

THE HOLOCAUST

Political Science 138D

Syllabus

Spring 07

Dr. David Forman-Barzilai

Office hours: Wednesday and Friday 1-2, SSB 364

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Office Hours:

Course Description: The term Holocaust refers to the deliberate and systematic attempt to annihilate the Jewish people by the National Socialist German State during World War II, consequently murdering six million Jews in Europe. The Holocaust is one of two central events in modern Judaism, along with the establishment of the State of Israel, and one of the main events in world history. The purpose of this course is to provide a historical account, a psychological analysis and an occasion for philosophical contemplation about the Holocaust.

Aim: We will learn about the victims and their vulnerability, the murderers and their "motives", and how the death machinery functioned while the world kept silent and only a few took rescue actions. We will analyze and reflect upon these varieties of factual information in an effort to build some level of understanding and gather deeper insight on what is often called the biggest crime in history.

Method: We will address primary sources and written accounts, watch photographic and documentary film and listen to personal survivors' testimonies and to the analysis of a professional psychologist who survived the camps. The class will be organized around the examination of class readings and student participation. Even though this is a large class, your participation is welcome. The students' major responsibility will be to keep up with the reading assignments (imperative!! We will not recite the textbooks in class but go beyond them) and to come to class ready to raise questions and discuss the issues.

Administration: I will occasionally communicate with the class through email. Studentlink uses your UCSD email account. Please do not ask me to use an alternative email address for you. I am unable to alter the Studentlink listserv that distributes email to this class. If you want to file a different email address with the university, that is your choice. All practical and administrative questions and concerns regarding the class, exams, papers or course materials, should be directed to the Teaching Assistants by email or in office hours. If I can be of help afterwards, or for discussion of other substantive matters, please feel free to contact me. Needless to say my office hours are for your benefit, and I encourage you to use them.

Course Website: <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~dformanb/holocaust.htm>

Evaluation:

A. First midterm essay (2-3 pages) 20%

B. Second midterm essay (4-5 pages) 30%

C. Final essay (8-10 pages) 50%, due 7:00pm, Friday June 10, in our classroom.

Required Materials

Textbook:

Bauer, Y., A History of the Holocaust, Watts, New York, 1980.

Niewyk, D. L., The Holocaust, Houghton Mifflin, 1997.

Documents:

Dawidowicz, L., Holocaust Reader, Behrman House, New Jersey, 1976.

Memoirs (two of the following):

Frankl, V., Men's Search for Meaning, Washington Square, New York, 1985.

Levi, P., Survival in Auschwitz, Collier, New York, 1961.

Weisel, E., Night, Hill & Wang, New York, 1960.

Spiegelman, A., Maus, A Survivor's Tale, Pantheon Books, New York, 1986.

Major Websites (of many):

Yad Vashem:

www.yadvashem.org/Odot/prog/index_before_change_table.asp

Holocaust Memorial museum:

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/>

Simon Wiesenthal Center:

<http://motlc.wiesenthal.com/index.html>

Dinur Center:

<http://www.hum.huji.ac.il/dinur/>

A Cybrary of the Holocaust:

<http://www.remember.org/>

Recommended Materials:

Arendt, H., Eichmann in Jerusalem, Viking Press, New York, 1966.

Dawidowicz, L., The War Against the Jews, 1933 -1945, Holtz, Rinehart and Winston, New York, 1975.

Hilberg, R., The Destruction of the European Jews, (Student Edition), Holmes & Meier, New York, 1985.

Yahil, L., The Holocaust: the Fate of European Jewry, Oxford University Press, New York, 1990.

Roskies, D., The Literature of Destruction, Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia, 1989.

Erikson, E., "The Myth of Hitler's Childhood," Childhood and Society, Norton, New York, 1950.

Fromm, E., "The Psychology of Nazism," Escape from Freedom, Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, New York, 1941.

Donat, A., The Holocaust Kingdom, Holocaust Library, New York, 1978.

Recommended reference sources:

Gutman, I., ed., Encyclopedia of the Holocaust, Macmillan, New York, 1990.

Wigoder, G., ed., Encyclopedia Judaica, Keter, Jerusalem, 1972.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Week 2 – April 9

SUBJECT: Anti-Semitism

SUB SUBJECTS: Religious, Socio-economical, Political, and Racial Anti-Semitism

READING ASSIGNMENTS: Bauer, pp. 13 -- 60; Niewyk, pp. 1-7

AUDIOVISUAL: The Longest Hatred

Week 3 – April 16

SUBJECT: Historical Background

SUB SUBJECTS: Modern Jewish life in the Diaspora -- Legal emancipation and political anti-Semitism ; The Dreyfus Affair; World War I; The Weimar Republic; The economic depression

READING ASSIGNMENTS: Bauer, pp. 61 -- 100

AUDIOVISUAL:

History Of The 20th Century: Racism

Heritage: Roads from the Ghetto

OTHER RECOMMENDED SOURCES:

Grunfeld, F. V., Prophets without Honor

Week 4 – April 23

SUBJECT: Hitler biography and Pre-War Nazi Germany history (1932 -- 1939)

SUB SUBJECT: Racial ideology in Germany -- from Marr to Hitler; Anti - Jewish Legislation; Forced Emigration; The Kristallnacht

READING ASSIGNMENTS: Bauer, pp. 100 -- 147; Erikson, The Myth of Hitler's Childhood, in: Childhood and Society

AUDIOVISUAL: The Black Fox: The Rise and Fall of Adolph Hitler

More than Broken Glass: Memories of Kristallnacht

OTHER RECOMMENDED SOURCES:

Bullock, A., Hitler

Shirer, W. L., The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich

Videos: Of Pure Blood

Triumph of the Will

Week 5 – April 30 Guest lecture: a Holocaust Survivor; Essay #1 due in class

SUBJECT: A Prelude to the "Final Solution" (1939 -- 1941) and Life in the Ghettos and in War times Germany

SUB SUBJECTS: The Generalgouvernement in Poland; The Einsatzgruppen; Barbarosa Operation; Deportation and concentration; The Ghettos; The Judenrats

READING ASSIGNMENTS: Bauer, pp. 147 -- 208; Dawidowicz, pp. 55 -- 72, pp. 171- 287

AUDIOVISUAL:

1933: The Master Race

Lodz Ghetto or

The Warsaw Ghetto

OTHER RECOMMENDED SOURCES:

Adelson A. and Lapid R., Ghetto Lodz

Ringelblum, E., Notes from Warsaw Ghetto

Week 6 – May 7

SUBJECT: The Politics of Genocide -- The "Final Solution" 1941 -- 1944 and the Death Camp Experience

SUB SUBJECTS: Between "Intentionalist" and "Functionalist"; The Wannsee Conference; The Death Machinery

READING ASSIGNMENTS: Bauer, pp. 209 – 265; Dawidowicz, pp. 73 -- 140, pp. 289 – 327; Niewyk, pp. 9 -105

AUDIOVISUAL: The Wannsee Conference

Memory of the Camps

READING ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE SECOND ESSAY:

Two out of the following memoirs:

Levi P., Survival in Auschwitz

Wiesel E., Night

Frankl V, Man's Search for Meaning

Week 7 – May 14

SUBJECT: Jewish Resistance, Christian Rescuers and the By standing rest

READING ASSIGNMENTS: Bauer, pp. 266 – 369; Dawidowicz, pp. 329 -- 380; Neiwyk, pp. 107 - 147, pp.199 - 291

AUDIOVISUAL:

Not Like Sheep to the Slaughter: The Story of Bialystok Ghetto

The Courage to Care

Raoul Wallenberg: Between the Line

Week 8 – May 21 Guest lecture: A Holocaust Survivor Essay #2 due in classs

SUBJECT: The Psychology of the Holocaust

READING ASSIGNMENTS: Neiwyk, pp. 149- 197; Browning R. B., Ordinary Germans or Ordinary Men

AUDIOVISUAL:

Obedience (The Milgram experiment) and/or

The Wave

Week 9 No class. Memorial Day

Week 10 – June 4

SUBJECT: The Aftermath and Philosophical Reflections

SUB SUBJECTS: the bystanders; the World; Jewish Palestine; the United States; "The escape"; The displaced camps

READING ASSIGNMENTS: Bauer, pp. 332 -- 382; Neiwyk, pp. 253- 291

AUDIOVISUAL:

America and the Holocaust

The Last Sea

FINAL ESSAY DUE: Wednesday, June 13, 7-8 PM, in our classroom