

This course will attempt to place the Holocaust of European Jewry into historical perspective. Through the reading of primary and secondary sources, films, and lectures, the student will confront a painful, emotionally-charged subject matter. Sympathy for the victims, anger toward the perpetrators, or a wish to withdraw from one of the more horrific pages of human history are all natural reactions, but I remind those embarking on this course that our objective is and must remain rational understanding--the only valid purpose for the study of history.

Assigned books:

Bergen, WAR AND GENOCIDE (Rowman & Littlefield) ISBN: 978-0742557154

Levy, ANTISEMITISM IN THE MODERN WORLD [**available on Blackboard under**

Course Content]

Niewyk, HOLOCAUST (Houghton Mifflin). 4th ed. ISBN: 054718946X

Optional:

Corrigan, A SHORT GUIDE TO WRITING ABOUT FILM (Longman) ISBN:
0205668941

Calendar:

- Week 1: Introductory Lectures. Definitions, interpretations
Text: Bergen, Chapter 1
Discussion Reading: Levy, ii-vii, 1-19 [**Pagination on your computer screen may differ from numbering in the text; follow the pagination in the text**]
- Week 2: Antisemitism in history
Discussion: quiz on Levy, 20-68
Film: *The Longest Hatred*
- Week 3: Antisemitism--political function
Discussion Reading: Levy, 69-100
- Week 4: Antisemitism--diffusion
Discussion Reading: quiz on Levy, 101-41
[Students should consult **Graphics** file on Blackboard/Content]
Film: *The Deadly Deception*
- Week 5: Germany, 1871-1933
Bergen, Chapter 2
Film: *Mein Kampf*
- Book Review no. 1 due at end of week 5: 4 pp**
- Week 6: Hitler and the Jews
Discussion Reading: quiz on Levy, 142-57
- Week 7: Nazi Germany
Film: *Triumph of the Will*
Bergen, Chapter 3
- Week 8: Nazi Jewish policy--the "twisted road to Auschwitz"
Text: Bergen, Chapter 4
- Week 9: Interpretations of the Holocaust
Discussion Reading: quiz on Niewyk, 1-55
- Week 10: The Holocaust--decision for the Final Solution
Film: *The Wannsee Conference*; Levy, 178-85

Bergen, Chapter 5

Book Review no. 2 due at end of week 10: 4 pp

- Week 11: The Holocaust in Western Europe
Bergen, Chapter 6
Discussion Reading: Levy, 158-65
- Week 12: The Holocaust in Eastern Europe
Film: *Zegota*
Bergen, Chapter 7
Discussion Reading: Levy, 166-77; quiz on Niewyk, 57-99
- Week 13: Resistance and Rescue
Bergen, Chapter 8
Film: *Weapons of the Spirit*
Discussion Reading: Niewyk, 101-75; quiz on 177-223
- Week 14: Non-resistance
Discussion Reading: Niewyk, 225-66
- Week 15: The Holocaust and the Crisis in Human Behavior
Bergen, Conclusion
Film: *Holocaust on Trial*
- Week 16: **Book Review no. 3 due: 4 pp**

E-Mail Communication: In order to reach you with important information about this class, you must read messages at your UIC address or arrange to forward messages from your UIC account to your preferred address by following the instructions at: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/acctest/ecom/emaifaq.html#2div>

CELL PHONES/TEXTING/SURFING: Please turn off or set your handheld electronic devices to vibrate before showing up for class! Phone calls and text messages are not to be made or received during class time except in an emergency. Should an emergency occur, any truly urgent communications must take place outside our room. Students who choose to answer their phones or text displays when taking a quiz will forfeit their right to finish the test.

Course Requirements: 3 4-page book reviews chosen from the bibliography [List of Books for Review on Blackboard/Content] will account for 75% of the final grade. **Please confine your choice to the “official” bibliography which has been placed on Blackboard/Content. There are many unrewarding books on our subject in circulation that will not repay your efforts.** *Make sure you keep a second hard copy of your review or one stored on your computer in case of loss.* Reviews 1-2 will be critiqued and returned promptly. **THE THREE ASSIGNED BOOKS MAY NOT BE USED FOR REVIEW.** Quizzes and class participation will constitute the remaining 25% of the grade. Incompletes will be given to students who make a good-faith effort to complete the course work, but an Incomplete can be replaced with a grade no higher than B. **Attendance is mandatory. If you must leave early, please inform me at the beginning of class. For each four unexcused absences, you will lose 1 letter grade. There are no “extra-credit” or “re-write” options. There are no makeup quizzes. I will not “pre-read” your review. Please don’t ask. (When calculating the quiz component of the course final grade, the quiz with the lowest score will be dropped.)**

rslevy@uic.edu is the best way to communicate with me. Quiz and book review dates are indicated on the syllabus and will be announced on Blackboard; if changes are necessary, they will be announced in class and on Blackboard. **I will not respond to email about mechanical matters like this.** On the other hand, email questions about the books you are reading for class or reviewing or questions about the lectures or films are most welcome.