

HISTORY 3416G

The Holocaust

Winter 2021

Instructor: Professor Eli Nathans

Office Hours: TBA

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This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

Lectures will be offered in a virtual, synchronous format - on-line and at a dedicated time

The University is investigating a blend of online and live course delivery, and is being guided by recommendations from health authorities and the provincial and federal governments. The Department of History is committed to providing a superior learning experience for all students, and our faculty members are reimagining their course offerings to take advantage of the best new technologies and practices available in online teaching and learning. Please monitor the department website for course information - we will post updates as soon as they are available.

Course Description:

Examines why and how the Nazi government undertook to murder European Jews, and also the educated elite of Poland, Soviet POWs, Roma and Sinti, and the mentally handicapped. We examine the roles played by Hitler and close associates, contemporary responses to the murders, and the postwar historiography of the subject.

Prerequisite(s):

1.0 History course at the 2200 level or above.

Unless you have either the prerequisites 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. The 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):

The former History 3427E

Course Syllabus:

Students who pass this class will be able to:

Explain the reasons for the intensification of antisemitic feeling in Germany and other European countries from the middle of the nineteenth century, and in particular after the Russian Revolution and the First World War;

Explain how the Nazi movement came to power and how it was able, once Hitler's dictatorship was established, rapidly to destroy the laws and institutions that protected individual rights within Germany;

Explain how and in what stages the Nazi regime implemented first discriminatory measures and then programs of murder against Jews and other groups that the regime wished to eliminate;

Explain the responses to these murders of the peoples of different countries in occupied Europe, religious groups, and foreign observers and governments;

Explain the postwar historiography of the Holocaust;

Evaluate primary sources, by showing that they understand the arguments made, the goals particular claims were meant to achieve, how these goals reflected the positions and experiences of the authors, the historical contexts in which documents were composed, and the larger historical significance of the sources.

Construct an analytic, logical, and clear historical argument in an essay that demonstrates an ability to conduct independent library research, evaluate a range of primary and secondary sources, and correctly cite the sources used.

Actively engage in discussions demonstrating the ability to formulate concepts and ideas orally, and to respond in clear and constructive ways to comments made and questions posed by the leader of the tutorial and by other students.

Course Materials:

Peter Kenez, *The Coming of the Holocaust. From Antisemitism to Genocide* (Cambridge, 2013)

Excerpts from the following books, among others, will also be assigned:

Irving Abella and Harold Troper, *None is Too Many. Canada and the Jews of Europe 1933-1948* (University of Toronto Press, 1983).

Omer Bartov, *Anatomy of a Genocide. The Life and Death of a Town Called Buczacz* (Simon & Schuster, 2018).

Martin Dean, *Robbing the Jews. The Confiscation of Jewish Property in the Holocaust, 1933-1945* (Cambridge, 2010).

Saul Friedlander, *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, Volume 2, (HarperCollins, 2007)

Germany and the Second World War (Research Institute for Military History, Freiburg im Breisgau, 1991-2015), selected volumes.

Jan Gross. *Fear. Antisemitism in Poland after Auschwitz* (Random House, 2007).

Marion Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany* (Oxford, 1998).

Zygmunt Klukowski, *Diary from the Years of Occupation, 1939-44* (University of Illinois, 1993).

Peter Longerich, *The Nazi Persecution and Murder of the Jews* (Oxford, 2010).

Peter Longerich, *The Unwritten Order. Hitler's Role in the Final Solution* (Tempus, 2001)

Michael Meyer and Michael Brenner, eds., *German-Jewish History in Modern Times*, Volumes 3 and 4 (Columbia, 1996).

Bettina Stangneth, *Eichman Before Jerusalem. The Unexamined Life of a Mass Murderer* (Vantage, 2015).

Methods of Evaluation:

Contributions to class discussions: 5%

Quizzes on the assigned readings, due the day before the class meets:

25%

One essay, eight to ten pages in length, with a minimum of 2500 words, based on questions set by the instructor. Students will have a choice of topics. The essay is due on Wednesday, March 24th.

35%

Final Examination: 35%

Essay: To submit the essay you must upload an electronic copy to the Assignments section of the course OWL website. Note that plagiarism detection software licensed to Western University is used for textual similarity review. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system.

Absences, illnesses, and tardy submissions of assignments. Absences from the final examinations can only be based on a request for accommodation from an Academic Counselor to the instructor.

One point on a hundred point scale will be deducted from your mark for every day that the essay is late.

Please keep all preparatory notes and early drafts. The instructor may ask for these materials.

Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self Reported Absence:

If a student reports a SRA for an assignment (i.e. an essay) the new due date will be 48 hours after the SRA was submitted. For example, if you complete a SRA on March 19 at 3pm, your new due date will be March 21 at 3pm.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Weekly Topics:

1. The Rise of Modern European Antisemitism: 1791-1914
2. Antisemitism and the experience of the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the economic hardships and political conflicts of the interwar period: 1914-1933
3. Nazi policies towards Jews and other disfavored groups in Germany from 1933-1938. Kristallnacht.

4. The start of the Second World War and the inauguration of murderous policies directed at the mentally handicapped of Germany, the elite of Poland, and Jews in countries occupied by Germany or governed by its allies.
5. The invasion of the Soviet Union, the declaration of war against the United States, and the commencement of systematic policies of murder directed at Jews, Soviet POWs, and Soviet civilians. The murder of Sinti and Roma. The role of Hitler, the SS, and the German army.
6. Responses of the people of Poland and of the occupied Soviet Union. Responses of the people and the governments of France and Italy.
7. Responses in Germany, Norway and Denmark, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.
8. Responses of countries not controlled by Germany: Britain, the United States, Canada, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the countries of the Middle East. The responses of the Christian churches.
9. The treatment of Jewish survivors, with an emphasis on Poland, the Netherlands, France, and the Soviet Union.
10. Judicial reckoning, and failed reckoning, with an emphasis on West Germany, France, Israel, and Switzerland. The trials of Adolf Eichmann, Klaus Barbie, and Maurice Papon. Canada. Reparations.
11. The historiography of the Holocaust.
12. The politics of memory in Eastern and Western Europe and North America.
13. Open. Review for the final examination.

Additional Statements

Academic Offences:

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

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 for such checking 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>).

Accessibility Options:

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 Student Accessibility Services at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding

accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:
www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

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://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. 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.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation.

Please visit https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html to view all updated academic policies regarding medical accommodations.

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>).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

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 another writers ideas.

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 receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Copyright

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

Health and Wellness

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.

Use of Electronic Devices

Students may use computers and other electronic devices when taking the final examination, but must formulate their own responses to questions themselves. Copying from the web is prohibited. Information available on the web is often incomplete and sometimes incorrect. Evaluation of answers will be based on materials assigned for the course.

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 Student Accessibility Services at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail vangalen@uwo.ca.