

Dr. Tatjana Lichtenstein
Office hours: W 4:00-6:00 pm in GAR 0.110
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Class meets TTh 3:30 – 5:00 am in WEL 2.246

Course Description

This course on the Holocaust examines the mass killing of Jews and other victims in the context of Nazi Germany's quest for race and space during World War II. Using sources that illuminate victim experiences, perpetrator perspectives, and bystander responses, we investigate the Nazi racial state, the experiments in mass killing, the establishment of a systematic genocidal program, collaboration and complicity, resistance and rescue, as well as the memory of the Holocaust in western culture.

Course Materials

- Doris L. Bergen, *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2nd edition, 2009)
- Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (New York: Harper Perennial, revised edition, 1998)
- Steve Hochstadt, ed., *Sources of the Holocaust* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan 2004)
- Marion A. Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998)
- Liana Millu, *Smoke over Birkenau* (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1986)
- Readings marked with * can be found on BB.

All course materials are required

Please Note: The use of electronic equipment incl. laptops, net books, iPads, phones, MP3 players among others is not allowed in this class. A designated note taker will assist students with documented needs. The note takers are the only ones permitted to use electronic equipment during class. Please ensure that your phones and other devices remain off and stored away during class.

Course Goals

- To explore how and why the Holocaust occurred, in particular the connection between war and genocide
- To analyze people's behaviors and experiences through a variety of source materials such as documents, eyewitness accounts, diaries, memoirs, film, images, and other primary and secondary sources
- To discuss the interplay between history and memory by exploring representations of the Holocaust

Grades

Attendance and Participation		15%
Essay I Kaplan	(Jan 30)	15%
In-class Test I incl. map quiz	(Feb 11)	15%
Essay II Browning	(Mar 6)	15%
Essay III Millu	(Mar 27)	15%
In-class Test II	(Apr 15)	15%
Final Exam	(May 2-7)	10%

Instructions for the essays can be found on BB in the “Assignments” folder.

Grade scale: A through F. Plus and minus grades will be issued for this course.

Extra Credit Opportunities: You can receive extra credit by attending events on or off campus that are related to our course. I will make announcements in class about relevant events and welcome suggestions from you as well. A list of good films that you can watch and reflect on is included on the last page of this syllabus.

To receive the extra credit you need to write 1 double-spaced page (c. 250 words) response in which you reflect on the exhibit, film, or lecture that you attended. Being able to make connections between your subject and our class readings and lectures is always a plus. You should hand in your piece to me in the first or second class following the event. Each response is worth ½ point. You can earn a total of two (2) extra credit points for the course. All response essays are due to me in hard copy no later than April 17.

Course Policies

Students with Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd> It is essential that you inform Services for Students with Disabilities and me in the beginning of term so we can make appropriate accommodations.

Attendance and Participation

Lectures and class discussions are a significant part of this course. Therefore, **attendance and participation are required**. You are expected to have done the readings before you come to class. This will be essential for your ability to participate in group work, to ask questions, and to do well on in-class assignments.

You are expected to be on time for class. If you are consistently late or leave class early, this will affect your course grade. If you have any concerns about this, please contact me in the beginning of term.

Although this course is lecture-based, in reality, the discussion and debate of ideas is central to every meeting. All viewpoints and perspectives are welcome as long as they meet the following criteria: they are delivered in a **respectful manner** and they are **informed by the course materials**. Your participation grade depends on your having done the readings before class as well as your ability to engage with them and your fellow students.

I encourage you to participate in class with relevant questions about the readings and the lecture materials. If you are not comfortable speaking in class, think about other ways you might engage the material. For example, you can visit me during office hours to discuss readings and assignments.

Electronic Equipment

Failure to adhere to the course policy regarding the use of electronic equipment will be penalized. You will receive a warning once. Subsequent infractions will result in reductions in your grade for the course of one full grade point per incident (i.e. if you earned a B, you are now getting a C etc).

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, which means misrepresenting as your own work any part of work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers; depriving another student of necessary course materials; or interfering with another student's work. **Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an F for the course and immediate referral to Student Judicial Services.**

On-Line Resources

- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (especially the Holocaust Encyclopedia)
<http://www.ushmm.org>
This is the official website of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Its Holocaust Encyclopedia is a particularly useful tool. Here you can look up terms, people, and places. The website also has online exhibits, short films, source collections and other interesting materials.
- German History in Documents and Images: Nazi Germany, 1933-1945
http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/section.cfm?section_id=13
The section on "Nazi Germany, 1933-1945" is packed with documents and images that you might find interesting.
- YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe
<http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/>
This is a website on Jewish life in Eastern Europe. It is not specifically about the Holocaust. Rather it is a guide to the region's Jewish cultures and societies as they existed before and after World War II. You can use it to look up terms, people, and places. For example, you can learn what Jewish Łódź was like before the Germans forced the city's Jews into a ghetto known as Ghetto Litzmannstadt (the German name for Łódź).
- Centropa
<http://www.centropa.org/>
An oral history project devoted to the history and memory of Jews in Eastern Europe. Its "Library of Rescued Memories" contains short films in which people from across Central and Eastern Europe talk about their experience before, during, and after World War II.

Schedule of Classes

- All readings are required (bring your notes with you to class)
- Attendance and participation is mandatory
- Polite, respectful, and considerate behavior is expected

Week 1 Introduction and Background

Jan 14 Readings, Assignments, Maps

Jan 16 Bergen, 1-28.
Hochstadt, doc # 1-7.

Week 2 Eugenics and Nazi Racial Policy

Jan 21 Bergen, 29-50.
Hochstadt, doc # 8-10, 13 -16.
*Excerpts from Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (1925)

Jan 23 Bergen, 51-78.
*Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases July 14, 1933.
*Article “Persecution of Homosexuals in the Third Reich.”
*Link to oral histories by victims of forced sterilization.

Week 3 Nazi Policies and the Romani and Jewish Experiences of Persecution

Jan 28 Guest Lecturer: Dr. Ian Hancock, “The Romani People in the Holocaust,” Department of Linguistics, UT Austin
*Ian Hancock, “Roma, Race and Genocide.”
*Link to “The Roma in Prewar Europe,” “Persecution of Roma in Prewar Germany,” and “Genocide of European Roma, 1939-1945.”
*Link to Julia Lentini’s oral history from the Shoah Foundation (30 min).

Jan 30 Hochstadt, doc # 11, 12, 17-20, 22, 24.

****Kaplan essay due in class (Essay I)**

Week 4 The Beginning of WWII and the Murder of the Disabled

Feb 4 Bergen, 79-100.
Hochstadt, doc # 28.

Feb 6 Bergen, 101-133.
Hochstadt, doc # 30, 32, 34.
*Letter by Hitler Authorizing Euthanasia Killings (backdated to Sept 1, 1939)
*Link to oral histories 1-2
*Excerpt from Bishop von Galen's Sermon Aug 3, 1941 and government response

Week 5 Test I & Ghettoization

Feb 11 ****In-class Test I incl. map quiz**

Feb 13 Reread Bergen, 111-119.
Hochstadt, doc # 27, 29, 31, 56, 60.

Week 6 Ghettoization (continued)

Feb 18 In-class film and discussion: "A Film Unfinished"
*Selection of documents on the Warsaw Ghetto.

Feb 20 In-class film and discussion: "A Film Unfinished" (see questions on BB)
Hochstadt, doc # 59, 61.

Week 7 Operation Barbarossa and the Radicalization of German Policy

Feb 25 Bergen, 135-165.
Hochstadt, doc # 35-36.

Feb 27 Hochstadt, doc # 37-42.
*“An Eyewitness Describes a Mass Shooting in the Soviet Union.”
*Link to Hermann Gräbe's testimony on witnessing mass shootings

Week 8 Perpetrators

Mar 4 Hochstadt, doc # 43.

Mar 6 ****Browning essay due in class (Essay II)**

Spring Break March 10-14

Week 9 Death Camps – Chelmno Treblinka, Sobibor, and Belzec,

Mar 18 Bergen, 167-214
Hochstadt, doc # 45-47, 49, 52, 54, 55, 58, 67.

Mar 20 Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, 173-201.
Hochstadt, doc # 68, 69, 70.

Week 10 Auschwitz-Birkenau – killing center and slave labor

Mar 25 Bergen, reread, 189-191, 215-232.
Hochstadt, doc # 71-74.

Mar 27 ****Millu essay due in class (Essay III)**

Week 11 Rescue

Apr 1 In-class Film and Discussion: Irena Sendler

Apr 3 Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, 201-238.
Hochstadt, doc # 26, 47, 50.

Week 12 Victims

Apr 8 Resistance, Bergen, reread 203-214
Hochstadt, doc # 57, 61, 63.

Apr 10 Bergen, reread, 111-119.
*Document: Chaim Rumkowski, “Give Me Your Children,” Sept 1942.
Hochstadt, doc # 68.

Week 13 In-Class Test II & The End of War

Apr 15 ****In-Class Test II**

Apr 17 Bergen, 229-243
Hochstadt, doc # 64-66.
*Death Marches: Excerpt Sara Nomberg-Przytyk, *Auschwitz: True Tales from a Grottesque Land*, 127-136.

Week 14 Postwar Legacies & Representations

Apr 22 Cycles of violence: *Link to article “The Kielce Pogrom.”
Trials and Reparations: Hochstadt, doc # 58, 75-77, 81.

Apr 24 In-class film and discussion: “Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust.”

Week 15 Holocaust Memory and Representation

Apr 29 In-class film and discussion: “Imaginary Witness.” (see questions on BB)

May 1 Tips for Take-Home Exam and Final Discussion

Take-Home Final Exam: May 2-7, 2014 @ 3 pm.

Your essay must be delivered in a hard copy to my office **no later than 3 pm on May 7, 2014.** **Electronic submissions will not be accepted.** Email attachments do not count as preliminary submissions. In short: If your essay is not on my desk in a hard copy, then it has not been submitted.

Essay submitted after 3 pm are considered late (5% penalty per calendar day).

A Selection of Recommended Films on the Holocaust

*Any of these films can be used as material for an extra credit response essay. Many of them are available on Netflix, Amazon Instant Video and other such streaming services.

- Aftermath (Poklosie, 2013)
- Aimee and Jaguar (1999)
- Angry Harvest (1985)
- Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi State (2005, doc)
- Border Street (1949)
- Conspiracy (2001)
- Defiance (2008)
- Europa Europa (1990)
- In Darkness (2012)
- Korczak (1990)
- Lodz Ghetto (1989, doc)
- Paragraph 175 (2000, doc)
- Porrajmos: Europe's Gypsies and the Holocaust (doc)
- Rosenstrasse (2003)
- Schindler's List (1993)
- Shoah (1985, doc)
- Sophie's Choice (1982)
- Spring 1941 (2008)
- The Diary of Anne Frank (many versions, 1959-2009)
- The Grey Zone (2001)
- The Holocaust (1978, TV miniseries)
- The Last Train (2006)
- The Nazis: A Warning from History (1997, doc)
- The Pawnbroker (1964)
- The Pianist (2006)
- The Rape of Europa (doc)
- The Shop on Main Street (1965)
- Uprising (2001)