

History 339/889 - The Holocaust – Spring 2010
MWF 10:30-11:20, Burnett 115
Office Hrs: Mon. 1:30-4:30, OldH 505

Dr. J.A.Cahan

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Teaching assistants: Nate Probasco, Brian Sarnacki

Required Texts:

Botwinick, Rita. *A History of the Holocaust: From Ideology to Annihilation*. Fourth Edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2010).

Yitzhak Arad, Israel Gutman and Abraham Margalit (eds.), *Documents of the Holocaust: Selected Sources on the Destruction of the Jews of Germany and Austria, Poland and the Soviet Union*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1999.

Course Requirements and Organization:

- i) Three in-class essay tests, 30 points each. A pool of potential questions will be given out about one week in advance of the test; on the day of the test one question will be selected at random from the pool.
- ii) One take-home document analysis, 3 pp. approx., 25 points.
- iii) Final examination, 35 points.

Total: 150 points.

Although there are no formal quiz sections for this course, an effort will be made to facilitate discussion of questions and topics interesting to students. In addition, *extra credit* will be available for attendance at a lecture relating to the Holocaust in Hungary scheduled for 8 April. Further details will be given later in the semester.

Remarks on Class Conduct:

All University and College of Arts and Sciences rules apply. *I reserve the right to deduct points for leaving the room during class without prior notice, for sleeping, or for any other conduct which is distracting to the instructor and/or fellow students.*

Approximate Schedule of Topics:

Specific readings will be assigned verbally in each class.

Jan 11-15:

Organization of course.

Introduction. Methodological and interpretive issues in study of the Holocaust.

Short film, *Night and Fog*.

Historical survey of anti-Semitism, 6th Century BCE to present; religious, socio- political, racial anti-Semitism

Jan 18-22:

Survey of anti-Semitism cont'd, esp. 19th Century Europe. Brief history of Jewish reactions, incl. Zionism

World War I and its aftermath in Germany: revolutionary movements on the Left and on the Right; economic problems; the Weimar Republic

Jan 25-29:

Weaknesses of the Weimar Republic

Early stages of the National Socialist (Nazi) party; ideology and mode of operation; Hitler

Mechanics of the Nazi seizure of power, 1929-1933; formation of SA and SS.

Feb 01-05:

Test (1), Feb 05

National Socialist policies toward Jews and other minorities, 1933-1938

Nuremberg Laws

Jewish emigration

Feb 08-12:

German foreign policy in the 1930s

Outbreak of war; German invasion of Poland

Jewish life in Occupied Poland; ghettos; Jewish Councils (Judenrate); limits of resistance

Feb 15-19:

German invasion of Russia; progress of war in West and East

The "Final Solution": the Wannsee Conference

Concentration and Death Camps in Germany, Austria, Poland; structure and operation; daily life and death

Feb 22-26:

Continuation of previous week's topics

Mar 01-05:

Test (2), Mar 05

West European Jewry 1940-44: France, Holland, Belgium

The Holocaust in Eastern Europe: Hungary, Romania, Slovakia Bulgaria, Ukraine

Mar 08-12:

Continuation of previous week's topics

Resistance – German (White Rose; 20 July 1944 assassination attempt)
Resistance- Jewish:
Warsaw Ghetto Rebellion
Resistance in other ghettos
Partisans
Resistance in camps

Mar 15-19: SPRING BREAK

Mar 22-26:
Public awareness of the Holocaust, 1942-1944
Attitudes of the major powers: US, Britain, USSR
Possibilities for rescue: operations in France, Denmark, Bulgaria

Mar 29--Apr 02:
Continuation of previous week's topics
Negotiations for rescue in Hungary and Slovakia
The question of bombing rail lines
Mar 31, screening of first hour of Lanzmann film *Shoah*.

Apr 05-09:
No class on 5 April: work on document analysis. Document analysis due 16 April
Test (3), Apr 07
Continuation of previous week's topics

Apr 12-16:
End of World War II
Document Analysis due 16 April.

Apr 19-23:
Studying the Holocaust: open questions, controversies among scholars – what “caused” the Holocaust; economic vs. ideological interpretations; intentionalists vs. functionalists. Philosophical, literary and theological questions.

Apr 26-30:
Problem of Holocaust denial
Recent attempts at genocide: Rwanda, Bosnia, Sudan
Review

FINAL EXAMINATION: FRI., 7 MAY 2010, 7:30AM- 9:30AM

