

The Holocaust: History & Meanings

Fall Semester, 2002

I. Required Texts

Elie Wiesel, Night (1961)

Otto Friedrich, The Kingdom of Auschwitz (1994)

Yehuda Bauer, A History of the Holocaust (2002, 2nd ed.)

Richard S. Levy, ed., Antisemitism in the Modern World: An Anthology of Texts (1991)

Karl A. Schleunes, ed., Legislating the Holocaust: The Bernhard Loesener Memoirs and Supporting Documents (2001)

Christopher Browning, Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland (1992)

Gitta Sereny, Into that Darkness: From Mercy Killing to Mass Murder (1974)

II. General Information

Office No.	204 McIver Building
Phone No.	334-3514
E-Mail	kaschleu@uncg.edu
Office Hours	TTh 10:45-11:30 AM; 5:00-6:00 PM and by appointment

III. Course Requirements

- A. **Course paper:** Students will be required to complete a 5-7 page paper based upon the course readings. *Papers are due November 26.* A separate sheet of instructions will be handed out.
- B. **Examinations:** There will be a mid-term exam on Thursday, October 10. The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17 (7:00-10:00 PM)
- C. **Class Discussion:** Active participation in class discussion **can add as much as 10% to the final grade.**
- D. **Graduate students** signed up for this course as HIS 692 will have a separate set of requirements.

IV. Grading Policy

Mid-term (20%); Course Paper (40%); Final Exam (40%)

COURSE OUTLINE

- Aug. 22 Course Introduction -- Problems of Studying the Holocaust
 - The problem of thinking the "unthinkable"
 - The problem of uniqueness: Were there other Holocausts?
 - The problem of labels: "Final Solution"? "Shoah"? "Holocaust"?
 - The problem of meaning: the nature of evil; the nature of human beings
 - The problem of Holocaust denial
- Aug. 29 Discussion of *Night* and *Kingdom of Auschwitz*
 - Readings: Elie Wiesel, *Night*; Otto Friedrich, *The Kingdom of Auschwitz*;

Film: "The Longest Hatred"

Why the Jews?

Sept. 5 Antisemitism: From Pagan Antiquity to the Middle Ages
Antisemitism in the traditions of Christianity (Church Fathers)
Jews in the World of St. Augustine and Martin Luther
Jews and Christian Millennialism (Jews in the economy of salvation)

Readings: Matthew: Chs. 26-28; Mark: Chs. 14-16; Luke: Chs. 22-24; John: Chs. 18-19;
Levy, "Introduction" and Ch. 1; Bauer, Ch 1

Film: "King of the Jews"

Sept. 12 & 19 Antisemitism in its modern form
Enlightenment and Emancipation
Emergence Racism in the 19th Century (Aryan and Nordic)
Eugenics and Racism
Racist-Conspiracy Theories of History (A World Jewish Plot?)

Readings: Levy, Ch. 2,3,4; Bauer, Ch. 2

Why the Germans?

Sept. 26
& Oct. 3 The German "Crisis" of the 20th Century
The effects of defeat in World War I (Protocols of the Elders of Zion)
The Making of the modern "Jewish Problem"
The Search for Racial Purity
Emergence of Hitler and National Socialism (The 1929 Depression; Hitler & Charisma)

Readings: Bauer, Ch. 3,4; Levy, Ch. 4,5

Film: "The Nazis: A Warning - Helped Into Power"

Oct. 10: Mid-Term Exam

Oct. 17 The Nazi Search for a Solution to their "Jewish Problem"
Early "Solutions" Proposed and Tested
Economic exclusion
The Nuremberg Laws -- Sept. 1935
Forcing Emigration/Deportation
November 1938 -- "The Night of Crystal"
Sept. 1, 1939 -- War and "Racial Revolution"

Reading: Schleunes, *Legislating the Holocaust*; Bauer, Ch. 5,6

Film: "The Eternal Jew"

Oct. 31 The Making of the "Final Solution," 1939-1945
The Nisko and Madagascar Projects for forcing emigration

The Ghettoes of Eastern Europe

Readings: Bauer, Chs. 7,8; Appendix, pp. 383-85 (Himmler's Memo)

Films: "Lodz Ghetto"; "Schindler's List" (section on the clearing of the Cracow Ghetto)

Nov. 7 Euthanasia: Mass Murder becomes an answer
The Decision to Murder European Jewry (Ordinary Men?)
The "Universe of Auschwitz" (Franz Stangl and Treblinka)

Reading: Browning, *Ordinary Men*; Sereny, *Into That Darkness*; Bauer, Chs. 9,10

Film: Obedience

Nov. 14 Jewish Resistance? Jewish Collaboration? (The Jewish Councils)
What did the World Know? What did it do? (The possibility of rescue)

Bauer, Chs 11,12,13

Film: Weapons of the Spirit

Nov. 21 The Holocaust; Memory and Meaning[s]
Holocaust Denial

Readings: Bauer, Ch. 14

Film:

Dec. 5 Discuss of Unresolved Issues

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 (7:00-10:00 PM)