass, Cat and Mouse, pp. 101-189

Film Screening: Before the Fall
6-8 p.m., Ridgley 15
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Read Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 3</td>
<td>A Holocaust Girlhood</td>
<td>Pine, “The Jewish Family” from Nazi Family Policy (ERES); Klüger, Still Alive, pp. 13-60</td>
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<td>Monday, October 8</td>
<td>A Holocaust Girlhood</td>
<td>Klüger, Still Alive, pp. 61-131</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 10</td>
<td>A Holocaust Girlhood</td>
<td>Klüger, Still Alive, pp. 133-214</td>
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<td>Monday, October 15</td>
<td>Childhood in Hiding</td>
<td>Begley, Wartime Lies, pp. 1-79</td>
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<td>First Essay Due!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 17</td>
<td>Childhood in Hiding</td>
<td>Begley, Wartime Lies, pp. 80-181</td>
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<td>Monday, October 22</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Wednesday, October 24</td>
<td>A Holocaust Boyhood</td>
<td>Kertész, Fatelessness, pp. 3-57; Stargardt, Witnesses of War, pp. 139-167</td>
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<td>Monday, October 29</td>
<td>A Holocaust Boyhood</td>
<td>Kertész, Fatelessness, 58-170</td>
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<td>Film Screening: Fatelessness</td>
<td>6-8 p.m., Ridgley 15</td>
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<td>Wednesday, October 31</td>
<td>A Holocaust Boyhood</td>
<td>Kertész, Fatelessness, 171-262</td>
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<td>Monday, November 5</td>
<td>A Gypsy Girl in Austria</td>
<td>Hackl, Farewell Sidonia (ERES), 1-44; Stargardt, Witnesses of War, pp. 168-196</td>
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<td>Film Screening: Farewell Sidonia</td>
<td>6-8 p.m., Ridgley 15</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 7</td>
<td>A Gypsy Girl in Austria</td>
<td>Hackl, Farewell Sidonia (ERES), 45-135</td>
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<td>Monday, November 12</td>
<td>War and Childhood Trauma</td>
<td>Mulisch, The Assault, 3-94</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 14</td>
<td>War and Childhood Trauma</td>
<td>Mulisch, The Assault, 97-185</td>
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Monday, November 19  
**Children in the Ruins**

Wednesday, November 21  
**Holiday**

Monday, November 26  
**Children on the Run**

**Film Screening: Germany, Pale Mother**
6-8 p.m., Ridgley 15

Wednesday, November 28  
**Postwar Children**
Read: Stargardt, *Witnesses of War*, pp. 315-377

Monday, December 3  
**Postwar Children**
Read: Treichel, *Lost* (ERES), 3-54

**Second Essay Due!**

Wednesday, December 5  
**Postwar Children**
Read: Treichel, *Lost* (ERES), 54-136; Grossman, “Momik” (ERES), 3-38

Monday, December 10  
**Postwar Children/Conclusion**
Read: Grossman, “Momik” (ERES), 38-86

**Final Exam:**
Dec 18, 6 – 8 p.m.