

**ARLT 100g**

**The Holocaust in Literature and Film  
Fall 2012**

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Office: SOS 262  
Office hours: *Tues 12.45-1.45 pm & by app't.*

Time: Tu/Th 11 am-12.20pm  
Room: VKC 252  
Class #: 35224  
**Course is on Blackboard**

The Holocaust is one of the most disputed events in modern history. Through close discussion of literature and film we will explore the origins and the development of persecution and mass murder of the European Jewry during World War II. During the course we will address major questions as: Why did people participate in persecution? Could people resist? Who did help the Jews? Could the Holocaust have been prevented? These questions are still valuable today. Key themes we will explore include: the personalities of the perpetrators, the lives of the victims, the role of the bystanders, and the motives of the rescuers. We will use closely discussion of movies by famous filmmakers as Chaplin, Polanski and Spielberg, as well as documentaries, novels and diaries. Using both fiction and non-fictional material we will also touch upon the eternal debate between historians and artists about the interpretation of past events.

**Required books (at bookstore or library)**

Jurek Becker, *Jacob the Liar*

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

Anne Michaels, *Fugitive Pieces*

Rutka's Notebook. *A voice from the Holocaust*

David Engel, *The Third Reich and the Jews*, New York: Pearson Education paperback

Wolf Gruner, *Jewish Forced Labor under the Nazis*, Cambridge UP, 2008 paperback)

**Required movies to watch at home  
(available at Leavey Library: reserve shelf for our class)**

*The Pianist*, 2002, Roman Polanski

*Schindler's list*, 1993, Steven Spielberg,

Sophie Scholl – the last days, 2005, Marc Rothemund

**Attention:**

Some of the movies and documentaries display graphic images; some of the novels describe graphic scenes.

Due to some in class showing of movies or documentaries, some days the class may take 5-10 minutes longer, which will be cut of the following session.

**For books on t Holocaust in film see @USC libraries:**

**<http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=87981&sid=670748>**

**Course requirements:** The assignment encompasses participation, discussion and papers (discussion, midterm exam and research).

**Class discussions:** Participation in class discussions is vital to the learning process. I expect that you will attend all class meetings, complete the assigned reading and movie watching on time (you should have finished reading or watching when the discussion on a book or a movie is scheduled), and engage actively with the material in our class discussions.

If you will miss a class, you have to inform me in advance via email. In cases of illness you have to provide me with a certificate by the USC Health office. Unexcused absences lower your grade. If you miss more than 5 classes, I won't accept a research paper, which will significantly lower the grade.

As a part of your discussion grade, every student will take responsibility for leading the discussion for 20-30 minutes in one class session. A list will be handed out for you to sign in. You should choose the day with the topic you are most interested in. For the discussion you will prepare a set of questions and do some extra research on the author, the book or film, and their history which you will introduce to the class.

In addition, every other week I will ask you to submit short, informal essays, no longer than one page, in which you have to discuss problems, ideas or developments of the books or movies assigned to you. You might analyze whether historical or artistic questions. These papers, due on Monday or Wednesday afternoon by e-mail (see schedule), will serve as a basis for discussion, but will not be individually graded.

I will provide guidelines for ways of participating in and leading discussion. The breakdown of your grade is as follows: **class attendance 5 %; leading a discussion 5 %, participation in class discussion 20%; for a total of 30%.**

**Examinations:** A midterm exam will be given— based on the lectures, the material, and our class discussions – in form four or five questions. **Midterm: 30%.**

**Research Paper:** You are required to write a research paper of 12-15 pages (not incl. Bibliography) on a topic of your choice and interest whether related to the topic in general or on specific questions under consideration in this class. The discussion of your research subject should be based on various sources. (No internet sources except primary documents are allowed

to use). I will provide guidelines explaining the paper requirements. Please start early to think about a possible subject. After the mid-term you need to provide a research subject and a list of the possible literature you will use to write the paper. Feel free to discuss anything about preparing or writing the paper with me by email or during my office hours. **Research Paper: 40%.**

**Academic Integrity:** USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *SCampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

Students are expected to uphold USC's academic integrity standards. Plagiarism (roughly defined as appropriating another person's ideas, arguments, or wording and claiming them as one's own) will be treated as a serious offense and will be reported to the appropriate university authorities. Students who base their essays or arguments on someone else's work should make sure to cite that source properly and acknowledge their use of it. Those who are uncertain about how to do this are strongly encouraged to ask for help from the professor and review USC's "Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism." By taking this course, students are expected to understand and abide by these principles.

All submitted work for this course may be subject to an originality review as performed by Turnitin technologies (<http://www.turnitin.com>) to find textual similarities with other Internet content or previously submitted student work. Students of this course retain the copyright of their own original work, and Turnitin is not permitted to use student-submitted work for any other purpose than (a) performing an originality review of the work, and (b) including that work in the database against which it checks other student-submitted work.

### **Class Notes Policy**

Notes or recordings made by students in this class based on my lectures, on discussion group, or on class discussions may only be made for the purposes of individual or group study, or for other non-commercial purposes that reasonably arise from your membership in this class. Permission to make notes or recordings falls within my discretion as the instructor and as informed by instructional purposes, classroom order, property interests, and other reasonable considerations arising in the academic context. Notes and recordings of this class may not be exchanged or distributed for any commercial purpose, for compensation, or for any purpose other than your personal study. Unless authorized by the University in advance and explicitly and in writing permitted by me, commercial or any non-personal use of class notes or recordings constitutes an unauthorized commercial activity in violation of the Student Conduct Code, and students who violate this policy are subject to University discipline. As the instructor in this course, I retain intellectual property rights in the lecture material pursuant to U.S. copyright law and California

Civil Code 980(a)(1). Misuse of course notes or recordings derived from lecture material may also subject you to legal proceedings.

**Students with Disabilities:** Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Mon through Fri, the phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

## Schedule

### 1. Tue, Aug, 28: Introduction

*Independent research (given in first class). Due on Thursday in class*

### 2. Thu, Aug 30: Terms, Interpretations of history, art and history

Watching in class parts of the movie: The Great Dictator, 1940, Charles Chaplin

**Required reading for this class:** David Engel, pp. 1-14.

### 3. Tues, Sep. 4 : Anti-Semitism, Nationalism, and Racism

Watching in class parts of the documentary: Triumph of the Will, (Nuremberg 1934), Riefenstahl

**Required reading for this class:** David Engel, pp. 15-37.

### 4. Thu, Sep. 6: Jewish life under the Nazis

Watching in class: The Holocaust, TV-Miniserie 1978 Part 1

**Required reading for this class:** Gruner, prologue.

*Due on Monday, Sept., 10th, afternoon per e-mail:*

*Discussion paper 1: on TV miniserie “The Holocaust, part 1”*

### 5. Tue, Sep. 11: Discussion about Jewish life under the Nazis and The Holocaust, Part 1

Attention different location: *Visit of the Lion Feuchtwanger coll. at Doheny library*

**Required reading:** Engel, pp. 38-49

*Due on Wed. afternoon per email:*

*Discussion paper 2: on the November pogrom in Germany “Kristallnacht” based on individual research*

### 6. Thu, Sep. 13: Discussion about “Kristallnacht”

Watching in class “Testimonies of the Shoah Video Archive” about the pogrom

**Required reading:** Gruner, chapter 1 on Germany.

### 7. Tue, Sep. 18: Voices of the victims

Attention different location: *Visit of the Shoah foundation archive at Leavey Library*

**Required reading:** Gruner, chapter 4 on Austria.

Discussion of open questions

**8. Thur, Sep. 20:** Watching in class: The Holocaust, TV-Miniserie 1978, Part 2

*Due on Monday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, afternoon: Discussion paper 3 on TV show "Holocaust" part 2*

**9. Tue, Sep. 25: Introduction to resources, in 2 groups** *Attention different location: Holocaust book collection at Doheny library.*

**Required reading: Gruner, Chapter 6.**

**10. Thu, Sept 27: Occupation of Poland**

Discussion about the Movie: The Pianist, 2002, Roman Polanski (watch at home or in library, movie is on reserve at Leavey as the other movies)

*Due on Monday, Discussion paper 4 about the class so far*

**11. Tue, Oct. 2: Occupation of Poland**

Discussion about the book: **Jurek Becker, Jacob the Liar**

**12. Thu, Oct. 4: Invasion of the Soviet Union**

Watching in class: Documentary "Spell your Name"

*Due on Monday, discussion paper 5 on "spell your name"*

**13. Tue, Oct. 9:** Discussion about "Spell your Name"

**14. Thu, Oct. 11:** Mid-term Preparation and Assessment

**15. Tue, Oct 16:** *Mid-term exam based on required reading up to this date and class discussions*

**16. Thu, Oct 18:** Watching in class: The Holocaust, TV-Miniserie, part 3

*Due on Tuesday in class: paper with Research-topic (Please explain your subject and provide a preliminary list of the literature and the primary sources you will use on one page)*

**17. Tue, Oct 23: Presentation of research topics and** Discussion in class about part 3 of the TV miniserie "Holocaust"

**18. Thu, Oct 25: Life in the ghetto**

Discussion of Rutka's Notebook. A voice from the Holocaust

**19. Tue, Oct 30: Forced Labor and Rescue**

Discussion of movie: Schindler's list, 1993, Steven Spielberg,

**Required reading: Gruner, chapter 9.**

**20. Thu, Nov 1:** Watching in class TV miniseries, Holocaust, part 4  
**Required reading:** *Engels*, pp. 62-77

*Due on Mon. afternoon, discussion paper 6 on TV Holocaust, part 4*

**21. Tue, Nov 6:** Discussion on TV Holocaust part 4

**22. Thu, Nov 8: The Final Solution**

Watching in class parts of the documentary: Shoah (1985), Claude Lanzmann

**Required reading:** Engel, pp. 50-61.

**23. Tue, Nov 13: The Final Solution**

Discussion of Primo Levi, "Survival in Auschwitz"

*Due on Wed, discussion paper 7 on Sophie Scholl*

**24. Thu, Nov 15: German Resistance**

Discussion about the Movie "Sophie Scholl – the last days", 2005, Marc Rothemund

**25. Tue, Nov 20: Rescue and Abandonment**

Discussion of Anne Michaels, "Fugitive Pieces"

Thanksgiving, Nov. 21-24

**26. Tue, Nov 27: The Aftermath: Trials and Denials**

Watching in class parts of the documentary: Nuremberg. The Nazis facing their trial, 2006 by Christian Delage

**27. Thu, Nov 29: The Aftermath: Trials and Denials**

and presentation of research paper results

Required reading: Engel, pp. 77-87.

28. Tue, Dec 4: open discussion in class

*Due on Thursday: Research paper !!! hard copy in class  
(plus electronic copy turnitin on blackboard)*

**29. Thur, December 6: The Assessment: Conclusions and Open Questions**