

364/564-1

History of the Holocaust

Spring Semester, 2017

Section 1 (16:00-16:50 Tuesday; 16:00-18:15 Thursday)

Professor: Dr. Brian J. Hale

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Office Hours: Monday, 16:00-17:00 and by prearranged appointment.

Purpose of the Class:

This course is a detailed examination of the programs of persecution and mass murder carried out by the Nazi regime in Germany and others between 1933 and 1945. Several themes will be prominent throughout the semester. First, we will examine and try to understand when and how policies of exclusion can be transformed into a systematic program of murder. In this regard, we will examine not only the development of Nazi Germany as a “racial state,” but also the role of ideologies, such as antisemitism, nationalism, and racism, in shaping policies of exclusion in Germany and elsewhere in Europe. Second, we will focus on the place of the Holocaust in European, and not only German, history. The events we associate with the Holocaust took place across the continent of Europe and were shaped by local histories; throughout the course, we will pay close attention to the interaction between Germans, Jews, and non-German native populations. Third, we will try to understand how eyewitness memories, historical research, and media representations shape our contemporary understanding of what the Holocaust was and why it seems so important to us today. The mass murder of European Jews will be the central focus of the course. We will, however, also discuss programs of discrimination and murder carried out against other groups, such as the Roma and Sinti, the disabled, Russian POWs, and Poles in an attempt to place these phenomena within the context of Nazi racial policy.

Intended Outcomes:

This course is designated as an upper division course in the Department of History and International Studies. Building on the skills and knowledge acquired from the Foundation and Historical Perspectives levels of the UWSP General Education Program (GEP), the course is “meant to encourage students to acquire broad knowledge of the world in which they live, as well as the various disciplinary methods by which this knowledge is produced.” The course’s intended learning outcomes align directly with GEP outcomes.

Through this course, students will improve their ability to:

- Think, speak, and write critically about a variety of historical sources, including primary documents, memoirs, and films.
 - Reflect on the means by which people can evaluate and respond to ethical and moral dilemmas, both personal and social.
 - Summarize the main factors in the rise of National Socialism, explain the development of its political and racial ideology, and critique the responses of Germans and the international community to them.
 - Discuss the connections between World War II and the Holocaust.
 - Demonstrate knowledge of the progression of the persecution of Jews from ostracism to murder by a wide variety of perpetrators across Western, Central, and Eastern Europe.
 - Analyze the programs of discrimination and murder carried out against the Roma, Sinti, the disabled, Russian POWs, and Poles.
 - Deduce the long-term impact of the Holocaust for Jews, Germans, and humanity writ large.
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Required Textbook:

Yitzhak Arad, et al., *Documents on the Holocaust*, 8th ed. (Jerusalem, 1999).

Holy Bible. The New Revised Standard Version.

E-Reserve readings.

Other Required Works:

Jan T. Gross, *Neighbors. The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland* (New York, 2002).

Sara Tuvel Bernstein, et al., *The Seamstress* (New York, 1999).

Elie Wiesel, *Night*, trans. Marion Wiesel (New York, 2006).

Suggested Reading:

Mary L. Kelley, *Understanding and Answering Essay Questions* (Englewood Cliffs, 1994).

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 4th ed. (Boston and New York, 2004).

Reading Assignments:

The reading assignments from Arad, the Bible, E-Reserve, Gross, Bernstein, and Wiesel will be posted in *Desire to Learn* under our course title on the weekend before the start of each week of classes. You can rent Arad's book at the Dreyfus University Center bookstore. The "other required books" can be purchased at the bookstore or from an online vendor of your choice. Be sure to get the correct edition of the texts. For example, there are many editions of Wiesel's book, but the one we will be using was translated by Marion Wiesel. Please note that you will have to read all of the books and the assigned E-Reserve readings. Kelley's short pamphlet is available as a link in *Desire to Learn*. Rampolla's book can be found in the library.

Exams, Quizzes, and Film Reaction Papers:

You will take three in-class exams during the semester. The first two exams will consist of three parts: one essay based on the assigned readings from Gross and Bernstein, and two essays based on the lectures delivered by me in class. The final exam will also consist of three parts: one essay will compare and contrast Wiesel's *Night* with three full-length survivor testimonies available in the Visual History Archive of the University of Southern-California Shoah Foundation Institute (<https://sfi.usc.edu/vha/access>). You will upload this essay into the course Dropbox by 11:00 p.m. on the day of our final exam. The other two essays on the final exam will be based on the lectures delivered by me in class. You will write those essays in the classroom. The final exam is not cumulative. Each exam is worth 150.0 points.

There will be several reading quizzes covering the main themes and facts from each set of assigned readings in Arad, the Bible, and the E-Reserve materials. Answers can range from one word to several paragraphs, depending on the question. You will have a limited amount of time during class to complete the quizzes. Each quiz will be worth 15.0 points.

Each weekend, a discussion guide and a film reaction guide will be posted in *Desire to Learn*. (1) The discussion guides will contain questions about the weekly reading assignments from Arad, the Bible, E-Reserve, Gross, Bernstein, and Wiesel. The first essay question on the first two exams of the semester will be taken from the discussion guides. (2) The film reaction guides will contain several questions about the film which you will view each Thursday. You will write a film reaction essay each week during the semester in which you answer the questions and provide any other material you consider to be relevant about the film. The essay must be uploaded into the course Dropbox by 11:00 p.m. every Wednesday during the semester. No late assignments will be accepted. The essay must be single-spaced and at least one-and-one-half pages long. You will be deducted points if the essay is not the assigned length. The purpose of the reaction papers is to give you a chance to explore the issues that the films raise and to incorporate the readings, lectures, and your own opinions and experiences into the analysis. The film reaction essays are worth 20.0 points each. (3) One week before each exam, an essay study guide will be posted in *Desire to Learn* for the essay questions based on the lectures.

Important Dates:

Exam I on Tuesday, February 28.

Exam II on Tuesday, April 11.

Final Exam and Wiesel essay on Tuesday, May 16, from 17:00-19:00 in CCC 224.

<u>Grades:</u>		
Exam I:	150.0 points	90 -100% = A
Exam II:	150.0 points	80 - 89% = B
Exam III:	150.0 points	70 - 79% = C
Film Essays:	300.0 points	60 - 69% = D
<u>Quizzes:</u>	<u>75.0 points</u>	0 - 59% = F
Total:	825.0 points	

Exam Grading Criteria:

- A: Demonstrates mastery of historical information (ideas, names, places, dates) and provides a knowledgeable interpretation of that information.
- B: Demonstrates a command of historical information but provides an ineffective interpretation.
- C: Demonstrates a command of historical information but lacks any kind of interpretation.
- D: Demonstrates a brittle command of historical information and lacks completely any kind of interpretation.
- F: Demonstrates inaccurate historical knowledge and lacks completely any kind of interpretation.
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UWSP Rights and Responsibilities:

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has an opportunity to succeed, a set of expectations have been developed for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the Rights and Responsibilities document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. For more information, go to:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Pages/departments/rightsResponsibilities.aspx>.

The Rights and Responsibilities document also includes the policies regarding academic misconduct, which can be found in Chapter 14. A direct link can be found here:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law regarding educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP's policies, check here:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documens/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyinfo.pdf>

If you have a disability or require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability Services Office and then contact me at the beginning of the course. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the sixth floor of the Learning Resource Center (the library). You can also find more information here:

<http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>.

Tutoring and Learning Center:

If you need help with the assigned readings and writing, visit the Tutoring and Learning Center in the basement of the library. The staff will help you, and their services are free!! You can call to make an appointment at (715-346-3568) or you can take a look at the services they offer on their webpage at:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/writingReadingTutorials.aspx>. Needless to say, you can also get help from me during my office hours or at a prearranged time.

Regulations:

- All societies have norms, and it is therefore important for you to abide by the rules of conduct in this class.
- Value inclusivity at all times.
- You must take all of the exams and complete each section of the exams to pass the course. No early final exams will be given.

- You must upload all of the film reaction essays each Wednesday by 11:00 p.m. or you will receive a “0” on the assignment.
- Please maintain respect in the classroom. Talking to classmates during lecture, reading newspapers or books, working on materials for other classes, sleeping, and packing up before the end of class are examples of disrespectful behavior.
- Do not leave the room in the middle of class, because it is disruptive to the instructor and other students. You are expected to spend the entire 50 minutes in class each Tuesday and at least 120 minutes in class each Thursday. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by the instructor prior to the class period. Appointments are not a valid excuse to leave class early.
- Please remember to turn off all technology (cell phones, etc.) during class. Recording lectures and using smart pens is prohibited.
- **Attendance is part of your grade!!** If you miss 4 or more classes (13%) during the semester, your grade will drop by 10%. If you miss 8 or more classes (27%) during the semester, your grade will drop by 20%. If you miss 12 or more classes (40%), you will fail the course. The only excused absences are for your personal hospitalizations, deaths in your immediate family, and university-related functions. Appropriate documentation must be provided to me in each case.
- **Please note** that if you miss the presentation of the film on a Thursday, you will be assessed 2 absences from class.
- You are responsible for signing the attendance sheet each day. If you do not sign the attendance sheet, you will be listed as absent.
- No instance of academic misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, will be tolerated. They are serious offenses against fellow students and the university community.
- Posting instructor-created course materials onto course-sharing websites directly violates the instructor’s copyright to his academic materials. These materials are provided for your convenience as an aid to learning. Permission to post instructor-created material on any such site is unequivocally denied.

Additional Notes:

- Extra credit is available upon request. Extra credit will be offered at the discretion of the instructor. No extra credit will be granted during the last two weeks of the semester. If you miss more than 4 classes during the semester, you will not receive any type of extra credit points.
 - If you require special accommodations in order to meet the requirements of this course, please contact me during the first week of the semester.
 - This syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester.
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