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HIST 3418/HEJS 3203
Spring 2015
Tues & Thurs 11:00-12:15
Oak 106
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The Holocaust

In this course we will investigate the origins, development, and legacy of the Holocaust. Topics to be explored include the history of modern European anti-Semitism, the creation of the Nazi state, the catalytic role of the Second World War, the actions and attitudes of the perpetrators, victims, and bystanders, and the diverse ways in which scholars and societies have dealt with the legacy of the Holocaust.

The aims of the course are 1) to introduce students to the fundamental issues surrounding the Holocaust; 2) to introduce students to the tools and approaches used by historians in researching, writing, and discussing historical topics; and 3) to give students the opportunity to hone their analytical and writing skills.

Course readings constitute the heart of the class; consisting of an array of different texts, they introduce and/or embellish themes or issues that will be explored in discussions and lecture. It is therefore essential that students keep up with the readings. Since an important component of the class is developing students' abilities to read critically and to evaluate historical sources, primary source documents such as memoirs, novels, and documents will make up an integral part of the course reading. This course also examines film as an historical source; specifically, we will explore how postwar generations have understood the Holocaust through the medium of film and what such representations tell us about them.

Please note that the discussions are a fundamental aspect of this course. They provide you with an opportunity to delve more deeply into the subjects and to exercise your analytical and interpretative skills. More importantly, the discussions allow you to debate and question ideas raised in the lecture and to develop and share your own ideas and opinions. Students are expected to come every meeting prepared to discuss the readings. To facilitate discussion, each student is required SEVEN (7) of the designated twelve weeks to post an one-page (approximately 300 words) reading response to the selected discussion questions on the course discussion forum on HuskyCT by Monday evening by 9:00 pm of the particular week. Please note that you will receive a grade for your reading response – you should thus take care in formulating your response in terms of both content and style. The secret to a good grade for classroom participation is contributing regularly and actively to the discussions! Participation is a willingness to ask and/or answer questions, to make or respond to a comment – in short, to be engaged in an active way in the lectures and discussion. It is my hope that we can create an intellectual community this semester, one in which everyone respects the opinion of the other as we explore together the subject of the Holocaust; every contribution adds to our collective understanding of the material, so don't hesitate to ask or answer questions!

Assignments

The course's written assignments consist of a map exercise, a document assignment paper, reading responses, and a final examination.

Document analysis paper:	25%
Final exam:	25%
Class participation:	15%
Reading responses posted online and map exercise:	35%

In order to do well in this course, you will need to fulfill all the requirements. More specifically, you will need to attain a passing grade in at least 60% of the course requirements. This will require that you regularly do the reading assignments and that you regularly attend class. The map exercise is a take-home, open-book exercise designed to familiarize you with European geography relevant to the study of the Holocaust. Information regarding the paper assignment will be handed out at least ten days before the paper's due date; students are expected to hand in a hard copy of their paper in class! Finally, the material on the exam will be taken from the primary and secondary source readings and the lectures. Requests for extensions or excused absences will be considered on an individual basis, in accordance with College and department guidelines, and only with the appropriate written documentation.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism in any form is a serious breach of academic standards. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourselves with University rules and regulations regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct. Should you have specific questions about academic integrity, please read the University's policies at <http://www.dosa.uconn.edu> or make an appointment to see me. Please note that anyone caught plagiarizing will receive an automatic F in this course; I also reserve the right to refer cases of misconduct to the appropriate University body for further action.

Students with Disabilities: As a student with a disability, before you may receive accommodations in this class, you will need to make an appointment with the Center for Student Disabilities to arrange for approved accommodations. However, if you would like to speak with me about other matters, please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible.

Assigned texts:

Mary Fulbrook, *A Small Town Near Auschwitz: Ordinary Nazis and the Holocaust*

Peter Gay *My German Question*

Victor Klemperer *I Will Bear Witness: A Diary of the Nazi Years, 1933-1941*

Kazimierz Sakowicz *Ponary Diary 1941-1943. A Bystander's Account of a Mass Murder*

Bettina Stangneth, *Eichmann Before Jerusalem: The Unexamined Life of a Mass Murderer*

Avraham Tory, *Surviving the Holocaust: The Kovno Ghetto Diary*

Elie Wiesel *Night*

Doris Bergen, *War & Genocide. A Concise History of the Holocaust* (2nd Edition) (recommended)

Copies of the assigned texts can be purchased at the UConn Co-op. A copy of each of the above assigned texts has also been placed on non-electronic reserve in the Homer Babbidge Library. Please be sure to bring with you to class the readings assigned for that week; you will need them for the discussion.

January 20	Course Introduction	
January 22 Reading:	European Traditions of Judeophobia and Antisemitism Primary source documents on Judeophobia and Antisemitism (ECR)	
January 27 Reading:	Jewish Emancipation in the 19 th Century and Its Opponents Chapter XI “Nation and Race” in Adolf Hitler’s <i>Mein Kampf</i> (ECR)	
January 29 Reading:	Eugenics, <i>Kulturkritik</i> , & Modern ‘Redemptive’ Antisemitism Primary source documents (ECR)	
February 3 Reading:	World War One and the Weimar Republic Peter Gay <i>My German Question</i> (first half)	MAP EXERCISE DUE
February 5 Reading:	The Rise of the NSDAP and the Creation of the Third Reich Victor Klemperer, <i>I Will Bear Witness</i> , p. 3-33	
February 10 Reading:	Nazi Policies 1933-1939: the ‘social death’ of German Jewry Peter Gay <i>My German Question</i> (second half)	
February 12 Reading:	German Jewish Responses to Nazi Persecution Victor Klemperer, <i>I Will Bear Witness</i> , p. 247-285	
February 17 Reading:	World War Two and the “Jewish Problem” Victor Klemperer <i>I Will Bear Witness</i> , p. 304-349	
February 19 Reading:	Poland as Prologue Victor Klemperer <i>I Will Bear Witness</i> , p. 350-384	
February 24 Reading:	Operation Barbarossa and the Wehrmacht’s War of Extermination Avraham Tory <i>Kovno Ghetto Diary</i> , p. 3-43 Kazimierz Sakowicz <i>Ponary Diary</i> , p. 11-30	
February 26 Reading:	The <i>Einsatzgruppen</i> Avraham Tory <i>Kovno Ghetto Diary</i> , p. 44-89 Kazimierz Sakowicz <i>Ponary Diary</i> , p. 34-46	
March 3 Reading:	Bureaucratization of the Final Solution: Extermination Camps Elie Wiesel <i>Night</i> , p. vii-84	

- March 5**
Reading: Bureaucratization of the Final Solution: Slave Labor
Avraham Tory *Kovno Ghetto Diary*, p. 90-125
- March 10**
Reading: Mass Murder on Film: “The Holocaust”
Avraham Tory *Kovno Ghetto Diary*, p. 126-156
The ‘Jäger Report’ and Felix Landau diary excerpt (ECR)
- March 12** Determining the When and Why of the Holocaust **DOCUMENT ANALYSIS DUE**
- SPRING BREAK**
- March 24**
Reading: Modes of Resistance
Finish *Ponary Diary*
Finish *Night*
Mary Fulbrook, *A Small Town Near Auschwitz*, p. 1-64
- March 26**
Reading: The Victims of the Holocaust: Jews and Non-Jews
Avraham Tory *Kovno Ghetto Diary*, p. 157-169 and 448-492
- March 31**
Reading: Perpetrators: Germans and Non-Germans
Christopher Browning, “One Day in Jozefow,” in David Crew (ed.), *Nazism and German Society*, p. 300-315 (ECR)
Mary Fulbrook, *A Small Town Near Auschwitz*, p. 65-96
- April 2**
Reading: Multiplicity of Actors, Multiplicity of Motivations
Mary Fulbrook, *A Small Town Near Auschwitz*, p. 97-150
- April 7**
Reading: Witnesses and Bystanders: Allies & the Holocaust
Mary Fulbrook, *A Small Town Near Auschwitz*, p. 151-188
- April 9**
Reading: Witnesses and Bystanders: the Church & the Holocaust
Mary Fulbrook, *A Small Town Near Auschwitz*, p. 189-235
- April 14**
Reading: Liberation
Bettina Stangneth, *Eichmann before Jerusalem*, p. 1-55
Avraham Tory *Kovno Ghetto Diary*, p. 493-528
- April 16**
Reading: Postwar Holocaust Trials
Bettina Stangneth, *Eichmann before Jerusalem*, p. 56-93

- April 21**
Reading: Representations of the Holocaust in Literature & Art
Bettina Stangneth, *Eichmann before Jerusalem*, p. 94-127
- April 23**
Reading: Representations of the Holocaust in Film
Bettina Stangneth, *Eichmann before Jerusalem*, p. 128-182
- April 28**
Reading: Contested Memories of the Holocaust: Then and Now
Bettina Stangneth, *Eichmann before Jerusalem*, p. 183-233
- April 30**
Reading: Denying the Holocaust
Bettina Stangneth, *Eichmann before Jerusalem*, p. 234-311
- FINAL EXAM:** **TBD**
Finish Bettina Stangneth, *Eichmann before Jerusalem* and Mary Fulbrook,
A Small Town Near Auschwitz