

**HISTORY 3416F**  
**The Holocaust**  
**Fall/Winter 2022-23**  
**Thursday 9:30am-12:20pm (in-person)**

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Office Hours: TBA

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

**Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic**

The intent is for this course to be delivered in-person but should the COVID-19 landscape shift, the course will be delivered on-line synchronously (ie., on Zoom at the times indicated in the timetable). The grading scheme will not change. The course will return to an in-person mode of delivery when the University and local health authorities deem it safe to do so.

**Course Description:**

This course will explore the history and memory of the Holocaust, a term that denotes the mass murder of more than six million European Jews, and five million other alleged enemies of the National Socialist regime and its collaborators' including religious objectors, the disabled, mentally handicapped, homosexuals, Roma, Sinti, Soviet POWs, and Socialists. In surveying the history of this genocide, the course will reflect on discriminatory and later murderous policies implemented towards 'ethnic others' and 'undesirable' in the context of German and European far-right ideology, modern bureaucratic structures, and the context of war, occupation, and annexation. Particular attention will be paid to the evolution of the "Final Solution" and the role of specific institutions and non-German collaboration in carrying out one of the greatest atrocities of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We will also examine the legacy of the Holocaust, both in Germany and the broader world and explore how institutions, museums, popular culture, and media construct narratives around its history which may or may not correspond with the historical record.

Course instruction will be broken up into two parts. The first part of the course will focus on the rise of the National Socialist regime and the discriminatory and later violent measures implemented against Jews and other groups the regime wished to eliminate. In the second part of the course, discussion will center of the scale of mass violence carried out in the large geographical area that Timothy Snyder has coined 'The Bloodlands' - Eastern Europe. Here, I am referring both to the vast geographical landscape that was the backdrop of mass violence - an area consisting of annexed, occupied, and collaborative states - but also the various groups of people who were found targets of the far-right regimes that came to power in Europe during the interwar period notably in Germany, Italy, Hungary, Romania, and Croatia.

Broader course themes addressed over the span of a lesson or spanning over a few lessons will touch on ethnonationalism, racism, violence, gender, sexuality, resistance, and memory and memorialization. These

historical insights will be applied to the research themes centered on perpetrators, collaborators, bystanders, and victims. Discussions of these research themes will be centered on actors, responses, and incentives and the fluid boundaries between these conceptualizations and labels.

***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 3472E.

**Course Syllabus:**

***Learning Outcomes:***

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain the causes, means, and consequences of mass violence perpetrated in the Holocaust
- Situate, analyze, and assess primary sources and place them in their historical contexts
- Identify and engage with the main arguments of Holocaust studies
- Become aware of the complex political and moral issues arising from the study of the Holocaust
- Strengthen skills of oral and written communication through engagement with primary and secondary sources
- Identify and summarize the main arguments and reflect critically of key texts.

**Course Materials:**

***Required Books: Main Textbook***

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

***Required Supplemental:***

- Jan Grabowski, *Hunt for the Jews. Betrayal and Murder in German-Occupied Poland*, Indiana University Press, 2013.
- Jan T. Gross, *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne*, New York: Penguin, 2002
- Other readings available on OWL or through the university's library catalogue

**Methods of Evaluation:**

The final grade for this course is based on the accumulated results of one written assignment, a map test, participation, and a final exam. Please note that 3rd and 4th year history courses have been exempted from the

requirement that students receive work assessment for at least 15% of their final grade three days prior to the withdrawal deadline.

Participation: 20%  
Map Test: 20%  
Reflection Paper: 25%  
Final Exam: 35%

### ***Participation:***

A successful, thought-provoking class discussion requires active participation of all attendees. Students will be encouraged to take notes and bring them to class. In assigning a participation mark, I evaluate the quality of students' responses, rather than the quantity. It is not necessarily the volume of remarks made that earns a high mark, but whether your comments and questions stimulate discussion and lead to a deeper understanding of the material and subject at hand.

Like any other assignment, an 'A' grade is earned through consistent outstanding performance. *Simply attending class without participating will not result in a passing grade. You will receive a maximum grade of 40% for participation.* Participation in class discussions is meant to enhance your ability to communicate orally.

Students will serve as co-moderator for one class session. This assignment will require a thorough understanding of the session's weekly class readings and primary sources assigned for that week.

### ***Map Test:***

Students will be asked to label key sites, cities, regions, territories, rivers, concentration camps, and death camps on a map. The pedagogical intent of this activity is to encourage students to develop their geographical and spatial conception and understanding of Central and Eastern Europe.

### ***Reflection Paper:***

Students will be required to read and write a reflection paper consisting of 2500-3000 words on Jan T. Gross, *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne*, and Jan Grabowski, *Hunt for the Jews. Betrayal and Murder in German-Occupied Poland* in their entirety. Most of the paper should be devoted to identifying and summarizing Gross and Grabowski's arguments. A smaller portion of the paper should be devoted to articulating the significance of these two texts and their arguments. What contribution do these texts make to the study of the Holocaust as a whole?

### ***Final Exam: December Exam Period***

The final exam will be held in the December exam period. It will take the form of a standard history exams, consisting of some combination of short answers and essay questions. The exam will be two hours long.

*Students must submit all course assignments in order to pass the course. Students must pass the reflection paper to achieve a passing grade in the course.*

### ***Due Dates and Late Penalties:***

Assignments are due on the date noted. Penalty for late assignments is 2% each day (including Saturdays and Sundays). Assignments will **not** be accepted after one week has passed. There will be no exceptions unless

students secure consideration from Academic Counselling. For all medical and non-medical issues that might warrant accommodation, including all assignments, quizzes, presentations, and class attendance, and exams, please go to academic counselling.

### **Accommodation for missed tests/midterms:**

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a make-up test. The make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

For in-person classes, make-up tests will be written at one of the Department of History make-up midterms. Dates for the make-ups will be listed on the Department of History website under [Important Dates](#).

**IMPORTANT:** In the event the University moves to online learning make-up tests will take place online via OWL. The date for the make-up may differ from the date listed above.

No other make-up opportunities will be provided unless further academic consideration is granted by Academic Counselling. Students who fail to write a make-up test in a designated time slot will receive a grade of zero on that assessment.

Course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the make-up test slots.

### **Use of Electronic Devices:**

Electronic devices may be used for classwork only. No electronic devices will be permitted during tests and exams.

### **Additional Statements:**

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document, <https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness