

The University of Florida
History of the Holocaust
EUH 3030/JST 3931
Spring 2015

Instructor:
 Norman J.W. Goda

Walker Hall 201
 Office Hrs. Monday 12-1

Teaching Assistants:

Andy Pilder apilder@ufl.edu
 (Keene Flint 213 Office Hrs. M 11-12)
 Derek Boetcher derek.boetcher@ufl.edu
 (Keene Flint 213 Office Hrs. M. 11-12)

This class provides an analysis of the greatest premeditated atrocity in Western history – the murder of nearly six million European Jews from 1939-1945. It will approach this event chronologically and geographically but also from a variety of perspectives --from that of the killers, from that of the victims, and from that of the bystanders. We will also examine major historical arguments concerning the Holocaust's most crucial aspects. Students will attain a factual command of the major developments of the Holocaust within the context of Jewish, European, and World History and gain an introductory knowledge of differing historiographical and social scientific explanations.

There is substantial reading, speaking and writing in this class. I insist on commitment from you. It will be worth your while. Your grade will be determined as follows:

Discussions and Response Papers -- 40% in aggregate.

There are fourteen open discussion days in this course, all on Thursdays. For eleven of them you will have to read the week's assignments in advance and you will have to write a **300-500 word** (typed, double-spaced) response to a question given to you the previous week. Your grade will be determined by the quality of your response papers (namely the degree to which they are polished **while actively engaging the readings**) and the degree to which you **participate** in live discussion. Response papers must be submitted to Canvas **before** your discussion section. Late response papers will not be accepted. An unexcused absence from discussion with or without a response paper will result in zero for that discussion. I will drop the lowest weekly Discussion/Response grade, so use it wisely.

Midterm Examination -- 30%.

The Midterm Exam is on February 12, from 6-8 PM, room TBA. It cannot be made up save for extreme circumstances. The exam will be made up of identification questions and essays. Possible essay questions will be distributed ten days in advance.

Final Examination -- 30%.

The Final Exam is on April 30 from 5:30-7:30 pm. It cannot be made up save for extreme circumstances. The exam will be made up of identification questions and essays. Possible essay questions will be distributed ten days in advance.

The Numerical Grading Scale is as follows:

A	93-100	A-	90-92		
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	68-69	D	63-67	D-	60-62
F	<60				

Grading Criteria is as follows:

- A-range - 90s -- Excels - Full command and facility with material with the ability to place it within larger historical context and to make arguments based upon it.
- B-range - 80s - Good - Solid understanding of material but without complete facility or ability to make arguments based on it.
- C-range - 70s -- Fair - Some understanding of major themes, lack of command with detail, or some understanding of detail but lack of contextual understanding.
- D-range - 60s -- Poor - Enough factual understanding to pass, but little to no contextual clarity.
- F-range - Fails - Lack of university level quality.

Your Thursday discussion sections are as follows.

Section	Time	Room	Leader
07A3/18ED	Hour 5	FLI 113	Pilder
07CF/18EF	Hour 6	FLI 111	Pilder
2097/18E0	Hour 3	LEI 242	Pilder
2129/2E50	Hour 6	FLI 121	Boetcher
2139	Hour 5	MAT 119	Boetcher
2165	Hour 3	MAT 118	Boetcher

Statement on Attendance and Class Etiquette:

Your grade will be directly affected if you miss discussions (see above). I will not take attendance on lecture days, but if you miss class, believe me, it will show in your written work. Be in class on time.

Turn your cell phones off when we begin class. Use your computer, tablet, etc., to take notes and **only** to take notes. **If you use your computer for social media during class or discussion (Facebook, e-mail, YouTube, etc.,) then I will stop the lecture and you will be asked to leave.** I equate this kind of rude behavior with passing notes, talking in class, and being a general bother to others.

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Statement on Academic Honesty:

The University of Florida Student Honor Code is located at this link:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Violations of the Student Honor Code including any form of academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean of Students and will result in sanctions ranging from grade penalties to expulsion depending on the severity of the offense.

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Students with Disabilities:

Any student who suspects he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the class instructor privately to discuss the student's specific needs and provide written documentation from the Office of Student Accessibility Services. If the student is not yet registered as a student with a disability, he or she should contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services.

You will need the following books:

- Sereny, Gitta. *Into that Darkness: An Examination of Conscience*. New York: Vintage, 1983.
- Goda, Norman J.W. *The Holocaust: Europe, the World, and the Jews*. New York: Pearson, 2013) – This is the weekly text.
- Gross, Jan T. *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*. New York: 2001.
- Cohen, Rich. *The Avengers: A Jewish War Story* (New York, 2000)
- Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*. (any edition will do).
- There will also be additional posted readings from documentary sources for discussion. They will be in weekly folders in Canvas under “Resources.”

Communications: If you have questions, e-mail me directly at goda@ufl.edu. Do NOT e-mail me through Canvas. If you receive Canvas e-mails concerning this class, open them and read them. If I e-mail the class with an announcement, I consider you to have been notified.

Lecture, Discussion, and Assignment Schedule

Part 1: The Jewish Question to 1933

Week 1: The Medieval Legacy-- Jan. 7-8

W: The Jewish Distinction

Th: ***Discussion:*** The Ritual Murder Myth

Reading: Text, Preface, 1.1-1.2; Week 1 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)

Week 2: Modern Antisemitism -- Jan. 12-15

M: Jewish Emancipation

W: Modern Antisemitism

Th: ***Discussion:*** Modern Antisemitism

Reading: Text, Finish Chapter 1, Week 2 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)

Reaction Paper Due on Thursday by Section Time

Week 3: The "Jewish Homeland" -- Jan. 19-23

M. MLK Day

W: The Pale and Pogroms

Th: ***Discussion:*** Pogroms

Reading: Text, Chapter 2. Week 3 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)

Reaction Paper Due on Thursday by Section Time

Part 2: Nazi Persecution 1933-41

Week 4: Hitler and the Jews - Jan. 26-30

M. Hitler and the Jews

W: Germany and its Jews, 1933-1938

Th: ***Discussion:*** Hitler and the Nazis

Reading: Text, Chapter 3; 4.1-4.3; Week 4 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)

Reaction Paper Due on Thursday by Section Time

Week 5: Too Many Jews - Feb. 2-5

M. The Tide of Persecution 1938-1939

W: Palestine: The Zionist Solution

Th. ***Discussion:*** *The US and the Jewish Question*

Reading: Text, Chapter 4.4-4.5 and Chapter 5; Week 5 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)

Reaction Paper Due on Thursday by Section Time

Week 6: Ghettos in Poland - Feb. 9-12

M: Occupied Poland, 1939-1941

W: Ghettos in Poland

Th: **Discussion:** Review

Reading: Text, Chapter 6. Review for Midterm Examination

(Midterm Thursday Feb 12, 6:00 pm)

Part 3:

Mass Murder 1941-43

Week 7: The Beginnings of Mass Murder -- Feb 16-19

M: The Jews of the USSR

W: The Einsatzgruppen and their Helpers

Th: **Discussion:** Collaborators in the East.

Reading: Text, Chapter 9, Gross, Neighbors, all.

Reaction Paper Due on Thursday by Section Time

Week 8: Aktion Reinhard: Mass Murder in Poland - Feb 23-27

M: Toward the Wannsee Conference

W: Aktion Reinhard: The Murder of Poland's Jews

Th: **Discussion:** Mentalities of Murder

Reading: Text, 8.2, Chapter 11, Sereny, Into That Darkness, all.

Reaction Paper Due on Thursday by Section Time

Week 9: Auschwitz - Mar 9-13

M: Auschwitz: The Capital of the Holocaust

W: Film: Kitty: Return to Auschwitz

F. **Discussion:** The Jews in the Camps

Reading: Text, 7.1-7.3, 12.1, Levi, Survival in Auschwitz, all.

Reaction Paper Due on Thursday by Section Time

Part 4:
Stopping the Holocaust?
Resistors and Bystanders 1942-45

Week 10: Jewish Resistance - Mar 16-20

M: Resistance: Spontaneous and Partisan Resistance

W: Resistance: Ghetto and Camp Resistance

Th: **Discussion:** Problems of Jewish Resistance

Reading: Text, Chapter 10, Cohen, Avengers.

Reaction Paper Due on Thursday by Section Time

Week 11: The Holocaust in Western Europe - Mar 23-27

M: The Netherlands: Complete Deportation

W: France: Partial Deportation

Th: **Discussion:** *The Terrible Secret*

Reading: Text, Ch. 7; 12.2-12.5; Week 11 Folder (on Canvas under Files).

Reaction Paper Due on Thursday by Section Time

Week 12: Rescue and Non-Rescue - Mar 30-Apr 3

M: Sweden and Denmark: Halting Deportations

W. Vatican: The Silence of Pope Pius XII

F. **Discussion:** *In the Vatican's Shadow*

Reading: Text, Chapter 13; Week 12 Folder (on Canvas under Files).

Reaction Paper Due on Thursday by Section Time

Part 5:
The End: 1944-1945

Week 13: The Hungarian Jewish Catastrophe. Apr 6-10

M: Hungary (I): Eichmann's Triumph

W: Hungary (II): The Global Reaction

F: **Discussion:** Bribery and Bombs

Reading: Text, Chapter 14; Week 13 Folder (on Canvas under Files)

Reaction Paper Due on Thursday by Section Time

Week 14: The Final Chapter. Apr. 13-17

M. The Soviet Offensive and the Final Chapter

W. Death Marches

F: **Discussion:** The Death Throes

Reading: Text, Chapter 15; Week 15 Folder (on Canvas under Files)

Week 15: The Reckoning. Apr. 20-22

M: Justice

W: Memorialization

Reading: Text, Chapter 16