

Course Outline: 2013-14
RS 3450G: Judaism and the Holocaust

Location: V208
Day(s): Tues
Time: 3:30-5:30

Instructor(s): Dr. Darren Marks

Contact: Dr. Marks: A319B; dmarks@uwo.ca ; tel. 519 438 7224 x279
Office hours : Tues 12-2 pm

Prerequisites Required for this Course:

Unless you have either the requisites for this 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.

Antirequisite(s): Religious Studies 280F/G if taken in 2005-06.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of first-year requirements including 1.0 course from Category A or 1.0 course in History.

Course Description:

This reading course will examine the impact of the Holocaust (1938-45) on Judaism in terms of its philosophy-theology, subsequent placement in Western society and effect that the Holocaust has had on Western and Global society. The course will examine the historical-social context of anti-Semitism and its relation to Christianity (and Islam) and the rise of National Socialism, investigate Jewish (and other faiths) responses to theology, theodicy and ethics after the Holocaust and then look at the role of the Holocaust in Jewish and non-Jewish social-political structures after 1945.

Readings:

There are two (2) required texts for this course.

The required texts are:

1. Dorff and Newman, *Contemporary Jewish Theology: A Reader* (OUP, 1999, ISBN 13-978-0-19-511467)
2. Katz et al, *Wrestling with God*, (OUP, 2007, 978-0-19-530015-4).

There are numerous recommended texts:

1. C Browning, *The Path to Genocide* (CUP, 1998, 0-521-55878-6).
2. W Laqueur, *The Changing Face of Anti-Semitism* (OUP, 2006, 0-19-530429).
3. L Leff, *Buried by the Times*, (CUP, 2005, ISBN 0-521-81287-9).

4. Idith Zertal, *Israel's Holocaust and the Politics of Nationhood*, (CUP, 2005, 0-521-85096)
5. M Goldberg, *Why Should Jews Survive*, (OUP, 1995, 0-19-511126-5)
6. M Morgan, *Beyond Auschwitz, Post-Holocaust Thought in America*, (OUP, 2001, 0-19-5144862-2).
7. G Achcar, *The Arabs and the Holocaust* (Holt, 2009, 978-0-8050-8954-7)

Course Outline:

Week One: Introduction

Week Two: Roots of Genocide: Antisemitism

Reading: Laqueur pp 1-107.

Week Three: Roots of Genocide: The Final Solution

Reading: Browning pp 3-58, 77-124.

Week Four and Five: The Victim's Voices

Reading: Art Speigelman, *Maus (Graphic Novel)*, VI/2.
 Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz : the Nazi assault on humanity.*
 Elie Wiesel, *Night*
 Jean Amery, *At the Mind's Limits*

Week Six: Contemporary Voices: In Europe

Reading: Katz *et al*, pp 3-73

Week Seven: Contemporary Voices: In Israel and America

Reading: Katz *et al*, pp 287-304 and 376-93
 Leff, 1-48, 135-237 and 330-58

Week Eight and Nine: Theological Responses

Reading: Dorff and Newman, pp 345-416. (Berkovitz, Rubenstein, Fachenheim and Greenberg)
 Katz *et al*, pp 450-684 (Levinas, Cohen, Funkenstein, Sacks and Wiesel)

Week Ten: Philosophical Responses

Reading: Morgan pp 1-90, 196-211.

Week Eleven: Contemporary Responses (Jewish and Arab)

Reading: Goldberg.
Achcar

Week Twelve and Thirteen: Politics of the Holocaust

Readings: Zertal
Dorff/Newman pp 417-485. (Yehoshua, Hartman,
Leibowitz, Ellis)

Evaluation:

Evaluation will take place in three modes:

- a. **Seminar and Bibliography:** Student groups will be required to present a topic to the class (more to follow). **Worth 30% of final grade.** Bibliographical summary: For each seminar, each student group will submit a bibliography or literature search pertinent to their topic. They are to have minimum 10 sources cited and a précis of all sources of no more than 50 words. The biographical work is to demonstrate facility with the material and status of questions for the seminars to be presented **Worth 10% of final grade. The total for the seminar is 40% of final grade and as such is expected to reflect substantial work.**
- b. **Essay:** Students will be required to write one (1) essay of 7-10 pages on a topic covered in class (more to follow): **Worth 30% of final grade.** Due final day of course.
- c. **Participation/Discussion:** As this is not a lecture based course in the traditional sense, student participation is necessary. As such, attendance and participation is mandatory unless ill or otherwise indisposed. **30% of the final grade** will be given to participation, with **20%** being for two short (no more than 750 words) *critical response* papers chosen by the student to three seminars that they did not present and **10%** for class attendance and participation (each absence with medical documentation is a loss of 1 mark). Papers are due final day of class or in a timely fashion done throughout the term.

Seminar Guidelines: Seminars will be dedicated to presenting the assigned readings in an ordered and systematic manner and in directing questions and conversation throughout for peers. You are critically to engage and facilitate learning by others. Evaluation will reflect both aspects of the seminar. Groups will be **three** persons. Time will be split

according to the number of seminars being presented, but usually students can expect to have 50 mins (two seminars) or 35 mins (three seminars).

Email: As per University policy, all email correspondence must come through your UWO account, and is to be treated as if a registered letter and thus as official correspondence. Please use appropriate discretion.

Late Submissions: Unless notified and accompanied by formal letters (doctor, dean etc) all papers that are late will lose academic standing. The scale is as follows: 1-3 days late (10%), 3-5 days (25%). No paper five or more days late will be accepted.

Essays: All essays are assumed to be academic papers. As such, they are expected to have a bibliography, follow a standard (MLA, APA, Chicago or CBE styles) citation and a standard academic format (refer to *Western Calendar*).

Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds:

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf [downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> under the Medical Documentation heading]

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the instructor.

For non-medical grounds or for medical grounds when work represents less than 10% of the overall grade for the course, students seeking academic accommodation must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the instructor.