History 6200  
Fall 2016  
Young Hall 114

The Holocaust (Graduate)

Wednesdays, 5:30-8:10 p.m.  
Instructor: Dr. Richard Byers  
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Tel: History Office, 867-2841  
Office Hours: MW 10-1 or by appointment

Overview

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  
Levi, Survival in Auschwitz: The Nazi Assault on Humanity  
Goldstein, A Convenient Hatred: The History of Antisemitism  
Gross, Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland  
Jacobsen, The Lampshade  
Novick, The Holocaust in American Life (Ebook accessible through LTC website)  
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  
Schneider, Let Me Go  
Snyder, Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning  
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 30-50 pages on a topic agreeable to the instructor (due on Friday December 9), worth 30% of your final grade - You will also be graded on your Final Prospectus hand-in, due October 12, which will make up 10% of your final grade.  
(2) Two exams based on lecture, textbook material and film analysis each
worth 15% of your final grade.
(3) One book review of Novick, *The Holocaust in American Life*, due Thanksgiving Week, 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/turabian.html](http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian.html). 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, September 7
- First Prospectus due, including outline of paper topic and structure, initial thesis, and list of at least twenty (20) source materials, on September 21
  – Final revised Prospectus due, including corrections, revisions and updated source list, on October 12
  – Draft of final paper due, including bibliography, in class, on November 9
  – Final Paper due by 5 p.m. on December 9

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.html](http://www.uky.edu/~dolph/HIS316/handouts/prospectus.html)

**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 will employ Turnitin.com as a means of ensuring originality. Students are 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 Thomas McCoy, 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

Antisemitism old and new
The challenges of Holocaust historiography

Week Three – REQUIRED READING, Bergen 29-72
The rise of Adolf Hitler and National Socialism
The Third Reich: A Racial State
Deadline for Initial Topic Selection, in class September 7

The Origins of the “Final Solution;” Anti-Jewish legislation and Euthanasia policies, 1933-1939

Kristallnacht and The T-4 Program


The radicalization of War, 1939-1941

FIRST PROSPECTUS HAND IN DUE SEPTEMBER 21 BY CLASS TIME

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


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

FIRST EXAM HANDOUT WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5

Film: The Pianist


The Wannsee Conference and the “Final Solution”

Film: Conspiracy

SECOND PROSPECTUS HAND IN DUE OCTOBER 12 BY CLASS TIME


The Universe of Auschwitz, Death Marches, and the Demise of the Camps

Film: Auschwitz: Anatomy of the Nazi State

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH A W FRIDAY OCTOBER 14


Täters / Perpetrators, and Collaborators

Recommended: Agata Tuszynska, Vera Gran: The Accused

**Victims**

**Film: Son of Saul**

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

Bystanders: Still a useful category of analysis?


See also the website at [http://www.casahistoria.net/peronnazi.htm#The_Per%CF%8Cn_connection](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](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](http://www.wiesenthal.com)

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

**PAPER DRAFT DUE NOVEMBER 9**

**SECOND EXAM HANDOUT WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9**


Legacies of the Holocaust; the Holocaust in Film

**Film: The Debt**

**THANKSGIVING WEEK/FALL BREAK – NO CLASS, WORK ON FINAL PAPERS**

Novick Review Due this Week


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

**ALL BOOK REVIEWS DUE BY LAST CLASS MEETING*****

**FINAL PAPERS DUE 5 PM FRIDAY DECEMBER 9 *****