

HISTORY 481 (SPRING 2015): THE HOLOCAUST

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

Tuesday and Thursday, 11:10-12:25
Glasscock 205

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 design and write a research paper, 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 communication.

Prerequisites:

21 credits of history, 9 of which must be 300-level or above. Open to senior history majors or with instructor's approval.

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

"Critical Thinking (to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information).

Communication (to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication).

Social Responsibility (to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities).

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*
Desbois, Patrick. *The Holocaust by Bullets: A Priest's Journey to Uncover the Truth Behind the Murder of 1.5 Million Jews*
Gaddis, John Lewis. *The Landscape of History: How Historians Map the Past*
Kaplan, Marion. *Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany*
Tec, Nechama. *Defiance*

There will also be several articles and book chapters assigned for this class. All are available through the library electronic reserve system (library-reserves.tamu.edu):

Cohen, Boaz. "The Jewish DP Experience"
Gigliotti, Simone, Marc J. Masurovsky, and Erik B. Steiner. "From the Camp to the Road: Representing the Evacuations from Auschwitz, January 1945."
Rauh-Kühne, Cornelia. "Life Rewarded the Latecomers: Denazification During the Cold War"
VHA. "Background Information on the Institute and the Archive"

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 Thursday, February 26 from 7:00 – 9:30 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:

30% Final Paper
10% Draft
10% Defiance Paper
10% Liberation Paper
10% Peer Review Assignment
20% Quizzes (4 quizzes x 5%)
10% Participation

Graded Assignments:

This is a writing intensive course. Students will be expected to complete two short (approximately 500 words) papers and one long seminar paper (approximately 4,000 words). The final paper will incorporate both primary and secondary sources. It is not possible to pass this course without passing the writing component.

The seminar paper will be written using the oral history interviews collected by the Shoah Foundation and available online through the TAMU libraries. More information will be provided shortly after the beginning of the semester. The other two papers will be brief responses to questions posed about documents related to the liberation of the concentration camps by American forces in 1945 and the extraordinary story of the Bielski partisans, a Jewish community that emerged in the forests of Eastern Europe during the German occupation. Their story is told in the book and Hollywood film *Defiance*.

Each student will submit a draft of their seminar paper. I will return drafts with comments,

which should then be incorporated into the final version. Completion of a draft totaling not less than 2,000 words, and which makes a good-faith effort to address the assignment by using primary and secondary sources, is required. In addition, all students must discuss their drafts with the University Writing Center and receive written feedback. Drafts meeting these requirements will receive full credit. Failing to meet any of these requirements will result in a grade of 0 for the draft assignment.

All papers must be turned in through www.turnitin.com. Papers must be submitted by 11:10 AM on the day that the assignment is due. No papers will be accepted in person, via email, or through any other method other than this web-based service. To use turnitin.com, please visit the site in advance of the first assignment and register.

Course number: 9285727

Enrollment password: 481holocaust

In addition, students will be responsible for providing a peer review of another student's draft, which will be completed in class on March 31. Written work associated with the peer review will be graded. Responses that are determined to make a good-faith effort to address the peer review prompt will receive full credit. Students who are absent without a university-approved excuse or who do not complete the assignment will receive no credit for the assignment.

Finally, there will be six brief (10 question) quizzes based on outside readings (see entries below with a *). The lowest two quiz grades will be dropped.

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 and Late Papers:

This course is a seminar. Attendance and participation are critical both to your success in the class and to the outcome for your classmates. Students are allowed THREE unexcused absences during the semester. Each additional absence will result in the loss of a full letter grade from the student's final grade. No late papers will be accepted without a university-excused absence.

Please see <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07> for current policy on university-excused absences.

Course Schedule:

20-Jan	Introduction
22-Jan	The Holocaust: An Overview (Start reading Gaddis, Bergen 1-28)
27-Jan	The Craft of History (Gaddis Reading) *

29-Jan	Writing Center Intro and Project Intro (Bergen 29-80)
3-Feb	Oral History and VHA Intro (VHA Reading)
5-Feb	Meet in Library with Sarah Potvin (Bergen 81-130)
10-Feb	Jewish Life in Europe (Start reading Kaplan)
12-Feb	Nazi Germany and the Jews (Kaplan Reading) *
17-Feb	<i>WRITING WORKSHOP: THE WRITING PROCESS</i>
19-Feb	The Holocaust in Eastern Europe (Desbois Reading) *
24-Feb	NO CLASS (Begin reading Defiance, Bergen 131-204)
26-Feb	NO CLASS (Watch Defiance)
3-Mar	Discussion: Defiance (Defiance Paper Due)
5-Mar	Optional Writing Conference Session (Bergen 205-228)
10-Mar	NO CLASS - INSTRUCTOR AT CONFERENCE
12-Mar	<i>WRITING WORKSHOP: DRAFTING AND CITATION</i>
17-Mar	SPRING BREAK
19-Mar	SPRING BREAK
24-Mar	The Discovery of the Holocaust (Liberation Paper Due)
26-Mar	Refugees and Survivors (Cohen Reading) *
31-Mar	<i>WRITING WORKSHOP: PEER REVIEW</i>
2-Apr	Holocaust Denial
7-Apr	NO CLASS, DRAFTS DUE
9-Apr	NO CLASS - INSTRUCTOR AT CONFERENCE
14-Apr	New Methods in Holocaust Research (Gigliotti, Masurovsky, and Steiner Reading) DRAFTS RETURNED *
16-Apr	Prosecuting the Perpetrators (Rauh-Kühne Reading) *
21-Apr	Writing Conferences #1
23-Apr	Writing Conferences #2
28-Apr	Writing Conference #3
30-Apr	NO CLASS - WORK ON FINAL PAPER

The final paper will be due on MAY 7

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>.