The Holocaust is one of the most researched and nevertheless still most disputed events in Modern History. This course investigates the origins and the development of anti-Jewish persecution in the Third Reich, which finally ended in the systematic mass murder of Europe's Jews during World War II. Using both primary and secondary source material we will discuss the early efforts to isolate and marginalize German Jewry during the 1930s, changes in persecution strategy after the notorious pogrom of 1938 (“Cristal night”) and the transition to mass murder during the War in the occupied European States. In contrast to common perspectives we will focus not only on the Nazi party or the SS, but on a broad range of German institutions and their personnel involved in the persecution of the Jews. We will discuss how much room to maneuver individuals in German institutions had at that time in order to examine individual responsibility of perpetrators and bystanders. The course will shed light on the living conditions of the Jewish population under oppression, and on the reactions and resistance of Jewish individuals as well as of Jewish institutions. During the course we will see how the Holocaust fit into the broader context of a Nazi “war of destruction” against Roma, Slaves, Soviet POW’s, “asocials,” handicapped people and gays. We will explore the scholarly discussion after 1945 to understand which questions were discussed when and why.

Required books (at Bookstore or library)

Marion Kaplan, Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998 paperback)
David Cesarani: The Final Solution: Origins and Implementation (Routledge 1996 Paperback)
Course requirements:

Class discussions: Participation in class discussions of the readings is vital to the learning process. I expect that you will attend all class meetings, complete assigned reading on time, and engage actively with the material in our weekly discussions. As a part of your discussion grade, we will schedule each student, probably in pairs, to take responsibility for leading discussion for one session. I will provide guidelines for ways of participating in and leading discussion. The breakdown of your grade is as follows: daily participation, 5%; leading discussion, 5%; discussion, 10%; for a total of 20%.

Examinations:
Two essay exams will be given—a midterm in March and a final in May (per the Schedule of Classes) based on readings and discussions. Both examinations will have short response identifications and essay questions. Midterm: 20%; Final: 30%.

Research Paper:
You are required to write a research paper of 15-20 pages on a topic of your choice related to one of the central areas under consideration in this class. This paper will be grounded in the historiography of the chosen area, but the heart of the effort will involve research in the voluminous primary source material available on the Holocaust, including, of course, the rich material housed in the USC Shoah Foundation Institute. I will provide a separate handout explaining the paper requirement and suggesting topic areas for investigation. Paper: 30%.

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 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., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.
Schedule:


2. Thu, Jan. 15: Discussion of Terms, Sources and Interpretations

   **Primary sources**
   Definition of Genocide by Raphael Lemkin,

   **Secondary texts**
   Raul Hilberg, “Sources and their Uses,”
   In Berenbaum/Peck, *The Holocaust and History*, pp. 5-12.

   **Film-footage:** Charles Chaplin, *The Great Dictator, 1940*

3. Tues, Jan. 22: Anti-Semitism, Nationalism, and Racism

   **Primary sources**
   “Hitler speech 1920,”

   **Secondary texts**
   Friedlander, *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, vol. I, pp. 73-112.
   Stefan Kühl, “The Cooperation of German Racial Hygienists and American Eugenicists before and after 1933,”
   in Berenbaum/Peck, *The Holocaust and History*, pp. 134-152.

4. Thu, Jan. 24: Germany, 1918-1933

   **Primary sources**
   “Speech of the German delegation in Versailles 1919,”

   **Secondary texts**
   Schleunes, *The Twisted Road to Auschwitz*, pp. 36-61.
   Adam Tooze chapter on Weimar,
   in idem, *The Wages of Destruction*.

Persecution in Nazi Germany 1933-37

5. Tue, Jan. 27: Developments

   **Primary sources**
   The Times, 3 April 1933
   “Nuremberg Laws 1935,”

   **Secondary texts**
   Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, pp. 17-49.
6. Thu, Jan. 29: Institutions

**Secondary texts**
Gruner, “Local Initiatives, Central Coordination: German Municipal Administration and the Holocaust,”
Dierker, “The SS Security Service and the Gestapo,”
Kenkmann, “Looting of Jewish Property and the German Financial Administration,”

7. Tue, Febr. 3: Reactions

**Primary sources**
Robert Weltsch, “Wear It With Pride …1933,”
in Steinhardt Botwinick, *A Holocaust Reader*, pp. 112-113
*The New York Times*, 27 March 1933
*The New York Times*, 12 June 1933

**Secondary texts**

Persecution and Life in Greater Germany

8. Thu, Febr. 5: The Annexed Austria, 1938-1943

**Primary sources**

**Secondary texts**

9. Tue, Febr. 10: Kristallnacht-Testimonies (visit of the Shoah Institute)

Due for this session: Independent Research on the Kristallnacht: history of the event and the term, available sources, literature

10. Thu, Febr. 12: Emigration (visit of the Lion Feuchtwanger special collection, tentative)

**Secondary texts**
“Desperate Departure,”
in Spitzer, *Hotel Bolivia*, pp. 3-46.
11. Tue, Febr. 17: Germany, 1938-1943

Secondary texts
Gruner, Jewish Forced Labor, pp. 3-31.
Kaplan, Between Dignity and Despair, pp. 145-172.

12. Thu, Febr. 19: The Annexed Czech Territories:
   The Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia

Secondary texts
Gruner, Jewish Forced Labor, pp. 141-173.

The War: 1939-1941
Persecution and Life in Occupied Poland

13. Tue, Febr. 24: The Seizure

Primary sources
“A Polish Report on Conditions for Jews after the German Conquest,”
in David Engel, The Third Reich and the Jews, p. 95.

Secondary texts
Yisrael Gutman, “Polish Anti-Semitism,”
Browning, The Origins of the Final Solution, pp. 12-35.

Film-footage: The Pianist, Part I

14. Thu, Febr. 26: Forced Labor

Secondary texts
Goldhagen, “Jewish ‘Work’ is Annihilation,”
in idem, Hitler’s Willing Executioners, pp. 283-326.

15. Tue, March 3: Mid-term Conclusions and Assessment, Open Questions

16. Thu, March 5: Mid-term exam based on lectures, required reading up to this date
   and class discussions
The War, 1941-1945

17. Tue, March 10: Ghettos

**Primary sources**
Gina Gotfryd, “Somehow Life Went On,”

**Secondary texts**

18. Thu, March 12: The Invasion of the Soviet Union

**Secondary texts**
Jürgen Matthäus, “Operation Barbarossa and the Onset of the Holocaust,” in
Browning, *The Origins of the Final Solution*, pp. 244-308.
Streit, “Wehrmacht, Einsatzgruppen, Soviet POWS and Anti-Bolsheviksm,”

Spring break : March 16-21

19. Tue, March 24: The Final Solution 1: The Planning

**Primary sources**
“Goering instructs Heydrich on the Final Solution, July 31. 1941,“
“Protocol of the Wannsee Conference, January 20 1942,”

**Secondary texts**
Browning, *The Origins of the Final Solution*, pp. 36-110.
Friedlander, “Euthanasia and the Final Solution,”

Film-footage Documentary: "the Wannsee conference", Heinz Schirk 1984

20. Thu, March 26: The Final solution 2:
Regional Developments versus Central Implementations

**Secondary texts**
Christian Gerlach on Belorussia
Christoph Dieckmann on Lithuania
    in Herbert, *National-Socialist Extermination Policies*, Berghahn Books 2000,
    pp. 210-275.
Wendy Lower on Ukraine
21. Tue, March 31: The Final Solution 3: Killing Fields and Death Camps

**Primary sources**
“Eye witness report on mass shooting, August 1941,”
“Report on the killing center Belzec,”
    both in David Engel, *The Third Reich and the Jews*, pp. 98-100.
Gina Gottfryd, “Somehow Life Went On,”
“The March,”

**Secondary texts**

22. Thu, April 2: The Final Solution 4: Perpetrators

**Primary sources**
“Himmler speech, October 10, 1943,”

**Secondary texts**
Christopher Browning, “Ordinary Men,”
Daniel Goldhagen, “Hitler’s Willing Executioners,”
Christopher Browning, “Bureaucracy and Mass Murder,”
Peter Hayes, “Profits and Persecution,”

23. Tue, April 7: The Final Solution and the Victims: Multiple voices

**Secondary texts**
Chapter 6: “Multiple Voices,”
Michael Zimmermann on “Gypsies,”

24. Thu, April 9: The Final Solution and the Victims: Response and Resistance

**Primary sources**
“Call for resistance in the Warsaw ghetto, January 1943,”
“The last letter from Mordecai Anielewicz,”

**Secondary texts**
Yehuda Bauer, “Forms of Jewish Resistance,”
Yisrael Gutman, “The Response of Polish Jewry to the Final Solution,”
25. Tue, April 14: Tentative Film-footage: The Pianist, Part II  
(discussion art, memory and history)

26. Thu, April 16: The Final Solution and the Victims: Rescue and Abandonment  

**Primary sources**  
“Zegota Appeals for Funds to Rescue Polish Jews,”  
“A Jewish Underground Party Informs the Polish Government in Exile about the Plan to Murder all Jews,”  

**Secondary texts**  
Doris Bergen, “The Ecclesiastical Final Solution,”  
Jonathan Steinberg, “Types of Genocide? Croatians, Serbs and Jews 1941-1945,”  
David S. Wyman, “The Abandonment of the Jews,”  
Kaplan, Between Dignity and Despair, pp. 201-228.  

27. Tue, April 21: The Aftermath: Survival and the Problem of Restitution  

**Primary sources**  
Gina Gotfryd, “Somehow Life Went On,”  

**Secondary texts**  
William Helmreich, “Against All Odds,”  
in Berenbaum/Peck, The Holocaust and History, pp. 751-766.  

28. Thu, April 23: Film footage documentary: The Nuremberg Trial, 1995  

29. Tue, April 28: The Aftermath: Trials and Denials  

**Primary sources**  
“Extract from Evidence Given at the Nuremberg Trials on Auschwitz,”  
in Rita Steinhardt Botwinick, A Holocaust Reader, pp. 184-186.  
“Judgment Nuremberg Trial: The Persecution of the Jews,”  
Hermann Göring, “Testimony on Nazi Policy toward the Jews 1946,”  
in Michael R. Marrus, The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial, pp. 207-211.  
Albert Speer, “Final Statement,”  

**Secondary texts**  
Rebecca Wittman, Beyond Justice, pp. 15-53.  

30. Thur, April 30: The Assessment: Conclusions; Open Questions  

May: Final exam based on lectures, required reading, and class discussions  
(per Schedule of Classes)