

*University of California at San Diego*

## WHY HITLER? HOW AUSCHWITZ?

HIEU 158

Spring quarter 2005

529012

Class meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11—11:50 in Center 105.

Office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30-10:30

### **Professor Deborah Hertz**

Humanities and Social Science Building 4040  
534-5501

Please do not send me e-mail unless it is a picture connected to your Roundtable presentation. If you need to contact me, leave a message on my voicemail, see me before or after class or call me during my office hours. In an emergency, you can leave a message with the Judaic Studies Program assistant, Ms. Erin Svalstad, [esvalstad@ucsd.edu](mailto:esvalstad@ucsd.edu).

**Requirements:** All students are expected to attend every lecture and do the reading. Attendance will be taken in class. Although the class will be large, we will try to have discussions based on the question for that session, which will be posted on our WebCt the evening before the lecture.

Students will take two in-class exams [April 18 and June 3] and one take-home examination, over the weekend of May 7-8. **Late work or make-up examinations will generally not be possible unless you contact the instructor at least 24 hours before the deadline.**

Our class will have a web site. To gain access use your UCSD username and the password you have chosen. The address is <http://webct.ucsd.edu>. If you have problems gaining access call Academic Computing at 4-4061 or 4-2113. It may take a few days into the quarter for our site to be up and running. Lecture power point presentations **will not be posted on the site.**

All students must post at least three mini-essays on our discussion board, and additional short postings will count towards extra credit. Each class session will have one discussion question which the instructor will post on our board the evening before that lecture. In your posting, you can address that question or any other point you wish to make about class lectures, the reading, or one of the three speakers noted below. One of your five postings should be devoted to the Historical Personality, a historian, a place, event, short story, fiction author, filmmaker or film which you choose for your Roundtable presentation. If you wish me to show pictures connected with your

Roundtable presentation, please send them to me as an e-mail a few days before the Roundtable.

There are three speakers coming to campus this quarter whose public lectures are of immense interest for our class. These lectures can also be the subject of your posting and your Roundtable presentation. Note carefully when the lectures appear on the syllabus and plan to attend. Attendance at the lectures will be taken, and your honored presence will count as extra credit toward your final grade. All students are required to attend at least one of the three lectures.

**Roundtables.** We will convene six Roundtables during the quarter. By the second week of class or sooner, choose a Historical Personality, an event, a place, a short story, a fiction author, a historian, a filmmaker, a film or a historian which fits into one of the Roundtables. Do a posting that week about your subject. The content of these presentations will not be graded but the work is required. Library research is not required for these presentations, and intelligent use of the internet is usually sufficient.

**Points toward your final grade:** 20 first exam; 25 take-home exam; 35 third exam; 20 WebCt postings, attendance, and overall participation.

**Books.** All books are available at the Groundworks Bookstore in the Old Student Center and are on reserve in the library.

Ron Rosenbaum, *Explaining Hitler*  
Deborah Dwork and Robert Jan van Pelt, *Holocaust: A History*  
Jan Gross, *Neighbors*  
Donald Niewyk, *The Holocaust*  
David Wyman and Rafael Medoff, *A Race Against Death*  
Linda Schermer Raphael and Marc Lee Raphael, *When Night Fell*  
Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

If you cannot afford all of the books, be sure that Dwork, Rosenbaum, and Niewyk are your priorities for purchase.

**Films.** All films shown in class will be placed on Reserve with the Film and Video Reserves.

**Please be sure to bring the relevant books to class on the day they will be discussed.**

## **Class Schedule**

**March 28**

*Introduction*

### **March 30**

*Continuity Explanations and Discontinuity Explanations, Or World War One and Its Consequences*

Read: Dwork, Chapter Two; Niewyck, Jacob Katz article, 12-23.

### **April 1**

*Who Was Adolf Hitler?*

Dwork, Chapter Three; Arendt, Chapter Three; Rosenbaum, Chapter One and Chapter Six; Ian Kershaw article in Niewyck, 24-38.

### **April 4**

*The Seizure of Power in January 1933*

Read Rosenbaum, Chapter Three.

### **April 6**

*Jewish Life in Germany 1933-38*

Read Dwork, Chapter Four; Appelfeld's story *Heil, Hitler!*; Hans Peter Richter's story *The Teacher*

Watch clip from Leni Riefenstahl's *Triumph of the Will*

### **April 8**

*Domestic Support for the Nazi Regime*

Read Rosenbaum, Chapter Four and Chapter Nine

***Week Two Roundtable:*** Leni Riefenstahl, Adolf Hitler; Josef Goebbels; Rabbi Leo Baeck, Martin Bohrmann, Martin Buber, Houston Stewart Chamberlain, Adolf Eichmann, Anne Frank, Hans Frank, Hermann Goering, Ernst Hanfstaengl, Martin Heidegger, Konrad Heiden, Johann Georg Hiedler, Heinrich Himmler, Oskar von Hindenburg, Geli Raubal, Franz von Papen, Alfred Rosenberg, Kurt von Schleicher, Albert Speer; Lion Feuchtwanger, Berthold Brecht; Walter Benjamin; Hannah Arendt; *Ha-avara agreement*; Leopold von Mildenstein; Julius Streicher; Nuremberg Laws; Crystal Night

### **April 11**

*The Failure of Appeasement September 1939*

Read Dwork, Chapter Six; Gross, 21-29

### **April 13**

*Chaotic Jewish Policy 1939-41: Was the Road to Auschwitz Twisted Or Not?*

Read Rosenbaum, Chapter Five;

### **April 14**

Speaker at 7 p.m. at the *Institute for the Americas*. Speaker is Mr. David Faber, author of *Because of Romek, a Holocaust Survivor's Memoir*. This talk is in commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Attendance will be taken for our class at the event.

### **April 15**

*The Policy Behind the Ghettos and Life Experiences in the Ghettos*

Read Arendt, Chapter Five; Rachmil Bryks story *Artists in the Ghetto*; Rachel Korn story *The Lemon*; Isaiah Spiegel's story *A Ghetto Dog*

**Week Three Roundtable:** David Faber's life and work; Chaim Rumkowski; Adam Czerniakow; Lodz ghetto; Warsaw ghetto; Theresienstadt ghetto; Neville Chamberlain; Winston Churchill; Janus Korczak; Emmanuel Ringenblum; Riga ghetto; Hans Frank; Jacob Gens; Vilna ghetto; Abba Kovner; Isaiah Trunk.

### **April 18**      *First Examination*

The examination will consist of nine questions grouped in three categories. Students will write on one question from each group. Please bring a blue book to class.

### **April 20**

*Invasion of the Soviet Union and Murder by Rifle*

Read Dwork, 273-284; Gross, 30-47; Arendt, Chapter Six

### **April 21**

Lecture by Professor Richard Evans of Cambridge University on *Holocaust on Trial: Truth and Meaning in the David Irving Trial* in the Galbraith Room on the sixth floor of Humanities and Social Science Building, 3 p.m.

Recommended reading: Rosenbaum, Chapter Twelve

### **April 22**

*Jews in France, Belgium, Holland, and Italy*

Read Dwork, Chapter Five

## **April 25**

*Murder in Jedwabne*

Read Gross, 48-109

## **April 27**

*The Fateful Decision to Exterminate the Jews of Europe*

Watch clip from *The Wannsee Conference*

Read Dwork, 259-267; Henry Friedlander article in Niewyk, 39-55

## **April 29**

*The First Death Camps*

Read Dwork, Chapter Eleven; Robert Jay Lifton article in Niewyk, 60-75

**Week Five Roundtable:** Belzec death camp; Treblinka death camp; Sobibor death camp; Zyklon B; Wannsee Conference; Rudi Vrba; Ravensbrueck concentration camp; Joseph Mengele; Heinrich Lohse; Majdanek concentration camp; Mauthausen concentration camp; Odilo Globocnik; Wilhelm Kube; Christopher Browning, Daniel Goldhagen; David Irving; H.R. Trevor-Roper; Lucy Dawidowicz.

## **May 2**

*The Politics and Experience of Deportations*

Read Dwork, Chapter Seven; Arendt, Chapter Nine and Ten; Rachel Korn Story *The Road of No Return*

## **May 3**

Ruth Kluger, author of *Still Alive*, will read from her memoir in the Mandeville Auditorium at 4 pm. Professor Kluger, emerita professor of German literature at the University of California at Irvine, was born in Vienna. She and her mother were deported to the Theresienstadt ghetto and later to Auschwitz.

## **May 4**

*The Jewish Councils: Heroes of the Jewish People or Agents of Nazi Policy, of Both*

Watch clips from *The Story of Chaim Rumkowski*

Dwork, Chapter Nine; Arendt, 116-126; Rachmil Bryks' stories *Bread and Children of the Lodz Ghetto* and *The Last Journey*

## **May 6**

*The Politics of Rescue within Europe*

Read Dwork, Chapter Twelve; Part VI in Niewyk

## **May 9**

*Life as a Hidden Jew*

Read Dwork, Chapter Thirteen; Arendt, Chapter Fourteen; Part V of Niewyk, 179-232; Aharon Appelfeld's story *Kitty*;

Take home examination questions will be posted at noon on Friday May 9<sup>th</sup>. The exam will cover material since the First Examination. There will be a choice of five questions and students will write on one question. The essay should not be longer than two pages and should be typed, double space. You do not need to do any research beyond the class readings.

## **May 11**

*The Concentration Camp Experience*

Read Dwork, Chapter Fourteen; Part III in Niewyk, 105-138; Sara Nomberg-Przytyk story *Old Words---New Meanings*.

Take-home examinations due.

**Week Seven Roundtable:** Ruth Kluger; Joel Brand; *Lebensborn program*; Evian conference; Nahum Goldmann; Peter Bergson; Rabbi Wise; Ben Hecht; Gideon Hausner; Hermann Goering; Reinhard Heydrich; Rudolf Hoess; Jan Karski; Rezso Kasztner; Victor Klemperer; Primo Levi; Thomas Mann; Henry Morgenthau; Eleanor Roosevelt; Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Valerian Fry; Philippe Petain; Pius XI; Pius XII; Gerhart Riegner; Alfred Rosenberg;

## **May 13**

*Cinematic Representations of the Holocaust*

Watch clips from *Europa Europa*; *Aimee and Jaguar*.

No reading.

## **May 18**

Watch Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah*

Read Rosenbaum, Chapter Fourteen and Fifteen

## May 20

*Jews in America Debate the Politics of Rescue*

Read Wyman, Chapters Three and Four

**Week Nine Roundtable on Holocaust Films:** Claude Lanzmann; *Schindler's List*; *The Pianist*; *Triumph of the Will*; *Night and Fog*; *The Shop on Main Street*; *Judgment at Nuremberg*; *The Pawnbroker*; *Life is Beautiful*; Salomon Perl; *Hotel Terminus*; Hans Syberberg; Simon Srebnik

## May 23

*How Central Was Hitler for the Final Solution?*

Read Rosenbaum, Chapter Eleven

## May 25

*Defining and Explaining and Recounting Resistance*

Watch clip from *Escape from Sobibor*

Read Part IV in Niewyk; Chaver Paver's story *The Boxing Match*; Chaim Grade's story *My Quarrel with Hersh Rasseyner*

## May 27

*The Goldhagen Interpretation: Were All the Executioners Willing?*

Read Rosenbaum, Chapter Nineteen; Browning and Goldhagen articles in Niewyk, 76-103

**Week Nine Fiction Roundtable.** You can discuss the story by the author we read for class or any of the author's other work, or the life of a particular author. Please feel free to choose other fiction authors others than those named here with permission of the instructor: S.Y. Agnon; Yehuda Amichai, Aharon Appelfeld, Sholem Asch; Racymil Bryks; Chaver Paver, Ida Fink, Pierre Gascar, Chaim Grade, Henryk Grynberg; Rachel Korn, Arnost Lustig, Sara Nomberg-Przytyk, S.L. Wisenbereg, Jerzy Zawieyski; Eli Wiesel, Jerzy Kozinski

**May 30**

*After the War: The Nuremberg Tribunal and the Eichmann trial*

Watch clips from *The Trial of Adolph Eichmann*

Read Arendt, Chapter Fifteen and Epilogue

**June 1**

*Guilt, Shame, and Reparations*

Read Part V in Niewyk; Dwork, Epilogue.

**June 3**

**Final examination in class.** This examination will cover material since the second take-home examination and will also include three cumulative questions covering the entire quarter. There will be two sections of three questions each on material since the second exam, and one section of three questions on entire course. Students will write on one question from each section.