

**SYLLABUS: HISTORY 3490
THE HOLOCAUST (2018 Winter)**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course deals with several topics related to the Holocaust. First, it will briefly survey the history of anti-Semitism in several Western countries prior to 1933. Second, it will examine anti-Semitic actions in pre-war Nazi Germany. Thirdly, it will study the effects of World War II on the Holocaust in and outside of Germany. Fourth, it will explore complex moral issues and various cases of Holocaust victims. Fifth, it will probe various reactions of bystanders in Nazi Germany and outside.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce content area in the history of the Holocaust
2. To be able to understand and analyze primary sources and evaluate authorship, bias, context, and accuracy.
3. To develop students' familiarity with and ability to use a variety of secondary sources.
4. To conduct a research project.
5. To know how to use maps and charts.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of this course:

1. Students will demonstrate mastery of content material through written exams, writing projects, and/or oral presentations in which they will think critically about historical material and evidence, and express themselves effectively.
2. Students will have completed reading and writing on primary and secondary sources covering a common historical problem from various perspectives in the history of the Holocaust.
3. Students will have learned to integrate historical facts and ideas in a coherent and meaningful manner in their written and oral assignments and/or examinations.

REQUIRED BOOKS (Available at WPUNJ Bookstore)

Bergen, Doris. *War and Genocide*, **Second** edition (ISBN: 978-0-7425-5715-4)

Niewyk, Donald, *The Holocaust*, **Fourth** edition (ISBN-978-0-5471-8946-8)

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. (ISBN: 0-553-27253-5)

Issacson, Judith, *Seed of Sarah* (0-252-06219-1)

- **Additional readings** under "Course Documents" (Blackboard).
- **Required Movies--** *The Pianist & Amen* (WPU library reserve, Amazon, Netflix DVD plan).

NOTES:

- Read carefully the two sections ("Discussion Moderator" and "Discussion Board Participation") toward the end of this syllabus.
- **All quizzes/exam are available under "Assignments" in Blackboard.**

COURSE CONTENT

12/26 (T) I. Introduction

I. Anti-Semitic Assaults in Pre-war Nazi Germany

II. The Early Years of Nazi Germany

Read: Bergen, chapter 2

Recommended Movie: *The Harmonists*

12/27 (W)

Early Assaults on Jews

Read: Bergen, chapter 3 (pp. 52-61, 68-73 only)

Read: "Boycott" & "The Nuremberg Laws" (Course Documents)

12/28 (R)

Open Aggression (1938-39)

Read: Bergen, chapter 4 (pp. 84-91, 94-99 only)

"November Pogroms" (Course Documents)

II: The War and the Final Solution

12/29 (F)

Non-Jewish victims

Read: "Friedlander" in Niewyk (ch.I)

Recommended: pp. 102-111 ("Blackboard Readings" in Documents)

Quiz 1 (10 pts) on Friedlander. Available for 48 hrs (12/29 & 12/30)

12/30 (Sat)

The War and the Holocaust

Read: "Fleming" and "Mommsen" (Course Documents)

Quiz 2 (10 pts) on Fleming/Mommsen. Available for 48 hrs (12/30 & 12/31)

1/2 (T)

Polish Ghettos

Read: Bergen, chapter 6 (pp. 111-114 only)

See (movie): *The Pianist* (2002, on reserve at WPU library media, Amazon, Netflix DVD plan)

1/3 (W)

Debate on Ordinary Men in the Holocaust

Read: "Browning" in Niewyk (ch. II) and "Goldhagen" (Course Documents)

Quiz 3 (10pts) on Browning/Goldhagen. Available for 48 hrs (1/3 & 1/4)

1/4 (R)

Babi Yar, Soviet POWs, to the Wannsee Conference

Read: Bergen, pp. 150-163

Read: pp. 136-139, 141-42, 165-171 ("BB Readings" under Course Documents)

***Alternative:** instead of reading pp. 165-171, you can view the film *Conspiracy* (1:31) instead. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0YsjVE1Bmg>

III. VICTIMS

1/5 (F)

The Problem of Jewish Resistance

Read: Read: Hilberg & Bauer in Niewyk (ch. 4)

Recommended movies: *Hannah Arendt*, *Defiance*

Quiz 4 (10 pts) on Hilberg & Bauer. Available for 48 hrs (1/5 & 1/6)

1/6 (Sat)

Jewish Men

Read: Wiesel. *Night*

Book Quiz I (16 pts). Available for 48 hrs (1/6 & 1/7).

- 1/8 (M) Jewish Women One
Read: Issacson, *Seed of Sarah*, chapters 2-6
Book Quiz II (12 pts). Available for 48 hrs (1/8 & 1/9)
- 1/9 (T) Jewish Women Two
Read: Issacson, *Seed of Sarah*, chapters 7-12
Book Quiz III (12 pts). Available for 48 hrs (1/9 & 1/10)

IV. Gentiles during the Holocaust

- 1/10 (W) German Wives
Read: "Rosenstrasse" (under "Course Documents")
Recommended movie: *Rosenstrasse*
Quiz 5 (10pts). Available for 48 hrs (1/10 & 10/11)
- 1/11 (R) Western Europeans and the Poles: Persecutors or Fellow Victims?
Read: Marrus and Gutman in Niewyk
Quiz 6 (10 pts). Available for 48 hrs (1/11 & 1/12)
- 1/12 (F) Gentiles outside of Europe: The US and Japan
Read: Wyman (under "Course Documents")
Read: "Jews under the Japanese" (under "Course Documents")
- 1/13 (Sat) Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust
See: *Amen* (2002, directed by Costa-Gavras, on reserve at WPU library, Amazon)
Recommend: Phayer in Niewyk (ch. V)
Quiz 7 (10 pts). Available for 48 hrs (1/13-1/14)
- 1/14 (Sun) **Final Exam Paper** (Submit anytime on 1/14-1/15)
Submit to "Assignments"

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (280 points)

1. Discussion Board Participation (130 pts). Each forum is worth 10 points.
 - Three Grading Segments: There are 16 Discussion Board forums (excluding "Introduction"). One lowest score in each of the three grading segments will be dropped.
 - Segment I: 4 best out of the 5 forums (up to "The War & the Holocaust")
 - Segment II: 4 best out of the 5 forums (up to "Jewish Men")
 - Segment III: 5 best out the 6 forums. (up to "Pope Pius XII & the Holocaust")
 - **Participating in fewer than 12 forums will lead to an F grade.**
 - Grades will be based upon your analysis and understanding of daily readings. In order to support your analysis, it is necessary to provide several specific DETAILS from the readings.
2. Final Exam Paper (50 points)
3. 4 best Quizzes out of 7 (40 points). No make-ups (thus take all 7 quizzes).
4. 3 Book Quizzes (40 points—16/12/12). No make-ups (thus take all 3 book quizzes).
5. Discussion Board Moderator - 20 points

*All assignments must be submitted on time. No late work will be accepted except in the case of documented medical excuses.

DISCUSSION MODERATOR

1. Sign up for one Discussion Board forum on **the FIRST DAY of the class.**
 - a) Go to “Discussion Board” and click on a forum which you would like to moderate.
 - b) Click “Add New Thread.” Next to “subject,” write “Discussion Moderator: [your name].”
2. **Post discussion questions by creating a new forum [click “Add New Thread”].** Do so by 11:59 pm one day before your day as moderator. Use the questions that are provided on the Discussion Board page (cut and paste them). **Post all questions in ONE thread.**
3. **Do not answer questions that you yourself post.** Instead comment on other students’ responses by asking them to elaborate/clarify and by raising further questions related to topics. In order to be effective, you have to be very familiar with the readings and movies/documentaries under discussion. If discussion is slow, encourage other students to participate.
4. Check your Discussion Board forum a few times for two days. In order to pass this assignment, **comment on other students’ contributions at least 12 times.** However, to get a higher grade, comment more than that.
5. No grade will be assigned if one posts questions, but fails to moderate discussion.

DISCUSSION PARTICIPANT

1. Do readings on time, while keeping in mind Discussion Board questions, which are available on the Discussion Board page.
2. Respond to the questions that discussion moderators post. **Respond to ALL of them.**
Initiating threads is NOT limited to discussion moderators. If there is no designated moderator or if the moderator fails to post questions by 8 am on his/her moderator day, any student in the class can create a new thread and start answering questions.
3. You have **TWO DAYS** to contribute to each Discussion Board forum.
4. Grading Criteria
 - a. Both the quality and quantity of your answers to DB questions matter. Provide **many specific details from assigned readings.** Also THROUGHOUT the readings.
 - b. **Comment at least TWICE on other students’ postings.** Additional comments are strongly encouraged. **Each comment has to be AT LEAST 60 words.** Up to 2 points will be deducted if no comments are made.
 - c. **Provide PAGE NUMBERS** (p or pp. At least 6 per DB forum).