

LITERATURE OF RESISTANCE

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Course Description:

The course will explore expressions of resistance in a variety of societies and groups that experienced oppression deriving from their cultural, religious, gender, ethnic and national affiliations. Students in this class will analyze and discuss instances of cultural resistance to subjugation and oppression, from antiquity to modernity, as they are expressed in diverse cultural modes.

The course will introduce students to various genres expressing such resistance. These will include: literature such as fiction, poetry, and biblical texts; historical documents such as diaries, sermons, speeches and manifestos; visual & plastic arts and performance arts. While some lectures will provide the theoretical context for class discussions, most of the critical and analytical work will happen as a product of the students' contributions and participation.

Required Texts:

Atwood, Margaret. *Handmaid's Tale*. c1988.
Passover Haggadah (2005) (purchase from <http://www.artscroll.com/Books/hintp.html>)
Quindlen, Anna. *How Reading Changed My Life*. (1998)
Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse 5*.

Class Reader. (order from: www.universityreaders.com/students)

One non-circulating copy of each item is available on Reserve at the Frances-Henry Library of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Grading:

Attendance & participation: 15%
Midterm: 25%
Project: 35%
Final: 25%
(See grading scheme on p. 6)

Project

One in-class presentation constitutes 35% of the total grade. The topic must be related to class themes and must be pre-approved by the instructor.

General guidelines and individual dates for the presentations will be assigned during the 3rd week of class.

Midterm and Final

Each exam will cover the readings assigned up to the exam date. The final exam may include materials from the projects presented in class.

A Note on Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves submitting work (words, ideas, images, or data) in a course as if it were your own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- The work you submit or present was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than yourself (this includes having another person impersonate you or otherwise substitute the work of another for your own in an examination, test or assignment)
- Parts of your work are taken from another source without reference to the original author
- You submit or present the work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with you) without the prior agreement of the instructor

While it is recognized that academic work often involves reference to ideas, data and conclusions of others, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Please refer to *SCampus* for further information on violation of **academic integrity**.

Schedule of Classes & Assigned Reading

ALL READINGS MUST BE COMPLETED IN PREPARATION FOR CLASS SESSIONS TO ALLOW FOR AN INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION.

(R) Indicates assigned reading in the Course Reader

1-2: Introductions

(1) Tue. 8/23 **Introduction** to the class, the materials, requirements, grading schedules & guidelines for success.

(2) Thurs. 8/25 The **scope, roles & functions** of literature(s) of resistance
Read: Trotsky on art; Attack on Literature.
 Selected poems & diary entries: *Strange Fruit*; *Revolutionary Voices*; *Warning* (R)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8uaphNOjNY>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wlmhj7I4wtQ&feature=related>

3-4: WAR

(3) Tue. 8/30 Read: Joseph Narot: *Letters to the NOW generation*; *Cadaver 1467*; *Mutiny Does Not Happen Lightly*; Wilfred Owen: *DULCE ET DECORUM EST* (R)

(4) Thurs. 9/1 Read: *Slaughterhouse 5*

5-7: GENDER

(5) Tue. 9/6 Read: Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings: Truth, Pankhurst, Woolf

(6) Thurs. 9/8 Read: *Handmaid's Tale*

(7) Tue. 9/13 *Handmaid's Tale*

8-9: CLASS, RACE & ETHNICITY

(8) Thurs. 9/15 Read: Swift; Marx & Engels (R)

(9) Tue. 9/20 Read: Malcolm X; *Freedom Writers Diary* (R)

10: CENSORSHIP

(10) Thurs. 9/22 Read: Anna Quindlen: *How Reading Changed My Life* (p.15-31; 71-82)

Banned Books Week: Sept. 24-Oct. 1

<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek/index.cfm>
<http://www.usc.edu/libraries/archives/arc/libraries/feuchtwanger/exiles/resources.html>

11-12: Genocide

(11) Tue. 9/27 Read: Ozick; Dawidowicz; Roskies (R)

<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/publicprograms/programs/milkcan/LearningGuide.pdf>
<http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/ghettos/ringleblum.html>

Thurs. 9/29 Jewish New Year – No Class

(12) Tue. 10/4 Read: *Passover Haggadah*
<http://www.armenian-genocide.org/>

[http://www.genocidearchiverwanda.org.rw/index.php/Welcome to Genocide Archive Rwanda](http://www.genocidearchiverwanda.org.rw/index.php/Welcome_to_Genocide_Archive_Rwanda)

(13) Thurs. 10/6 **Midterm**

14-15: Research Methods

(14) Tue. 10/11 Researching the Audio-Visual Archives at the Shoah Foundation.
 Krispin Brooks, Curator
Class meets at Leavey Library –Computer Lab LRB

Thurs. 10/13 **Jewish Holiday of Sukkot – 1st Day – No Class**

(15) Tue. 10/18 Researching the Library's Special Collections,
 Michaela Ullman, Librarian
Class meets at Doheny Library-Circulation Desk

Thurs. 10/20 **Sukkot – Last Day – No Class**

16-19: Genre of Resistance

(16) Tue. 10/25 **Speeches & Manifestoes**
Read: *The Masada Myth*; Tenzin Gyatso in Oslo; 2 manifestos (R)

- 2(17)** Thurs. **10/27** **Poetry, Rap & Slam**
Read: *I write AMERICA* (R)
- (18)** Tue. **11/1** **Stand Up comedy**
Read: *When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops* (R)
- (19)** Thurs **11/3** **Visual & performance Arts**
Read: *Why Freedom Matters*

20-24: In class presentations

- (20)** Tue. **11/8** **Student presentations (Group 1)**
- (21)** Thurs. **11/10** **Student presentations (Group 2)**
- (22)** Tue. **11/15** **Student presentations (Group 3)**
- (23)** Thurs. **11/17** **Student presentations (Group 4)**
- (24)** Tue. **11/22** **Student presentations (Group 5)**
- Thurs. **11/24** **Thanksgiving – No Class**

25-26: Famous Last Words

- (25)** Tue. **11/29** **Presentations Analysis**
- (26)** Thurs. **12/1** **Leftovers**

Final scheduled for: Tuesday, Dec. 13 8-10 a.m.

IF YOU NEED HELP AT ANY TIME DURING THE COURSE OF THIS CLASS, PLEASE CONTACT ME TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT.

SOME CLASS RULES:

You are solely responsible for your attendance, promptness, and timely submission of all required work. Tardiness and absenteeism will result in reduced grades.

- **All e-gadgets (except laptops) must be turned off.**
- **No eating in class.**
- **Don't be late! Late arrivals are disruptive to the class.**
- **One meeting with the instructor during the semester is mandatory. Feel free to schedule as many meetings as you deem necessary.**
- **Your achievements in this class are individually graded. Your final grade is the sum total of all the points you've accumulated for your work. You alone are responsible for keeping track of your grade.**

The grading scheme is as follows:

<u>% accumulation</u>	=	<u>Grade letter</u>
95 – 100		A
90 – 94		A-
85 – 89		B+
80 - 84		B
75 – 79		B-
70 – 74		C+
65 – 69		C
60 – 64		C-
55 – 59		D+
50 – 54		D
0 – 49		F