

History 310/Jewish Studies 310: The Holocaust

Lecture: MWF, 9:55-10:45am (Humanities 1651)

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Course Description

The murder of six million Jews during the Holocaust remains one of the most challenging events in history, posing questions about human behavior, morality, and justice that continue to occupy us to this day. How did a regime like the Nazis come to power? What motivated the Nazis and their collaborators to murder Jews, Polish elites, Romani peoples, homosexuals, and the disabled? What constitutes justice, reconciliation, and appropriate memorialization in the wake of mass atrocities? While some scholars have argued that the magnitude of such questions defies explanation, this course assumes that the Holocaust can (and must) be understood within the context of history. Through a combination of lecture material, primary source analysis, and the recorded testimony of survivors, this class will examine the Holocaust and its legacy.

Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

- Identify key concepts and themes in the history of the Holocaust
- Analyze historical primary sources and understand their significance
- Construct arguments by comparing two or more primary source documents
- Clearly communicate information, both verbally and through the written word

Student Workload

This 4-credit course meets as a group for 4 hours per week (according to UW-Madison's credit hour policy, each 50-minute class counts as 1 hour). The course also carries the expectation that you will spend an average of at least 2 hours outside of class for every hour in the classroom. In other words, in addition to class time, plan to allot an average of at least 8 hours per week for reading, writing, preparing for discussions, and/or studying for quizzes and exams for this course.

Grades

Grades are based on the following scale:

100-93 = A
92-88 = A/B
87-83 = B
82-77 = B/C
76-70 = C
69-60 = D
59-0 = F

Final grades will be calculated accordingly:

Source Analysis (500 words) = 5%
Comparative Analysis (1000 words) = 15%
Final Paper (1500 words) = 25%
Final Exam = 30%
Discussion = 25%

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(For the full version of this syllabus, please contact me at btshannon@wisc.edu)