

Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number/Section HIST 4344.002
Course Title *The Holocaust*

Term Spring, 2009
Days & Times TR 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Professor Contact Information

Professor Debbie Pfister
Office Phone 972-883-2100
Other Phone
Email Address dhpf@utdallas.edu
Office Location JO 5.114
Office Hours TR 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. or by appointment
Other Information

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

N/A

Course Description

Overshadowing the achievements of the Enlightenment, the mass murder of European Jewry has been recognized as one of the watershed events of the twentieth-century. Eliminating millions of people by shooting, gassing, and starvation, the Third Reich has created a new world, the like of which has not been experienced before. Its decision upon the death sentence for every Jew, and the ways in which the Nazis implemented this sentence, has affected our basic concepts of progress, enlightenment, morality, and freedom.

The purpose of this course is to explore the background as well as the social, political, historical, and cultural contexts of this event. Constructing our inquiry around two major questions: why did this mass murder happen, and how did it run its course, we will examine the development of the ancient religious background of anti-Semitism and study the emergence of nationalism and scientific racism in nineteenth-century Europe. In addition, we will consider the rise of the modern German state, the First World War, the Depression, Hitler's creation of the Third Reich, the anti-Jewish laws, the persecution of the Jews, the implementation of the Holocaust in every country occupied by the Reich, and the moral implications of the mass murder of European Jewry. Also, we will study the ways in which the Holocaust has continued to affect our religious beliefs, our sense of morality, and our notions of education and culture.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students will analyze the long-standing tradition of anti-Semitism as well as the background and history of the Holocaust. Also, they will consider several major, scholarly interpretations of this catastrophic event, study, and critically evaluate some of the most dramatic and beautiful texts of our time engendered by the Shoah.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Required Texts

Bauer, Yehuda, *A History of the Holocaust* (Revised Edition) (ISBN: 0-531-11884-3)
 Schwarz-Bart, André, *The Last of the Just* (ISBN: 9781585670161)
 Wiesel, Elie, *Night* (ISBN: 978-0-374-50001-6)
 Wiesel, Simon, *The Sunflower* (ISBN: 978-0805210606)

*Required reading assignments from Ilan Avisar, Joel Carmichael, André Colombat, David Crowe, Lucy Dawidowicz, Ida Fink, Jeffrey Herf, Chaim Kaplan, Wendy Lower, Michael Marrus and Robert Paxton, George Mosse, Leon Poliakov, Emmanuel Ringelblum, Leni Yahil, and others can be found on electronic reserve in the UT Dallas library.

**These films are on reserve in the UT Dallas Library.

(Please check that the publisher and the ISBN number of the book you plan to purchase match the number given on this syllabus.)

Required Materials

Texts listed above under “Required Texts” in addition to works which are noted below with *.

Readings which are noted with * will be located on the electronic reserve site of the Mc Dermott Library. The site is located at: <http://library.utdallas.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=First>. Once on this site, choose the tab labeled “Course Reserve.” After you have reached the Course Reserve site, choose Debbie Pfister’s name from the first pull down menu, and then your course in the second window. Then click “Find IT.” A new window will open. Click on the statement “Electronic Reserves for HIST 4344.002, Pfister.” When you reach the new page you will be asked for a password which will be provided in class and must not be shared with students who are not taking the class. After filling in the password, click the “Accept Button” (if you don’t it won’t let you into the site). Once on the class reserve site simply click on the folder which represents the date you need and all of the reading assignments will be located there as PDF’s. **If you have any problems navigating the site, if a reading is illegible, if a reading is missing, or if you cannot open one of the PDF’s, please contact the McDermott Library Staff, they are always available to help.**

Suggested Course Materials

Suggested Readings/Texts

See above.

Suggested Materials

See above.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates

January 13, 2009: Introduction and discussion

The Background

January 15, 2009: Film: *The Final Solution: 1918-1939* (in class).
Discussion

From the Ancient World to the Enlightenment Period and Beyond

Yehuda Bauer, *A History of the Holocaust*, pp. 15- 35; and *David Crowe, *A History of the Holocaust* (To be provided in class).

January 20, 2009 *Leon Poliakov, *The History of the Jews*, pp. 41-72 and 99-122.

January 22, 2009 *Joel Carmichael. *The Satanizing of the Jews*, pp. 94-123 and *D. Crowe, *The Holocaust*, pp. 42-52.

January 27, 2009 *D. Crowe, *The Holocaust* pp. 52- 64 and 68-75; and Y. Bauer, pp. 36- 43 and 48- 56.

(Group Presentation 1: George Mosse, “From Romanticism to the Volk,” pp. 13 -51 and 88-107 in *Crisis of German Ideology* to be provided in class.)

France and the Dreyfus Affair

January 29, 2009 *D. Crowe, “French Anti-Semitism and the Dreyfus Affair,” pp 64- 68 in *The Holocaust*.

January 29, 2009
(contd.)

*N. Kleeblatt, "The French Jewish Community from Emancipation to the Dreyfus Affair," by Paula Hyman pp. 25-35 and "Popular Anti-Semitism," by Michael R. Marrus," pp. 50- 61 in *The Dreyfus Affair*.

*Marrus & Paxton, "The Roots of Vichy Antisemitism," pp. 25-34 in *Vichy France and the Jews*.

Film: *Dreyfus Revisited: A Current Affair*

The First World War and the Weimar Republic

February 3, 2009

Y. Bauer, *A History of the Holocaust*, pp 61-78 and 81- 97 (top).

*D. Crowe, *The Holocaust*, pp. 87-103.

February 5, 2009

Y. Bauer, *A History of the Holocaust*, pp. 97-100.

(Group Presentation 2: Eberhard Jäckel, "Hitler Comes to Power," pp 1-22 and "Hitler Wages War," pp. 23-43, and "Hitler and the Germans," pp. 88-106 in *Hitler in History* to be provided in class)

Film: *Tiger at the Gate* (in class).

The Nazi Seizure of Power

February 10, 2009

Y. Bauer, *A History of the Holocaust*, pp. 101-120.

*Lucy Dawidowicz, "The First Stage: Anti-Jewish Legislation," pp. 35-53 in *A Holocaust Reader*.

(Group Presentation 3: Jeffrey Herf, "The Jews, the War, and the Holocaust," pp. 1-16 and "Building the Anti-Semitic Consensus," pp. 17-49 in *The Jewish Enemy* to be provided in class)

Film: *The Double Crossing: The Story of the St. Louis*

Hitler's Consolidation of Power and Jewish Life in Nazi Germany

February 12, 2009

*Wendy Lower, *Nazi Empire-Build and the Holocaust in Ukraine*, pp. 1-17 and 69-97.

Y. Bauer, *A History of the Holocaust*, pp. 121-146.

February 15, 2009

The Burton C. Einspruch Holocaust Lecture Series featuring Professor Wendy Lower

(4:00 p.m. UT Dallas Conference Center to be preceded by a study session with Professor Lower from 2:45-3:45 in the Conference Center auditorium).

Attendance at one of the lectures in the Series (either Sunday or Monday) is considered a class attendance grade.

February 16, 2009

Day two of the Burton C. Einspruch Holocaust Lecture Series (9:00 a.m. UT Dallas Conference Center)

Destruction and Emigration of German Jewry

February 17, 2009

No class in lieu of attendance at one of lectures from the Burton C. Einspruch Holocaust Lecture Series

February 19, 2009

Film: *Imaginary Witness* (Part I) (we will watch in class)

Paragraph Due

The State of the War

February 24, 2009

Film: *Imaginary Witness* (Part II) (we will watch in class)

Y. Bauer, *A History of the Holocaust*, pp. 147-182 and 209-227 (bottom of page).

(Group Presentation 4: Leni Yahil, *The Fate of European Jewry*, pp. 15-87 to be provided in class.)

February 26, 2009 (Group Presentation 5: Leni Yahil, *The Holocaust: The Fate of European Jewry, 1932-1945*, pp 88-145 to be provided in class)

**Submit paper topics
Review**

March 3, 2009 Test I (bring a blue book)

March 5, 2009 Y. Bauer, *A History of the Holocaust*, pp. 209-227 (bottom).
*Lucy S. Dawidowicz, *A Holocaust Reader*, pp. 55-82.
*Holger Herwig, *Hammer or Anvil?* pp. 325-352.

March 10, 2009 Watch *The Pianist* on your own prior to class (this movie is on reserve in the library)
Discuss *The Pianist* in class
Y. Bauer, *A History of the Holocaust*, pp. 183-208 and 227-247

The East European Ghettos and Death Camps

March 12, 2009 André Schwarz-Bart, *Last of the Just*

March 17, 2009 Spring Break

March 19, 2009 Spring Break

March 24, 2009 Watch *Schindler's List* on your own prior to class (this movie is on reserve in the library)
Discuss *Schindler's List* in class
* Lucy Dawidowicz, in *A Holocaust Reader*, pp. 4-7.
*Chaim Kaplan, *Scroll of Agony*, pp. 19-49, 129 -133, and 362- 400
*Emmanuel Ringelblum, *Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto*, pp. 9-27, 82-93, and 345-347.

(Group Presentation 6: Emmanuel Ringelblum, *Notes from the Warsaw Ghetto*, pg. ix-xviii and "Introduction," pp 1-16 and Samuel Kassow, "A Historian's Final Mission," pp. 333-388 in *Who Will Write our History?* to be provided in class)

Collaboration

March 26, 2009 *Robert Wistrich, "Collaboration Across Europe," pp.151-183 in *Hitler and the Holocaust*.
Y. Bauer, *A History of the Holocaust*, pp. 248-265.

(Group Presentation 7: Marrus & Paxton, "First Steps," pp. 3-21 and "The Roots of Vichy Antisemitism," pp. 34-71 in *Vichy France and the Jews* to be provided in class)

Resistance

March 31, 2009 Y. Bauer. *A History of the Holocaust*, pp. 266-306
*Robert S. Wistrich, *Hitler and the Holocaust*, pp. 59-86.

Film: *Weapons of the Spirit*

Preserving Memory: Holocaust Representation

April 2, 2009 * Sidra DeKoven Ezrahi, *By Words Alone*, pp. 1- 48.
*Alvin Rosenfeld, "The Problematics of Holocaust Literature," pp. 12-34 in *A Double Dying*.

(Group Presentation 8: Randolph Braham, "The Holocaust in Hungary: A Retrospective Analysis," pp. 1-20 and "The Holocaust in Hungary: An Historical Interpretation of the Role of the Hungarian Radical Right," pp. 69-97 in *Studies on the Holocaust* to be provided in class)

April 7, 2009 Wiesel, Elie, *Night*

- April 9, 2009** Y. Bauer, *A History of the Holocaust*, pp. 332-346.
Watch *Grey Zone* on your own prior to class (this movie is on reserve in the library)
Discuss *Grey Zone* in class
- April 14, 2009** *Ilan Avisar, "Holocaust Movies and Politics of Collective Memory," pp. 38-58 in *Thinking about the Holocaust*.

(**Group Presentation 9:** Ilan Avisar, "The Hollywood Film and the Presentation of the Jewish Catastrophe," pp. 90-133 in *Screening the Holocaust* and André Pierre Colombat, "Introduction," pp. ix-xx to be provided in class)
- April 16, 2009** Film: *Night and Fog* (watch in class)
Discussion
- April 21, 2009** Simon Wiesenthal, *The Sunflower*.
- April 23, 2009** *Ida Fink, "The Key Game," pp.242-243 and "A Spring Morning," pp. 244-248 in *Art from the Ashes*.

(**Group Presentation 10:** Choose a Holocaust movie that is not listed on the syllabus and give your presentation using the criteria we have been studying in class during the semester.)
- April 28, 2009** Art: Imre Amos, Felix Nussbaum, and Samuel Bak.

We will view and discuss the work of these artists in class.
- April 29, 2009** Review and Discussion

Paper Due (this grade will be considered incomplete until your paper has been submitted to turnitin.com)
- May 12, 2009** **Final Exam 2:00 p.m.**

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on class attendance (15%); participation in class discussions (10%); participation in a group presentation covering an article provided in class by the instructor (5%); one paragraph summarizing one lecture from the Einspruch Holocaust Lecture Series (10%); one test (20%); one 5-8 page paper (20%); and one final (20%).

Web sites in general and Wikipedia in particular are not accepted as sources for your papers in this class.

All papers must be submitted to turnitin.com. Instructions for the use of turnitin.com will be provided in class.

Course Policies

Make-up exams

N/A

Extra Credit

N/A

Late Work

If you cannot turn in your paper by **April 29, 2009**, please notify the instructor at least 48 hours prior to this due date to make other arrangements. If an incomplete is approved, an "X" will appear on your spring grade report, and your paper will be due at the beginning of the fall, 2009 semester. All papers turned in as a result of an incomplete must be turned in two weeks prior to the due date of final grades. **Please check the UTDallas Catalog and Academic Calendar regarding rules and dates for incomplete work.**

Special Assignments

N/A

Class Attendance

Regular class attendance comprises 15% of the final grade.

Missing more than 3 classes will affect your grade.

Classroom Citizenship

See above.

If you require media equipment for a class presentation, please notify Debbie Pfister at 972-883-2100 or dhpf@utdallas.edu with your requests two weeks prior to the date you will require the equipment.

NOTE: All cell phones and computers must be turned off upon entering the classroom. Students with special needs which require use of computers during class must submit a written request to the instructor signed by representatives of Student Services explaining these needs.

Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

Field Trip Policies / Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

N/A

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

disabilityservice@utdallas.edu

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.