

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
HIS 3427E: The Holocaust
UCC 67
Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00pm

Instructor: Dr. Karen Priestman
Office Hours: Monday, 2:30-5:30
Office: Lawson 2239
Phone: ext. 84922
Email: kpriest2@uwo.ca

(Email will be checked on weekdays, between 10:00am and 4:00pm. If you do not receive a reply from me within 48 hours, please resend the email.)

Course Description:

During the Second World War the Nazis destroyed two-thirds of European Jewry. In surveying the history of this genocide, this course explores Nazi policy towards the Jews in the context of German and European anti-Jewish ideology, modern bureaucratic structures, and the varying conditions of war, occupation, and domination in Europe under the Third Reich. Particular attention will be paid to the evolution of the “Final Solution,” the role of specific institutions and non-German collaboration, the motives of the perpetrators, and the reaction of Jews, European populations and governments, the Allies, churches, and anti-Nazi political movements. We will also examine the lasting legacy of the Holocaust, both in Germany and the broader world. Any discussion of the Holocaust necessitates consideration of difficult political and moral issues, including but not limited to: resistance, collaboration, survival, and rescue. Throughout the course, we will make sure to historicize and contextualize the Holocaust, breaking with the notion of the inevitability and inexplicability of the event.

Course Objectives:

- Students’ understanding of the Holocaust will be broadened and placed in its historical context.
- Students will become aware of the complex political and moral issues arising from a study of the Holocaust.
- Students’ analytical and writing skills through significant engagement with primary and secondary sources.
- Students’ skills of oral expression through class discussions.

Required Books:

Main Textbooks:

- Doris Bergen, *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust*. (Rowman and Littlefield, 2009).

Required Supplemental:

- Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*. (Harper Collins, 2007).
- Other readings available on Owl.

Optional Books:

- Yehuda Bauer, *Rethinking the Holocaust*. (Yale, 2000).
- Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. (6th ed., Bedford/St. Martin's 2010).

NOTE: It is perfectly acceptable to buy a used version of any or all of these books. Abebooks.com is an excellent source for cheap history books. Amazon.ca is also always reliable, but pricier.

Evaluation:

Participation:		20%
Proposal and Bibliography:	22 October	5%
Summary Paper (Browning):	26 November	10%
Mid-term exam:	December exam period	15%
Book Review:	4 February	10%
Research Essay:	1 April	25%
Final exam:	April exam period	15%

Assignments

Participation:

Participation in tutorial is a key component of the student's final mark. In order to participate effectively students must complete the readings for each tutorial. Simple attendance does not ensure a passing participation grade. In assigning a participation mark, I evaluate quality, rather than quantity. It is not necessarily the volume of remarks made that earns a high mark, but whether your comments and questions have stimulated discussion and led to a deeper understanding of the material and subject at hand. Like any other assignment, an 'A' in tutorial is earned through consistent outstanding performance. *Simply attending tutorial without participating will not result in a passing grade.* Participation in tutorial discussions is meant to enhance your ability to communicate orally. This requires you to become comfortable speaking in public as well as formulate an argument and articulate it convincingly.

Proposal and Bibliography: (DUE: 22 October 2014)

Students are required to submit a 500-word proposal outlining your chosen essay topic, a working thesis, and possible arguments to support that thesis. It is understood that this thesis is likely to change as you complete more research and come to better understand your topic. This proposal must be accompanied by a bibliography listing at least eight (8) sources [2-3 articles count as one (1) source]. This assignment is meant to make you choose a topic early and find sources for that topic. The earlier you begin thinking about your paper in a concrete way, the more likely it is that you will produce a paper you are proud of and will learn something from.

Summary Paper: (DUE: 26 November 2014)

Students are required to read Christopher Browning's *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* in its entirety. To reflect the high demand this places upon the student, the *Ordinary Men* tutorial (Discussion #4) will carry twice the weight of a regular tutorial. In addition, students are required to write a summary paper of no more than ten pages double-spaced on *Ordinary Men*. Most of the paper should be devoted to identifying and summarizing Browning's argument. A smaller portion of the paper should be devoted to articulating what you think is significant about this book and its argument. What contribution does this book make to Holocaust history as a whole?

****Please Note: Late papers will be assessed a 10% penalty on the first day.**** Thereafter, the late penalty will be assessed as usual (2% per calendar day). This is because we will be having a discussion on the book on November 25th, so everyone must have the book read by then.

Book Review: (DUE: 4 February 2015)

Students will write a scholarly book review. The book should be chosen from the bibliography for the student's research essay. It must be 7-10 pages long and must consult at least two professional reviews of at least one page each. These professional reviews will be photocopied and submitted to the instructor with the book review.

Research Essay: (DUE: 1 April 2015)

Students are required to submit a 12-15 page (double spaced) research essay on a topic of their choosing pertaining to the Holocaust. This essay should utilize at least eight (8) monograph-length secondary sources (2-3 articles count as one source). Primary sources are not required, but are not prohibited either. For ideas on possible topics, students should begin by perusing the lecture titles in this syllabus and looking through the table of contents of your textbooks. If you are having difficulty choosing a topic, formulating a research question, or are concerned about the suitability of your topic, please come and see me. Research essays should include a title page and bibliography. *You must also attach your marked proposal and bibliography to your essay.*

Students are required to submit their research essays to Turnitin.com (the link is under ‘Assignments’ on Owl).

Late Penalties:

Unless otherwise noted, all late assignments will be penalized **2% per calendar day** (this includes weekends).

Other Matters:

Students must consult with the instructor concerning absences from tutorial and late assignments worth less than 5% of the final mark.

No electronic devices are allowed during midterms or final exams.

Schedule of Lectures at a Glance (subject to change)

Sept. 10	Introduction, Holocaust Timeline	
Sept. 17	A History of Genocide	
Sept. 24	A History of Antisemitism	Discussion 1a
Oct. 1	The Interwar Years in Germany	Discussion 1b
Oct. 8	Hitler's Early Years and Rise to Power	Discussion 2a
Oct. 15	Hitler's <i>Weltanschauung</i> and the Nazi State	Discussion 2b
Oct. 22	The Institutionalization of Racism	Discussion 3a
Oct. 29	Sterilization: The Persecution of 'Asocials'	Discussion 3b
Nov. 5	Euthanasia: 'Life Unworthy of Life'	Discussion 4a
Nov. 12	From Partial to Total Genocide	Discussion 4b
Nov. 19	The Police State and Camp System	Discussion 5a
Nov. 26	The Machinery of Destruction	Discussion 5b
Dec. 3	Ordinary Germans + Review	
WINTER BREAK		
Jan. 7	Other Ordinary Europeans	Discussion 6a
Jan. 14	Victims: Marginalization, Ghettos, Camps	Discussion 6b
Jan. 21	Victims: Resistance and Other Responses	Discussion 7a
Jan. 28	The 'Other' Victims	Discussion 7b
Feb. 4	Bystanders: Press Reports	Discussion 8a
Feb. 11	Bystanders: Allied Nations	Discussion 8b
Feb. 18	READING WEEK – NO CLASS	
Feb. 25	Rescue: Obstacles and Opportunities	Discussion 9a
Mar. 4	The End of the Holocaust	Discussion 9b
Mar. 11	Guest Speaker	
Mar. 18	Postwar Justice and Retribution	Discussion 10a
Mar. 25	Memory and Memorialization	Discussion 10b
April 1	Holocaust Denial	
April 8	Overflow and Review	

Detailed Schedule of Lectures, Discussions, and Readings
(subject to change)

Date	Lecture Topic and Readings	Discussion Topic and Readings
Sept. 10	Introduction, Holocaust Timeline	
Sept. 17	A History of Genocide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doris Bergen, <i>War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust</i>, vii-x. 	
Sept. 24	A History of Antisemitism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bergen, Ch. 1, pp. 1-28. 	Discussion #1: Group A - European, German, and Nazi Antisemitism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernard Lewis, "Anti-Semites." Owl • Wilhelm Marr, "The Victory of Judaism over Germandom." Owl • Karl Eugen Duehring, "The Question of the Jew is a Question of Race." Owl • Edouard-Adolphe Drumont, "Jewish France." Owl • Houston Stewart Chamberlain, <i>The Foundations of the Twentieth Century</i>." Owl • Adolf Hitler, "A Letter on the Jewish Question." Owl • Adolf Hitler, "Nation and Race." Owl
Oct. 1	The Interwar Years in Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bergen, Ch. 2, pp. 29-50. 	Discussion #1: Group B - European, German, and Nazi Antisemitism See above for readings.
Oct. 8	Hitler's Early Years and Rise to Power	Discussion #2: Group A - The Prewar Years in Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victor Klemperer, <i>I Will Bear Witness</i>, excerpts. Owl. • Henrik Eberle and Victoria Harris, eds. <i>Letters to Hitler</i>, excerpts. Owl • Joshua M. Greene and Shiva Kumar, eds. <i>Witness: Voices from the Holocaust</i>, excerpts. Owl • Jurgen Matthaues, <i>Jewish Responses to Persecution</i>, excerpts.
Oct. 15	Hitler's Weltanschauung and the Nazi State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bergen, Ch. 3, pp. 51-78. 	Discussion #2: Group B - The Prewar Years in Germany
Oct. 22	The Institutionalization of Racism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bergen, Ch. 4, pp. 79-100 	Discussion #3: Group A - The Racial State/Utopia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry Friedlander, "The Opening Act of Genocide." Owl • Robert Jay Lifton, "The Nazi Doctors". Owl • Klemperer, excerpts. Owl • <i>Letters to Hitler</i>, excerpts. Owl • Ruth Andreas-Friedrich, <i>Berlin Underground</i>, excerpts. Owl • <i>Witness: Voices from the Holocaust</i>, excerpts. Owl
Oct. 29	Sterilization: The Persecution of 'Asocials' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bergen, Ch. 5, 101-133. 	Discussion #3: Group B - The Racial State/Utopia

Nov. 5	Euthanasia: ‘Life Unworthy of Life’	Discussion #4: Group A - The Concentration and Death Camps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrence Des Pres, “The Will to Survive.” Owl • Primo Levi, “The Gray Zone.” Owl • Zoe Waxman, “Women and the Holocaust.” Owl • Klemperer, excerpts. Owl • <i>Witness: Voices from the Holocaust</i>, excerpts. Owl • Marian Turski, <i>Polish Witnesses to the Shoah</i>, excerpts. Owl • <i>Berlin Underground</i>, excerpts. Owl • Samuel Pisar, <i>Of Blood and Hope</i>, excerpts. Owl • Joseph Kermish, <i>Selected Documents from the Oneg Shabbat</i>, excerpts. Owl Gideon Greif, ed. <i>We Wept Without Tears</i> , excerpts. Owl
Nov. 12	From Partial to Total Genocide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bergen, Ch 7, pp. 167-196. 	Discussion #4: Group A - The Concentration and Death Camps
Nov. 19	The Police State and the Camp System	Discussion #5: Group A – Ordinary Men
Nov. 26	The Machinery of Destruction	Discussion #5: Group B – Ordinary Men
Dec. 3	Ordinary Germans + Review	
WINTER BREAK		
Jan. 7	Other Ordinary Europeans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bergen, Ch. 6, pp. 135-165. • Iaconid, Radu. “Occupied and Satellite States.” Peter Hayes and John K. Roth, eds. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Holocaust Studies</i>. Owl 	Discussion #6: Group A - Perpetrators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christopher Browning, “One Day in Josefow” Owl • Ernst Klee, et. al., eds. <i>The Good Old Days</i>, excerpts. Owl • “Nuremberg Law for the Protection of the German Blood and of the German Honour of 15 September 1935.” Owl • “Hitler’s Reichstag Speech.” Owl • “Himmler on the Treatment of Ethnic Minorities.” Owl • “Special Duties for the SS in ‘OP Barbarossa’.” Owl • “Commissar Decree, June 6, 1941.” Owl • “Guidelines by Heydrich for Occupied Territories.” Owl • “Göring Order for the ‘Final Solution’.” Owl • “Excerpts from Letters From Photographer in PB 105.” Owl • “Protocol of the Wannsee Conference, January 20, 1942.” Owl • “Order by Himmler on July 19, 1942.” Owl • “The So-Called Jäger Report.” Owl • “From a Speech by Himmler in Poznan.” Owl
Jan. 14	Victims: Marginalization, Ghettos, and Camps	Discussion #6: Group B - Perpetrators
Jan. 21	The Victims: Resistance and Responses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bergen, Ch. 7, pp. 203-214. 	Discussion #7: Group A - Ghettos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Diner, Why the Jewish Councils Cooperated.” Owl • Adam Czerniakow, <i>The Warsaw Diaries of Adam Czerniakow</i>, excerpts. Owl • <i>Oneg Shabbat</i>, excerpts. Owl • Alexandra Zapruder, ed. <i>Salvaged Pages</i>, excerpts. Owl • “Rumkowski’s Address at the time of the Deportation of the Children from Lodz Ghetto, September 4, 1942.” Owl

Jan. 28	The ‘Other’ Victims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bergen, Ch. 7, pp. 196-203. Giles, Geoffrey J. “The Most Unkindest Cut of All: Castration, Homosexuality and Nazi Justice.” <i>Journal of Contemporary History</i>, Vol. 27, No.1 (Jan. 1992): 41-61. Owl Zimmermann, Michael. “The National Socialist ‘Solution of the Gypsy Question.’” Ulrich Herbert, ed. <i>National Socialist Extermination Policies</i>. Owl 	Discussion #7: Group B - Ghettos
Feb. 4	Bystanders: Press Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Berel Lang, “ ‘Not Enough vs. Plenty’ – Which did Pope Pius XII?” Owl. 	Discussion #8: Group A - Hiding, Passing, Helping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Klemperer, excerpts. Owl Beate Kosmala, “The Rescue of Jews, 1941-1945 – Resistance by Quite Ordinary Germans.” Owl <i>Witness: Voices from the Holocaust</i>, excerpts. Owl <i>Polish Witnesses</i>, excerpts. Owl Richard C. Lukas, ed. <i>Out of the Inferno</i>, excerpts. Owl Raoul Wallenberg, “Excerpts.” Owl Peruse the “Personal Histories” online exhibition of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Read whatever interests you, but be sure you are reading about Jewish victims. This exhibition can be found at: http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/phistories/
Feb. 11	Bystanders: Allied Responses	Discussion #8: Group B - Hiding, Passing, Helping
Feb. 18	READING WEEK	
Feb. 25	Rescue: Options and Opportunities	Discussion #9: Group A - The End/Postwar Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hanna Yablonka, “The Development of Holocaust Consciousness in Israel: The Nuremberg, Kapos, Kastner, and Eichmann Trials.” <i>Israel Studies</i>, Vol. 8, No. 3 (Fall 2003): 1-24. Owl Klemperer, excerpts. Owl <i>Witness: Voices from the Holocaust</i>, excerpts. Owl <i>Polish Witnesses</i>, excerpts. Owl <i>We Wept Without Tears</i>, excerpts. Owl <i>Of Blood and Hope</i>, excerpts. Owl <i>Salvaged Pages</i>, excerpts. Owl
Mar. 4	The End of the Holocaust <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bergen, Ch. 8 & Conclusion, pp. 215-233. 	Discussion #9: Group B - The End/Postwar Years
Mar. 11	Guest Speaker	

Mar. 18	Postwar Justice and Retribution	Discussion #10: Group A - The Holocaust on Film On your own time, you will watch one Holocaust film. It must be fiction (not a documentary) and its main subject must be the Holocaust. You should note the director, country of origin, and when the film was made. If you are unsure about whether a particular film is acceptable, please see me. We will then discuss the various films watched and the different ways the Holocaust is represented in each of them. Googling “Holocaust movies” will bring up several sites which will give you many suggestions.
Mar. 25	Memory and Memorialization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young, James E. “Germany’s Holocaust Problem – and Mine.” <i>The Public Historian</i>. Vol. 24, No. 4, (Fall, 2002): 65-80. Owl. • Cole, Tim. “Prologue: The Rise (and Fall?) Of the Myth of the ‘Holocaust.’” <i>Selling the Holocaust</i>. Owl. 	Discussion #10: Group B - The Holocaust on Film
April 1	Holocaust Denial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liptstadt, Deborah. “Canaries in the Mine: Holocaust Denial and the Limited Power of Reason.” <i>Denying the Holocaust</i>. Owl ➤ Paper Due 	
April 8	Overflow and Review	

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Prerequisites and Antirequisites:

Unless you have either the requisites for this course, as described in the Academic Calendar description of the course, or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The Academic Calendar description of each course also indicates which classes are considered antirequisites, i.e., to cover such similar material that students are not permitted to receive academic credit for both courses.

Academic Offences:

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

Medical Issues:

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

SUPPORT SERVICES:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or rdashfo@uwo.ca