The Holocaust

Wednesdays, 4-6:40 p.m.
Instructor: Dr. Richard Byers
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Office Hours: MW 10-12, W 1-3 or by appointment

Overview
Today, the Holocaust is arguably one of the most well-known terms and events in human history. Despite its ubiquity in the early twenty-first century, however, it was little known and understood until the late 1970s, and even today its parameters and scope are still being investigated and explored. It is among the most important series of events in recent German, European, and global history, and thus requires serious examination. It is also one of the darkest and most depressing chapters of the human experience, and will profoundly disturb and shock even the most seasoned student of history. We will examine the origins of the Holocaust, its course and development, its victims, bystanders and perpetrators, and finally its legacies and lessons.

Required Texts (available at Bookstore)
Aly, Hitler’s Beneficiaries: Plunder, Racial War, and the Nazi Welfare State
Bikont, The Crime and the Silence
Levi, Survival in Auschwitz: The Nazi Assault on Humanity
Goldstein, A Convenient Hatred: The History of Antisemitism
Bartov, Anatomy of a Genocide: The Life and Death of a Town called Buczacz
Gross, Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland
Rhodes, Masters of Death: The SS-Einsatzgruppen and the Invention of the Holocaust
Mendelsohn, The Lost: The Search for Six of the Six Million
Petropolous and Roth, Gray Zones: Ambiguity and Moral Compromise in the Holocaust and its Aftermath
Roseman, A Past in Hiding
Schneider, Let Me Go
Sharples, Postwar Germany and the Holocaust
Snyder, Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin
Wachsmann, KL: A History of the Nazi Concentration Camps
Online Readings for HIST 4300/6300 – Listed within Syllabus below

Other Requirements
Attendance – Attendance is mandatory. You are expected to attend every class session.

Assessment - (1) One paper of 25-40 pages on a topic agreeable to the instructor (due on Friday April 26), worth 30% of your final grade - You will also be graded on your Final Prospectus hand-in, due FEBRUARY 27, which
will make up 10% of your final grade.
(2) Two take home essay exams based on lecture, textbook material and film analysis, each worth 15% of your final grade.
(3) One book review, due the following week of class, worth 10% of your grade.
(4) Participation in class discussion, including leadership of one week’s discussion and readings, worth 20% of your final grade.

All papers are expected to be typed, double-spaced, with no spelling or grammar errors, and all citations should be correctly noted in a source list or bibliography. For citation guidelines, see the standards outlined in Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. For help, see the UGA Turabian Help Guide at [http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian2009.pdf](http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian2009.pdf). Papers that do not conform to these standards will be returned for correction with a twenty percent penalty. This class will be demanding, and my standards and expectations are high.

**PAPER ITINERARY:** Because writing is a process, not an event, and also because writing a paper at this level requires considerable time management skills, I have instituted the following deadlines for you to observe. I do this not to punish you, but to help you complete the best paper that you can. Believe me, you will be pleased that I have done so. **Here are the deadlines.**

- Deadline for choosing paper topic in class, **JANUARY 16**
- First Prospectus due, including outline of paper topic and structure, initial thesis, and list of at least twelve (12) source materials, on **JANUARY 30**
  – Final revised Prospectus due, including corrections, revisions and updated source list, on **FEBRUARY 27**
  – Draft of final paper due, including bibliography, in class, on **MARCH 27**
  – Final Paper due by 5 p.m. on **APRIL 26**

For help with writing a research paper prospectus, see the following sites:
[http://pages.pomona.edu/~vis04747/h110r/prospectus.html](http://pages.pomona.edu/~vis04747/h110r/prospectus.html)
[http://www.uky.edu/~dolph/HIS316/handouts/prospectus.htm](http://www.uky.edu/~dolph/HIS316/handouts/prospectus.htm)
[http://www.history.ucsb.edu/faculty/marcuse/classes/133p/handouts/ProspectusHandout044.htm](http://www.history.ucsb.edu/faculty/marcuse/classes/133p/handouts/ProspectusHandout044.htm).

**Policies**
(1) Students should obtain the required books from the bookstore or online. Remember that the Bookstore will remove many titles well before the end of the semester.
(2) No special exemptions will be provided for either exam. Students should expect to take the exams at the allotted times. Barring a documented medical/family emergency, no alternative exam times will be offered.
(3) Late papers will incur a penalty of one letter grade for every day they are late. **NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXCUSES.**

**Academic Integrity Policy:**
  - Honor Code: “On my honor, I will not lie, cheat, steal, plagiarize, evade the truth, or tolerate those who do.”
Suspected violations of the Academic Integrity policy should be referred by students to the
instructor. If the instructor concludes that a violation of the Academic Integrity policy has
occurred, the instructor will either (1) penalize the student and file an incident report with the
Academic Integrity Council or (2) refer the matter directly to the Academic Integrity Council. If
an incident report is filed by the instructor, the instructor will review the completed report with
the student and will request that the student sign the report as an indication that the student is
aware of the contents of the report.

This class may employ Turnitin.com as a means of ensuring originality. If implemented,
students will be responsible for uploading their papers to the site before final hand-in. The
instructor will provide password access prior to submission deadlines.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

The University of North Georgia is committed to the full inclusion of individuals with
disabilities and to the principle of individual rights and responsibilities. To that end, the
policies and procedures of UNG reasonably ensure that a person with a disability is not, on
the basis of that disability, denied full and equal access to and the enjoyment of
academic programs and co-curricular activities or otherwise is subjected to
discrimination in such programs and activities.

The policies for access by individuals with disabilities at UNG are designed to ensure full
compliance with all pertinent federal and state legislation, specifically to include Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

To receive disability accommodations, the student should contact the Assistant Director, Office
of Academic Support Programs, 313 Stewart Success Center. Approval of reasonable
accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
(subject to change – REQUIRED READING SHOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE THAT WEEK’S CLASS)

Week One - REQUIRED READING, none.
Introduction, handout of syllabus, and welcome

Week Two – REQUIRED READING, Goldstein, A Convenient Hatred, Bergen 1-28, Michael and
Doerr, Nazi-Deutsch/Nazi German, read the forwards and 1-45, an Ebrary book accessible
through the UNG Library website, Snyder, “Holocaust: The Ignored Reality,” located at
Antisemitism old and new
The challenges of Holocaust historiography
Deadline for Initial Topic Selection, in class

Week Three – REQUIRED READING, Bergen 29-72
The rise of Adolf Hitler and National Socialism
The Third Reich: A Racial State
The Origins of the “Final Solution;” Anti-Jewish legislation and Euthanasia policies, 1933-1939
Kristallnacht and The T-4 Program
FIRST PROSPECTUS HAND IN DUE BY CLASS TIME JANUARY 30

The radicalization of War, 1939-1941

Week Six – REQUIRED READING, Wachsmann, 289-391, Bergen 146-160, Rhodes, Masters of Death
The Holocaust by Bullets: Operation Barbarossa, the Wehrmacht, and the Einsatzgruppen
FIRST EXAM HANDOUT WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13

Recommended: Desbois, The Holocaust by Bullets, and In Broad Daylight

“Barbarous Utopias”: Ghettoization, Generalplan Ost, and Aktion Reinhard

Film: The Pianist

Recommended: Beorn, The Holocaust in Eastern Europe

The Wannsee Conference and the “Final Solution”
Film: Conspiracy
SECOND PROSPECTUS HAND IN DUE BY CLASS TIME FEBRUARY 27

The Universe of Auschwitz, Death Marches, and the Demise of the Camps
Film: Selections from Auschwitz: Anatomy of the Nazi State
LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH A W TUESDAY MARCH 5
Week Ten – Spring Break – ENJOY!


Täters / Perpetrators, and Collaborators


Victims

Film: *Son of Saul*

FINAL PAPER DRAFT DUE WEDNESDAY MARCH 27

Week Thirteen – REQUIRED READING, Aly, *Hitler’s Beneficiaries*, Gross, *Neighbors*

Bystanders: Still a useful category of analysis?

Recommended: Jan Grabowski, * Hunt for the Jews*, and Barbara Engelking, *Such a Beautiful Sunny Day*


Legacies of the Holocaust; The Nuremberg Trials, Nazi Hunters and Fugitives

See also the websites at http://www.casahistoria.net/peronnazi.htm#The_Per%CF%8Cn_connection , and also http://www.npr.org/2014/11/05/361427276/how-thousands-of-nazis-were-rewarded-with-life-in-the-u-s ; see also the Simon Wiesenthal Center website, http://www.wiesenthal.com

SECOND EXAM HANDOUT

Recommended: Nagorski, *The Nazi Hunters*


Legacies of the Holocaust; the Holocaust in Film

Film: *The Debt*

Legacies of the Holocaust; the Holocaust in history and memory and Online Holocaust Denial

Recommended: Fulbrook, Reckonings: Legacies of Nazi Persecution and the Quest for Justice

ALL BOOK REVIEWS DUE BY LAST CLASS MEETING*****
FINAL PAPERS DUE 5 PM FRIDAY APRIL 26 *****