

**HISTORY 405 (FALL 2015):
HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST**

Dr. Adam R. Seipp
Glasscock 216A
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MWF 09:10 am-10:00 am
MILS 216

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Office Hours: Monday, 1:00-2:00 PM

During the years between the invasion of Poland in 1939 and the end of the Second World War in 1945, nearly 6 million Jews and millions of other Europeans were deliberately murdered by Hitler's Germany and its allies. This course explores the causes, course, and consequences of that campaign, which was embedded within and inseparable from a massive global war that killed millions and displaced tens of millions more around the world.

Students in this course will engage in a sustained research project, culminating in a team-based class presentation, with evidence drawn in large part from the holdings of the extraordinary Visual History Archive created by the USC Shoah Foundation. Students will learn to synthesize historical information and improve their skills in written and oral communication.

Prerequisites:

None

Student Learning Outcomes:

During the semester, students will:

1. enhance their ability to ask questions of, accurately evaluate, and effectively synthesize primary and secondary historical writings.
2. develop the ability to effectively express their own ideas in written and oral form.
3. expand their knowledge of the historical and social contexts that created diversity in past and present human cultures.
4. apply knowledge about the human condition—in the past and present—to their personal lives and studies.

Core Objectives for Language, Philosophy, and Culture Foundational Component Area

1. Critical Thinking (to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information).
2. Communication (to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication).
3. Social Responsibility (to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities).
4. Personal Responsibility (to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making)."

Required Readings:

Bergen, Doris. *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust*
Borowski, Tadeusz. *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*
Browning, Christopher. *Remembering Survival*
Gross, Jan. *Neighbors*
Smith, Helmut Walser. *The Butcher's Tale*

There will also be several sets of documents assigned for this class. All are available through the library electronic reserve system (<http://library-reserves.tamu.edu>):

Students will also need to view the film *Defiance* (2009). It is available through Evans Library, as well as any number of other venues. A screening has been scheduled for the class on November 12 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM in Evans Annex room 417c. The film can also be viewed through mediamatrix for those registered for this class (<https://mediamatrix.tamu.edu/>)

Grading:

20% Midterm Examination
25% Final Examination
25% Project
20% Quizzes (5 quizzes)
10% Participation

Graded Assignments:

There will be a number of graded assignments for this course. There will be two exams, a midterm and a final, based on material from lecture and the outside readings. Each exam will have a map (see term list below), short answer, and essay component.

There will be seven multiple-choice quizzes based on the outside readings (quizzes marked with a * on the schedule below). Each quiz will have ten questions and will be completed at the beginning of the class for which the reading has been assigned. The lowest two quiz grades will be dropped.

Finally, students will complete a team-based project using testimonies from the Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive (VHA). These projects will examine the experience of one of the last "death marches" from the Nazi concentration camp system from a variety of perspectives. Students will receive a grade based on the performance of their team. More information will be made available about the assignment at the beginning of the semester.

A team project is a crucial component of this class and a student's grade. As such, if there are any team members who are not contributing their part and are posing a hindrance to the work of the remaining team for **any** reason, they will be removed from the team regardless of time in the semester and required to complete the project individually. There will be no mediation or negotiation for this step. Removal will be swift, and an email will be sent to the removed student by the instructor notifying them of the change.

Continued registration after Drop/Add indicates a student's acceptance of all policies and

expectations as described in this syllabus.

With regard to grading, please see: <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule10>

Grading Scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% and below

Attendance:

Attendance is not required in this course, except on those days for which there is a graded assignment. Students will be permitted to make-up missed assignments ONLY if they produce documentation corresponding to the university's policy on excused absences. Please see <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07> for current policy on university-excused absences.

While attendance is not mandatory, you are strongly encouraged to attend class regularly.

Course Schedule

Readings from the Doris Bergen text are marked as (B: xx-xx)

- 31-Aug Introduction
- 2-Sep Germany and Central Europe, 1815-1914
- 4-Sep Jewish Europe to 1900
- 7-Sep Science, Anti-Semitism, and Race, 1850-1900 (B: 1-28)
- 9-Sep World War I
- 11-Sep Reading: The Butcher's Tale *
- 14-Sep The Rise of the Nazi Party (B: 29-50)
- 16-Sep Nazism and the Path to Power, 1928-1933
- 18-Sep Reading: Documents on the rise of Nazism *
- 21-Sep Nazi Germany, 1933-38 (B: 51-78)
- 23-Sep Hitler's Allies: Nationalist Movements and Fascism in Europe
- 25-Sep No class - instructor at conference
- 28-Sep Jewish Responses to Persecution
- 30-Sep The Road to War, 1938-39 (B: 79-100)
- 2-Oct Reading: Documents on Persecution *
- 5-Oct From Poland to Barbarossa, 1939-41 (B: 101-134)
- 7-Oct The Invasion of the Soviet Union
- 9-Oct Reading: Neighbors *
- 12-Oct Introduction to Semester Project
- 14-Oct Midterm Examination
- 16-Oct The German Empire in the East (B: 135-166)
- 19-Oct Introduction to VHA (Meet in Evans Library)
- 21-Oct 1942: The Heart of Darkness (B: 167-214)
- 23-Oct Discussion: Remembering Survival *

26-Oct The Tide Turns
28-Oct Liberation (B: 215-232)
30-Oct Survivors and Refugees
2-Nov Reading: This Way for the Gas *
4-Nov Postwar trials and the judgement of history
6-Nov No class - instructor at conference
9-Nov The Holocaust, Israel, and the Shadow of History (B: 233-244)
11-Nov READING: Germans and the Burden of the Past *
12-Nov THURSDAY. View *Defiance*
16-Nov Discussion: Holocaust and Film
18-Nov The Challenges of Holocaust Representation
20-Nov Team Meeting Day
23-Nov Holocaust Denial
25-Nov Thanksgiving Holiday
27-Nov Thanksgiving Holiday
30-Nov Presentation Day #1
2-Dec Presentation Day #2
4-Dec Presentation Day #3
7-Dec Presentation Day #4

The final examination will be held on Monday, December 14 from 8:00-10:00 AM in the regular classroom.

ADA: Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If a student believes that they have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact Disability Services, Room B118 Cain Hall, 845-1637, <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

Academic Integrity:

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.” Students are expected to be aware of and adhere to the Aggie Honor Council Rules and Procedures, available at <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu> .

MAP TERMS FOR MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMINATION

On both the midterm and final examinations, students will be given **TEN** of the following terms, which they will need to locate on a **CURRENT** political map of Europe.

1. Amsterdam
2. Athens
3. Auschwitz / Oświęcim
4. Berlin
5. Bucharest
6. Buchenwald
7. Budapest
8. Copenhagen
9. Dresden
10. Frankfurt
11. Hamburg
12. Kiev
13. Königsberg / Kaliningrad
14. Krakow
15. Leningrad / St. Petersburg
16. Lodz
17. Lublin
18. Moscow
19. Munich
20. Paris
21. Riga
22. Rome
23. Sevastopol
24. Stalingrad
25. Treblinka
26. Vichy
27. Vienna
28. Vilnius
29. Warsaw
30. Westerbork