

**HISTORY 37**  
**HISTORY AND MEMORY: PERSPECTIVES ON THE HOLOCAUST**  
**SPRING 2013**

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Office Hours: Mondays 2-4  
                  Tuesdays 1-2  
                  Fridays 2-4

Nearly seventy years after the Holocaust ended, and despite an enormous amount of research and testimony, the genocide of European Jewry continues to generate compelling historical, literary, artistic, and interpretive questions. This course explores historical explanations of the Holocaust, forms of memory and commemoration, and artistic representations of the Holocaust through a multidisciplinary approach that relies on primary sources and documentation, fiction, memoirs, poetry, film, and historical scholarship.

**Course Requirements:**

Two six-page papers (20% each)

One class presentation and ten-page paper based on the presentation and research (25%)

Final examination (20%)

Class participation (15%)

Class attendance is required, and unexcused absences will result in a lower final grade. They can also lead to a failing grade.

Please note that we will watch films as a class on most Tuesday afternoons from 4 to 6 in the classroom. However, attendance on Tuesday afternoons is optional if you have scheduling conflicts with athletics, work, or other commitments. All films are on reserve in McCabe and so you can watch them at your convenience. In addition, some of the films will be available as streaming video.

This course helps fulfill the requirements of German Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies.

All students are expected to read the College's policy on academic integrity and honesty that appears in the Swarthmore College Bulletin. This work you submit must be your own, and you be subject to prosecution by the College Judiciary Committee for work I suspect is plagiarized. When in doubt, check with me.

I also do not accept late papers and will assign a failing grade for the assignment unless you receive my permission to submit the paper after the due date.

You are required to attend all classes, and it is the policy of the History Department that students who do not attend all classes will have their final grade lowered.

Indeed, they are at risk for failing the course. In addition, I do not accept late papers and will assign a failing grade for the assignment unless you notify me and receive permission to submit the paper after the due date.

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore and are also on reserve in McCabe. All other readings are on Moodle.

Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin*

Doris Bergen, *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust* (Available via Tripod)

Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men*

Jan Gross, *Neighbors* (Available via Tripod)

Marion Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

Peter Novick, *The Holocaust in American Life* (Available via Tripod)

Art Spiegelman, *Maus*, volumes one and two

There is no shortage of on-line sources about the Holocaust. The three links provided below will give you access to a plethora of materials about the Holocaust and genocide.

Center for Holocaust Studies: University of Minnesota

<http://www.chgs.umn.edu/>

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: Washington, DC

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005143>

Yad Vashem: World Center for Holocaust Research, Education and Commemoration

<http://www.yadvashem.org/>

### **Week One: Issues in the Study of the Holocaust**

January 22: Introduction to Course

January 24: Holocaust Memorials and Commemoration

Philip Gourevitch, "Behold the Behemoth"

<http://www.harpers.org/archive/1993/07/0001335>

Jodi Rudoren, "Proudly Bearing Elders' Scars, Their Skin Says 'Never Forget'"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/01/world/middleeast/with-tattoos-young-israelis-bear-holocaust-scars-of-relatives.html?hp&r=0>

Michael Kimmelman, "Auschwitz Tailors Its Story for New Generation"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/19/arts/19auschwitz.html?ref=arts>

Jane Perlez, "Decay of a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Relic: What's the Future of Auschwitz?"

<http://www.nytimes.com/1994/01/05/world/the-decay-of-a-20th-century-relic-what-is-a-fitting-future-for-auschwitz.html?pagewanted=all&src=pm>

Timothy Ryback, "Evidence of Evil"

[http://www.newyorker.com/archive/1993/11/15/1993\\_11\\_15\\_068\\_TNY\\_CARDS\\_00366892](http://www.newyorker.com/archive/1993/11/15/1993_11_15_068_TNY_CARDS_00366892)

James Young, *The Texture of Memory* (Selections)

## **Week Two: Prelude to the Holocaust**

January 29: Emancipation and Antisemitism

"Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

Adolf Stoecker, "What We Demand of Modern Jewry"

Theodor Fritsch, "The Racists' Decalogue"

[http://en.metapedia.org/wiki/The\\_Racists%27\\_Decalogue](http://en.metapedia.org/wiki/The_Racists%27_Decalogue)

Houston Chamberlain, "The Foundations of the Nineteenth Century"

Wilhelm Marr, "The Victory of Judaism over Germandom"

[http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub\\_document.cfm?document\\_id=1797](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1797)

Shulamit Volkov, "The Written Matter and the Spoken Word. On the Gap Between Pre-1914 and Nazi Antisemitism"

Doris Bergen, *War and Genocide*, preface and chapter 1

Film: *Triumph of the Will* (115 minutes)

January 31: Hitler's *Weltanschauung*

Discuss *Triumph of the Will*

Doris Bergen, *War and Genocide*, chapter 2

Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, pp. 51-65 (required) and 284-329 (optional but recommended. Feel free to skim)

## **Week Three: Prelude to the Holocaust**

February 5: The Establishment of the Third Reich

Film: *The Eternal Jew* (62 minutes)--Streamed

Doris Bergen, *War and Genocide*, chapter 3

February 7: Jews under the Third Reich

Discuss *The Eternal Jew*

Marion Kaplan, *From Dignity to Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany*

## **Week Four: The Final Solution**

February 12: The Holocaust in the Soviet Union

Film: *The Wannsee Conference* (85 minutes)--Streamed

Doris Bergen, *War and Genocide*, chapter 4

February 14: Decision-Making and the Holocaust in Stages

Discuss *The Wannsee Conference*

Christopher Browning, "The Decision Concerning the Final Solution"

Robert Wistrich, "Modernity and the Nazi Genocide"

Materials on the Wannsee (Conference Distributed in Class)

### **Week Five: The Killing Fields**

February 19: The Holocaust in the Soviet Union

Guest Lecture: Polly Zavadviker on Vasili Grossman and the *Black Book of Soviet Jewry*

Doris Bergen, *War and Genocide*, chapter 5

Film: *The Story of Chaim Rumkowski and the Jews of Lodz* (55 minutes)

February 21: The Holocaust in Poland

Discuss *The Story of Chaim Rumkowski and the Jews of Lodz*

Jan Gross, *Neighbors*

### **Week Six: The Killing Fields**

February 26: The Perpetrators

Watch and Discuss *Night and Fog*

Doris Bergen, *War and Genocide*, chapters 6-8

Film: *A Film Unfinished* (88 minutes)

February 28: The Perpetrators

Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men*

Discuss *A Film Unfinished*

**February 28: Special Lecture by Professor Moshe Postone, University of Chicago. 4:30**

### **Week Seven: Film and the Holocaust**

March 5: Watch *Shoah* (9 hours)

March 7: Discuss *Shoah*

### **Week Eight: Literature and the Holocaust**

March 19: The Holocaust and Poetry

Paul Celan, "Death Fugue" (Distributed in class)

Nelly Sachs, "O the Chimneys" (Distributed in class)

Watch *Weapons of the Spirit* (91 minutes)—Streamed. Watch for today's class. We will discuss it.

March 21: Memoirs

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

### **Week Nine: Art and the Holocaust**

March 26: The Paintings of Samuel Bak

The Reference Librarian is Your Best Friend: Sarah Elichko and Research Techniques

March 28: Auschwitz Meets the Catskills

Art Spiegelman, *Maus*, volumes 1 and 2

### **Week Ten: Memory and Responsibility: The Issue of Relativization**

April 5: The *Rashomon* Syndrome

Robert Moeller, "War Stories: The Search for a Usable Past in the Federal Republic of Germany" <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2169632>

Materials on Bitburg

Film: *Germany, Pale Mother* (123 minutes)--Streamed

April 7: Gender, Responsibility, and the Holocaust

Discuss *Germany, Pale Mother*

Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin*

### **Week Eleven: Memory and Responsibility: The Issue of Relativization**

April 12: The Historians' Debate

Film: *Mein Krieg* (90 minutes)

Film: *The Unknown Soldier* (97 minutes)

April 14: Accepting Responsibility

Discuss *Mein Krieg* and *The Unknown Soldier*

Rudolph Hess and Franz Stangl on Auschwitz, Treblinka, and Sobibor

**Week Twelve: The Politics of Denial**

April 19: The Whys of Holocaust Denial

Deborah Lipstadt, *Denying the Holocaust* (Preface and “Canaries in the Mine”)  
Watch film *Mr. Death: The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter* (92 minutes)—Streamed.  
Watch for today’s class. We will discuss it.

April 21: America and the Holocaust

Peter Novick, *The Holocaust in American Life*

**Week Thirteen: Presentations**

April 26: Presentations

April 28: Presentations