

The Holocaust in European History

Course Syllabus

Course Description and Goals

There are many reasons to study the Nazi Holocaust, which I understand to be the systematic, state-run mass murder of entire groups of people. In this course we will not only study *what* happened, but also investigate *why* those events happened. My courses also emphasize historical skills: finding, assessing and interpreting historical sources, and presenting the results of research.

Your Contribution (course requirements):

1. **Attendance.** I expect you to **attend** all classes and scheduled evening events. Why take a course if you don't make the effort to learn what it teaches? Lectures include images, videos, discussion and information not available elsewhere. Participation counts for 5% of the course grade.
2. **"Midterm exam"--8 questions.** There will NOT be a formal midterm examination. Instead, you will be asked to write a short text (200-300 words) on questions about the assigned readings or films, roughly once each week. These eight questions may be announced in advance and submitted on Gauchospace. They are worth 40% of the final grade.
 - 40% is a lot--and plays a large role in determining your final grade.
 - Make-up questions are in general not possible; absences should be reported *in advance*.
3. **Book essay**, comprised of a **proposal** (1-2 pages), **essay**, and a **revised version** (1800 words, 5-6 pages). This paper is based primarily on one book, but requires some research. (See [blue handout](#)) The proposal is due Thursday, **Jan. 28**; the essay Thursday, **Feb. 18**; and the revised version Tuesday, **March 9**, always at the beginning of class. All together the proposal and essay draft and revision count for 5+20+5=30% of your final grade.
 - **Note:** This course fulfills the General Education writing requirement. *If you do not submit the book essay, you will not receive credit for this course (i.e, you will fail).*
4. A **take-home final examination** will have 3 IDs chosen from 9, and one essay question. The final is worth 25% of your total grade. The exam will be available in the last week of classes.
 - **No-exam option:** Students receiving a B+ or better on their book essay may opt out of taking the final exam. If you choose this option, you must submit, on **Mar. 4**, an *about the author* paragraph, an *abstract*, and a 5-10 item *annotated bibliography/linkography*.
 - By **March 12**, you will need to upload corrected and revised electronic versions for publication on the course web site. Details will be available on a separate [web option handout](#).
 - Students who write outstanding essays may present their work orally in class.

GRADING

is on a point system. You can accumulate up to 100 points, distributed as follows:
participation: 5; eight questions: 40; proposal+book essay+revision: 30; final exam or web option: 25.
Work submitted after 3:30pm on the due date will lose one point per day.

REQUIRED BOOKS

- **Textbook:** Ronnie Landau, *The Nazi Holocaust* (I.Deer & IB Tauris, 1994/2002 & 2006) D804.3.L344.
- Peter Fritzsche, *Germans into Nazis* (Harvard, 1998) DD238.F74 1998
- Art Spiegelman, *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*, vols. I & II (1986, 1991) D 810.J4.S643 1986 [.S66 1991]
- Additional readings will be available on Gauchospace and/or eRes at the library.

Schedule of Lectures & Assignments

Please note: The professor reserves the right to make changes in topic and date as necessary.

Wk-L#	Date	Topic	Assignment
I-1	5 Jan.	Introduction: Genocide and the Holocaust	
2	7 Jan	Causes of Genocide and Target Groups	Textbook chaps. 1+2, pp. 3-47.
II-3	12 Jan.	The European Context I: Colonialism & Namibia	Textbook chap. 3, pp. 48-74
4	14 Jan.	The European Context II: WWI and Armenia	Text ch. 4., 75-112, start Fritzsche
III-5	19 Jan.	The German Context: The Role of World War I	Fritzsche pp. 3-136
6	21 Jan.	The Rise of the Nazis, 1920-1932	Text chap. 4, pp. 75-112; App. D
IV-7	26 Jan.	The Nazi Consolidation of Power, 1933-1936	Fritzsche pp. 139-235
8	28 Jan.	Adolf Hitler, Architect of Genocide?	Thu: book proposal due Text pp. 183-192+Appendix C
V-9	2 Feb.	<i>Anschluss</i> , "Munich" and <i>Kristallnacht</i>	Text ch. 5-6, p. 115-148; App. E
10	4 Feb.	Wed. 6-9pm: film <i>Anne Frank</i> (189 mins.) Anne Frank's Diary as Holocaust Literature (optional films at the SB Int'l Film Festival)	Wednesday evening film weekend: start <i>Maus</i>
VI-11	9 Feb.	Racism, Eugenics and "Mercy Killing"	online reading Text chap. 6, pp. 148-160
12	11 Feb.	World War and Ghettoization; Discussion of <i>Maus</i>	<i>Maus</i> , vols. 1+2 (entire)
VII-13	16 Feb.	The Wannsee Conf. & Techniques of Mass Murder	Text chap. 7, pp. 161-180+App. A
14	17 Feb. 18 Feb.	Auschwitz and the Concentration Camp System	Thu: book essay due
VIII-15	23 Feb.	The Perpetrators	Textbook chap. 9, pp. 222-242
16	23 Feb 25 Feb..	Tue. 7x pm: lecture by Prof. Ursula Mahlendorf Discussion with Prof. Mahlendorf	Tuesday evening lecture online reading
IX-17	2 Mar.	Resistance to Nazism	Textbook chap. 8, pp. 192-221
18	4 Mar.	Wed. 6pm: film <i>Uprising</i> (177 mins.) German and International Bystanders	Wednesday evening film Thu: web option supp. due
X-19	9 Mar.	End and Aftermaths	Textbook ch. 10, 243-265+App. B
20	11 Mar.	Conclusion: Genocide and European Traditions	Tue: revised book essay due
EXAM	19 Mar.	Friday, by 4pm: FINAL EXAM DUE in HSSB 4222	take-home exam

POLICIES

- **Plagiarism & academic dishonesty**—presenting someone else's work as your own, or failing to credit or attribute the work of others on whom you draw (including materials found on the web)—is a serious academic offense, punishable by dismissal from the university. It hurts the one who commits it most of all, by cheating them out of an education. I report offenses to the university authorities for disciplinary action.
- **Cell phones** ringing in class are an annoyance and distraction for me and other students. If your phone rings during class, I will stop the lecture and answer your call myself. Hey: no text messaging either--it is very rude and distracting to those around you.