

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

Course Number/Section HIST 4344.501  
 Course Title *Holocaust and Nazi Medicine*  
 Classroom: JO 4.102

Term Fall 2012  
 Days & Times Wednesday 7:00 – 9:45 p.m.

### **Professor Contact Information**

Professor Debbie Pfister  
 Office Phone 972-883-2735  
 Other Phone N/A  
 Email Address dhp@utdallas.edu  
 Office Location JO 4.800  
 Office Hours MW 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., W 5:45-6:45 p.m., or by appointment  
 \*\* Students may drop-in outside of posted office hours, however, professor availability cannot be guaranteed.

### *Other Information*

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

N/A

### **Course Description**

Beginning in 1934, under Nazi leadership, German physicians and scientists conducted some of the most gruesome medical experiments known to humankind. Initially conceived of as a way to control national expenditures for the physically handicapped and mentally impaired, early sterilization programs were eventually replaced by euthanasia which served the Nazi program of eliminating “lives unworthy of living” from their population. In the attempt to build a genetically superior race, doctors, in service of the Reich, used human beings as guinea pigs, preying on society’s most helpless. Examining these unethical scientific and medical practices, this course will explore the path that took German medicine from being at the forefront of the modern medical profession in the nineteenth century to the horrors that were committed in the name of science during the reign of the Nazi Regime, and ultimately, the Holocaust.

In the course of this analysis, we will discuss the relevant political and social issues of nineteenth and early twentieth-century Germany, as well as the development of the eugenics movement and its ethical ramifications. In addition, we will examine the inhumane medical experiments conducted on countless innocent men, women, and children, as well as the 1946 Doctors’ Trials at Nuremberg in which twenty-three doctors were tried for their roles in those atrocities. Equally important, this study will examine the Nuremberg Code, a set of ethical guidelines regarding human medical experimentation which emerged in response to those proceedings, in hopes of preventing such atrocities in the future.

### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Considering the revered reputation of German medicine in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, students will examine the ways in which notions of racial purity and social concerns led to extreme ideas of eugenics. In this study, they will scrutinize the evolution of these ideas and the ways they were later employed by the National Socialists, without patient consent, and in completely unorthodox ways. In addition, students will investigate the manner in which modern researchers, as well as industrialized governments, have sought to use the data collected from these experiments despite the unscrupulous methods in which they were conducted. This topic, which has been the subject of much dispute within both the medical and academic communities, will afford students the opportunity to participate in debate and discussion, investigating not only the development of eugenics and the experiments themselves, but the ramifications that are associated with the use of the information gathered from these unethical scientific practices on the unwitting victims of the Shoah.

### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

Kühl, Stefan. *The Nazi Connection: Eugenics, American Racism, and German National Socialism*.

(ISBN: 978-0-19-514978-4)

Spitz, Vivien. *Doctors from Hell: The Horrific Account of Nazi Experiments on Humans*. (ISBN : 978-1591810322)

Weindling, Paul Juian. *Nazi Medicine and the Nuremberg Trials: From Medical War Crimes to Informed Consent*.

(ISBN 0-2305-0700-X).

\*Required reading assignments of Robert Bernasconi, Saul Friedländer, Jonathan Huener, Tommy L. Lott, Daniel Nadav, Francis Nicosia, Gerald Posner, Robert Proctor, and John Ware, Paul Weindling and others can be found on electronic 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***

N/A

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

Reading selections noted in the syllabus with \*\* are suggested additional readings and are not required.

Texts listed

Readings which are noted with \* will be located on the electronic reserve site of the McDermott Library. The site is located at: <http://library.utdallas.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do>. **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*

Noted below.

#### *Suggested Materials*

Noted below.

#### *Suggested Materials located online in the library reserve*

Noted below.

### **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

#### *Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates*

#### **August 29**

#### **Introduction**

**Film:** *Nazi Medicine, In the Shadow of the Reich*  
Discussion

#### **September 5:**

#### **The Ideology and aftermath of Darwinism**

*History of Science and Medicine in Germany*

\*Weindling, Paul. “Social Darwinism” pp. Introduction 1-10, 11-32, 48-59 in *Health, Race and German Politics between National Unification and Nazism 1870-1945*

\*Bernasconi and Lott. “Charles Darwin, On the Races of Man, from The Descent of Man” pp. 54-78.  
Francis Galton, “Eugenics: Its Definition Scope and Aims” pp.79-83 in *The Idea of Race*

#### **Sept 12:**

\*Weindling, Paul. “Between Utopianism and Racial Hygiene” pp. 61-80, 91-96, and 106-154 in *Health, Race and German Politics Between National Unification and Nazism 1870-1945*

#### **September 19:**

#### **Germany and America Medicine/Eugenics**

\*Friedlander, Henry. “The Setting,” pp. 1-22 in *The Origins of Nazi Genocide*.

Kühl, Stefan. “German-American Relations within the International Movement Before 1933” pp. 13-26; “International Context: The Support of Nazi Race Policy through the International Eugenics Movement” pp. 27-36; “From Disciple to Model: Sterilization in Germany and the United States” pp.37-52; and “American Eugenicians in Nazi Germany” pp. 53-63 in *The Nazi Connection*.

- September 26:** **No class-religious holiday**  
 \*Caplan, Arthur L. "The Stain of Silence Nazi Ethics and Bioethics" pp.83-92 in *Medicine After the Holocaust*. Edited by Sheldon Rubinfeld.
- October 3:** **American and German Ties to Eugenics**  
*Cold Springs Harbor*  
 Kühl, Stefan. "The Influence of Nazi Race Policies on the Transformation of Eugenics in the United States" pp. 77-85; "The Reception and Function of American Support in Nazi Germany" pp. 85-95; and "The Temporary End of the Relations between German and American Eugenicians" pp. 97-104 in *The Nazi Connection*.  
**Paper outline and bibliography due**
- October 10:** **History of the Holocaust and How the Nazis Came to Power**  
 \*Friedländer, Saul. "Into the Third Reich" pp. 9-40 in *Nazi Germany and the Jews Volume I: The Years of Persecution, 1933-1945*  
**Film:** *The Final Solution, Repression and Resettlement 1939-1941*  
**Mid Term Exam-Bring a Blue Book**
- October 17:** **Nazi Doctors Ideology and How They Came to Power**  
 \*Nadav, Daniel. "Sterilization in Nazi Germany" pp. 12-20 and "Proper Medicine in Nazi Germany: A Paradox?" pp.21-30 in *Medicine and Nazism*  
 \*Proctor, Robert. "Political Biology: Doctors in the Nazi Cause" pp. 64-94 in *Racial Hygiene, Medicine under the Nazis*
- October 24:** **T-4 program**  
*Life not Worthy of Living*  
 \*Nicosia, Francis and Huener, Jonathan. "Physicians as Killers in Nazi Germany" pp.59-76 and "Criminal Physicians in the Third Reich" pp.77-92 in *Medicine and Medical Ethics in Nazi Germany*
- October 31:** **Murder through Experiment**  
 Spitz, Vivien. "High- Altitude Experiments" pp. 65-83 and "Freezing Experiments" pp.85-101 and "Malaria Experiments" pp. 103-114 in *Doctors from Hell*
- November 7:** **Murder through Experiment**  
 Spitz, Vivien. "Bone, Muscle, and Nerve Regeneration and Bone Transplantation Experiments" pp.115-134 and "Mustard Gas Experiments" pp. 135-138; "Sulfanilamide Experiments" pp. 139-156; and "Sea Water Experiments" pp. 157-173 in *Doctors from Hell*
- November 14:** **The Search for Mengele**  
**Film:** *The Search for Mengele* by Brain Mosel and Narrated by David Frost.  
 \*Posner, Gerald and Ware, John. "Auschwitz: May 1943 – January 1945" pp. 19-58 in *Mengele, The Complete Story*
- November 21:** **Thanksgiving Break – No Class**
- November 28:** **Criminal Revelations**  
 Weindling, Paul. "Criminal Research" pp. 27-43 and "Exploitation" pp.44-64 in *Nazi Medicine and the Nuremberg Trials*  
 Suggested Reading: Weindling, Paul. "The Rabbits Protest," pp. 11-26 and "Aviation Atrocities," pp. 65-89 in *Nazi Medicine and the Nuremberg Trials*.
- December 5:** **Nuremberg Trials**  
 Weindling, Paul. "A Eugenics Trial?" pp.225-250; "Euthanasia" pp.250-256; "Experiments and Ethics" pp.257-269; "Formulating the Code" pp.270-293; "Cold War Medicine" pp.297-318 and "A Fragile Legacy" pp.319-332 in *Nazi Medicine and the Nuremberg Trials*  
**Final Paper Due In Class (information provided on handout-this grade will be considered incomplete until your paper has been submitted to turnitin.com)**

**December 12: Final Discussion**

**December 19: Final 7:00 -9:45 p.m. Bring a Blue Book**

### **Grading Policy**

Grades will be based on class attendance (15%); participation in class discussions (10%); Paper outline and bibliography (10%); one 6-8 page research/analysis paper [prompt to be provided in class] (20%); one test (20%); and one final (25%).

**\*NOTE: The final paper must be 6 full pages before the work cited or bibliography is added. Any paper that does not include a bibliography or work cited page, and does not meet the minimum requirement of 6 full pages will receive an automatic grade reduction. In addition, all papers must use parenthetical (not footnote) citations that conform to either the MLA or the Turabian style manuals, using the same style throughout the paper. Please let me know immediately if you have any disability, so that I can make for you the appropriate accommodation.**

**Only those web sites ending in “.gov,” “.edu,” “.org” or those approved by the instructor are acceptable for use in this class. Wikipedia is never accepted as a source for your paper.**

**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*

Make-up exams are to be arranged on an individual basis, as needed, with the instructor.

#### *Extra Credit*

N/A

#### *Late Work*

If you cannot turn in your paper by **December 5, 2012**, please notify the instructor at least 48 hours prior to this due date to make other arrangements. If an incomplete is approved, an “I” will appear on your summer grade report, and your paper will be due at the beginning of the Spring 2013 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 UT Dallas 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 2 classes will affect your grade.

#### *Classroom Citizenship*

**NOTE: Please let me know immediately if you have any disability, so that I can make for you the appropriate accommodation. 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 me signed by representatives of Student Services explaining these needs. Students must bring along the various texts assigned in the syllabus for every individual session during the semester.**

If you require media equipment for a class presentation, please notify Debbie Pfister at 972-883-2735 or [dhp@utdallas.edu](mailto:dhp@utdallas.edu) with your requests two weeks prior to the date you will require the equipment.

For additional information pertaining to academic performance such as Technical Support, Field Trip Policies / Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities, Student Conduct & Discipline, Academic Integrity, Copyright Notice, Email Use, Withdrawal

from Class, Student Grievance Procedures, Incomplete Grade Policy, Disability Services, and Religious Holidays, please visit:  
<http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies-and-procedures-text> .

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

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Holocaust and Nazi Medicine  
HIST 4344.501  
Fall 2012  
Class ID 5343471  
Password: eugenics