

UCSB Hist 33D, Fall 2002

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Holocaust

HSSB 1174, T-Th 11:00-12:15; Chem 1171, W 5-7:50

<http://www.history.ucsb.edu/faculty/marcuse/33d>

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INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON THE HOLOCAUST SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course is designed for undergraduates of all disciplines (natural and social sciences, fine arts, humanities) with no prior college-level coursework in history. It has two goals: to introduce students to the history of one of the most significant events of the 20th century, and to explore some of the different ways people attempted to explain it.

I understand the Nazi Holocaust to be the development and systematic implementation of a program to eradicate entire groups of people. This course begins with an investigation of the “historical facts,” but quickly moves to questions of **causation** (why did they happen?). We will examine attempts to answer this question by scholars in various disciplines, comparing, assessing, and combining different perspectives to come up with one of our own.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION (COURSE REQUIREMENTS):

1. **Attendance** at all classes, including at least 5 of the evening films and guest presentations, and the *Oct. 20 field trip*. Why take a course if you don't take the time to learn what it teaches? Lectures include slides, videos, discussion and information not available elsewhere. I will call roll to try to learn your names.
2. **Five questions** in lieu of a midterm examination. You will write a short paragraph on a simple question about the assigned readings, speakers or films, roughly once every two weeks. These will be announced one lecture in advance.
3. **Access to the internet**. Some of the course materials are available only on-line on the course web site. You can get priority access stickers for the microcomputer labs.
4. A **journal** with 1-2 entries per week, for a total of **10 entries**. Each entry, averaging 400 words, will be based on your thoughts about newspaper or magazine articles that you relate to the course, or about the lectures, course readings or outside events. (For further details, see the blue “Hist 33D Journal” handout.)
5. A **two-hour final examination** will have 3 IDs chosen from 5, one source interpretation, and one essay question from a choice of two. A study guide will be distributed in early December. An oral final may be an option.
6. *Instead of the final exam essay question*, you may opt to do a **final project**. Topics and form will be chosen in consultation with the professor. Work may be done collaboratively.

REQUIRED READINGS

- **Reflections**: Art Spiegelman, *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*, vols. I and II (1986, 1991)
- **Textbook**: Ronnie Landau, *The Nazi Holocaust* (1994)
- **Reflections**: Gerald Markle, *Meditations of a Holocaust Traveler* (1995)
- **Memoir**: Ruth Klüger, *Still Alive: A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered* (2002)
- **Reader**: packet of several photocopied articles, available later in the term

GRADING

is on a point system. You can accumulate up to 100 points, distributed as follows:

participation: 10%; questions: 20%; journal: 30%; final exam: 40% (15+10+15); final project 15%.

Late work will be graded down one point per day. Call or e-mail me in advance if you must be absent.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

Week 1	Sept. 26	Introduction; 7:30-9:30pm, IV Theater: Jacob the Liar (1974)	view film, stay for discussion
Week 2	Oct. 1 Oct. 2 Oct. 3	What was the Holocaust? -- Auschwitz 5-6pm: discussion of <i>Maus</i> Genocide in Australia	<i>Maus</i> , entire (vols. 1 and 2) Landau chap. 1 (esp. 16-20), pp. 260-263
Week 3	Oct. 8 Oct. 9 Oct. 10	Origins of the Holocaust, I: history Wed. film: Erwin Leiser, <i>Mein Kampf</i> (2 hrs.) Kristallnacht and the turn to genocide	Landau, chaps. 4-5 Landau, chaps. 6-7
Week 4	Oct. 15 Oct. 17	Origins II: individuals (psychology) Wed. film: Milgram Expts / Wannsee Conf. Origins III: groups (sociology)	Landau, chap. 8; Markle chap. 2 Markle chap. 3
Week 5	Oct. 20 Oct. 22 Oct. 24	Sunday trip to LA Museum of Tolerance, 8am-4pm Ideology and information Science and pseudo-science	Marcuse, <i>LA Museum</i> (on-line); directions Landau, chap. 9 Markle chap. 4
Week 6	Oct. 29 Oct. 30 Oct. 31	Religion Wed. film: <i>Escape from Sobibor</i> Resistance	Kluger pp. 15-60; Landau chaps. 1-2 Kluger pp. 63-131
Week 7	Nov. 5 Nov. 7	Ethics Aftermath and impact	Kluger pp. 135-170 Kluger pp. 173-202; Landau chap. 10
Week 8	Nov. 12 Nov. 14	Dachau 1933-2003 Wed. film: <i>For the Living</i> (USHMM), 57mins. Memorials for the Holocaust	Reader: Marcuse
Week 9	Nov. 19 Nov. 20 Nov. 21	Literature (fiction) and the Holocaust Guest speaker Ruth Kluger (5pm) Education: The Diary of Anne Frank	Reader: Langer, Wilkomirski Kluger, Epilog (205-214) Reader: Rosenfeld
Week 10	Nov. 26 Nov. 28	No class, you've put in extra time already! No class, Thanksgiving break	
Week 11	Dec. 3 Dec. 4 Dec. 5	Topic(s) selected by class Selected film(s) Selected topics / concluding discussion	to be announced tba
	Dec. 13	Friday, 12noon-2pm: FINAL EXAMINATION	Bring a large blue book

Plagiarism—presenting someone else's work as your own, or deliberately 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 will report offenses to the appropriate university authorities for disciplinary action.