

HUHI 6338

The Holocaust

The Holocaust, the annihilation of six million Jews under the Nazis, looms large in our twenty-first-century consciousness. It involves both a monumental assault against millions of defenseless people and a brutally imposed process of dying, which reduced the victims into matter while they were still alive. It also involves the destruction of the age-old East-European Jewish culture. Although the mass killings stopped after the Third Reich was defeated, this destruction process has not ceased to put pressure on our contemporary world, casting dark shadows on the modern Western consciousness. In fact, it challenges our fundamental values and raises questions of enormous significance: “How was it possible for the Nazis to systematize, mechanize, and socially organize the Holocaust?” “How could the German State unhinge in 12 short years the basic structure of Western civilization?” And “How could European societies, including their moral and academic institutions, fail to protest against and defeat Nazi ideology”?

Our course will search for answers to these questions and raise many others. It will locate and study the roots of the “final solution” by analyzing the shapes and forms of the early persecutions of the Jews. Using a wide-ranging interdisciplinary approach, including films and works of art, it will ponder the circumstances and causes of the Holocaust and consider the psychological, social, moral, theological, and aesthetic dilemmas it has continued to raise.

The course will provide an excellent background for teachers in this field. Those interested in obtaining a certificate in Holocaust Studies and develop a curriculum and courses on the Holocaust will be able to arrange special tutorial sessions for this purpose with the instructor. Also, they will be encouraged to contact and get acquainted with the work of the Dallas Memorial Center for Holocaust Studies.

Required Texts May Include:

Yehuda Bauer, *History of the Holocaust*

Chaim Kaplan, *Scroll of Agony*

F. Müller, *Eyewitness to Auschwitz*

A. Schwarz-Bart, *The Last of the Just*

M. Radnoti, *Foamy Sky*

J. Weil, *Mendelssohn Is on the Roof*

E. Wiesel, *Night*

In addition, we'll watch two movies, *The Son of Soul* and *The Warsaw Ghetto*, study texts by David S. Wyman, Richard Breitman, David Patterson, read about, and discuss the issues of aesthetics in Holocaust art and literature.

Schedule of Classes

- Aug. 25: Introduction and film (*The Son of Soul*)
- Sept. 1: Yehuda Bauer, *A History of the Holocaust*, pp. 15-182.
- Sept. 8: Labor Day
- Sept. 15: Yehuda Bauer, *History of the Holocaust*, pp. 183-369.
- Sept. 22: Chaim A. Kaplan, *The Scroll of Agony*, 19-166.
- Sept. 29: Chaim A. Kaplan, *The Scroll of Agony*, 167-275 and 324-400.
- Oct. 6:
- Oct. 13: Filip Müller, *Eyewitness Auschwitz*, 1-171; D.S. Wyman, *The Abandonment of the Jews*, 19-58.
- Oct. 20: Elie Wiesel, *Night*, David Patterson, "National-Socialist Anti-Semitism," in *Anti-Semitism and Its Metaphysical Origins*, pp. 135-164.
- Oct. 27: E. Weil, *Mendelssohn Is on the Roof*
- Nov. 3: Schwarz-Bart, *The Last of the Just*
- Nov. 7: L. Langer "Preempting the Holocaust," pp. 1-22 and "The Alarmed Vision," pp. 59-79, in *Preempting the Holocaust*; and Alvin Rosenfeld, "The Problematic in Holocaust Literature," in his *A Double Dying*, 1-34.
- Nov. 10: M. Radnóti, *Foamy Sky* (poems)
- Nov. 17: Paul Celan, Nelli Sachs, and Pagis (poems).
- Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 1: Last Day of Classes

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

Grading Policy

Regular class attendance; participation in class discussion; one class presentation, one two-page paper, and one research paper (10-15 pages) which would be suitable for one of the portfolio essays.

1st Paper (Due October 10th) You will write a two-page paper about an issue that interests regarding our readings.

2nd Paper (Due December 9th) You will write a paper 10-15 pages about a topic you have chosen to study.

Class Attendance

Regular class attendance (15%) and active participation in class discussion (15%) comprise 30% of the final grade. **Missing more than three classes will affect your grade.**

All papers must be submitted in paper form on the due date designated above, unless other plans have been approved at least 48 hours prior to the actual due date of the paper. The paper is not complete unless it has been submitted to turnitin.com. Instructions for the use of turnitin.com will be provided in class.

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

In addition, you must comply with university policies regarding dishonesty: cheating and plagiarism.

Course Policies

If you cannot turn in your paper by December 9th, 2016, please notify me at least 48 hours prior to this due date to make other arrangements. If an incomplete is approved, an **X** will appear on your Fall semester grade report and your paper will be due at the beginning of the Spring semester in 2017. 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 Catalogue and Academic Calendar regarding rules and dates for incomplete work.**

Special Assignments

N/A

Classroom Citizenship

See above.

NOTE: all cell phones and computers must be turned off upon entering the classroom. Students with special needs which requires the use of computers during the class period

must submit written request to me signed by representatives of Student Services explaining these needs.

NOTE: Students must bring along the various texts assigned in the syllabus for every individual session during the semester.

If you need any media for your presentation or have any other question, please, e-mail to Amal.Shafek@utdallas.edu with your request.