

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

*Course Number/Section* HUSL 6378.501  
*Course Title* *Literature and the Holocaust*

*Term* Spring 2014  
*Days & Times* Tuesday, 7:00 – 9:45 p.m. – Classroom JO 4.708

### **Professor Contact Information**

*Professor* Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth  
*Office Phone* 972-883-2758  
*Email Address* zozsvath@utdallas.edu  
*Office Location* The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies: JO Suite 4.800  
*Office Hours* Monday 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. or by appointment

### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

N/A

### **Course Description**

The constant pressure the Holocaust exerts on our contemporary world manifests itself in a variety of ways, among them, in persistent efforts to evoke, define, and explain this cataclysmic event and to incorporate it into our creative imagination. Besides ongoing evaluation and re-evaluation of the Shoah in the fields of historical research, moral philosophy, and social studies, there is a massive body of literature and art that has arisen in its wake, ranging from eyewitness accounts to novels, short stories, and poetry; from music to painting, sculpture, and film.

The purpose of this seminar is to consider the ways in which millions of people, men, women, and children, the newborn and the aged were shot, burned, gassed, and murdered and to study the wide-ranging approaches used by generations of historians, trying to understand what has happened during those 12 years of Nazi rule in Germany. At the same time, we will explore the ways in which artists have reacted to the events of the Shoah, and study the psychological, moral, and aesthetic tensions this unprecedented genocide has imposed upon our contemporary consciousness. In addition, we will assess the role the Holocaust plays in our late twentieth-century early twenty-first-century literary imagination. Therefore, we will consider a number of texts revolving around the Shoah and study not only their radically new aesthetic devices but also their portrayals of evil and moral survival. In addition, we will explore a wide-ranging set of critical responses the literature of the Holocaust has engendered.

### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

#### *Required Reading:*

J. Becker, *Jacob the Liar* ISBN 13: 9780452279032  
 T. Borowski, *The Way to the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen* ISBN 13: 9780140186246  
 P. Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz* ISBN 13: 9780684826806  
 R. Hochhuth, *The Deputy* ISBN 13: 9780802142429  
 Z. Ozsváth, *In the Footsteps of Orpheus* ISBN 13: 9780253338013  
 Schwartz-Bart, *The Last of the Just* ISBN 13: 9781585670161  
 J. Weil, *Mendelssohn Is on the Roof* ISBN 13: 9780810116863  
 R. S. Wistrich, *Hitler and the Holocaust* ISBN 13: 9780812968637

In addition, we will read poetry by Celan, Pagis, Radnóti, Mezei, and Sachs, stories by Ida Fink, excerpts of Kaplan's Diary, essays and chapters by Omer Bartov, Berel Lang, Lawrence Langer, Z. Ozsvath, David Patterson, S. Friedlaender, and A. Rosenfeld. All books for the course are available at Off Campus Books.

**(Please check that the publisher and the ISBN number of the book you plan to purchase match the number given on this syllabus.)**

*Required Materials*

Texts listed above under "Required Texts" in addition to works which are noted below with \*.

Readings which are noted with \* will be located on the electronic reserve site of the McDermott Library. The site is located via the McDermott Library's website. When you reach the page for this course, you will be asked for a password which will be provided in class and must not be shared with students who are not taking the class. After filling in the password, click the "Accept Button" (if you don't it won't let you into the site). **If you have any problems navigating the site, if a reading is illegible, if a reading is missing, or if you cannot open one of the PDF's, please contact the McDermott Library Staff, they are always available to help.**

**Suggested Course Materials**

*Suggested Readings/Texts/Materials*

A bibliography will be provided in class.

**Assignments & Academic Calendar**

**These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.**

Jan 14: Discussion and Viewing of the movie SHOAH

- 21: \* H. H. Herwig, *Hammer or Anvil*, 267-310.  
 \* S. Friedlaender, *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, 374-422.  
 \* A. Rosenfeld, *A Double Dying*, 3-61.

28: Becker, *Jacob the Liar*.

Feb 4: \*Yehuda Bauer, *Rethinking the Holocaust*, 39-67;  
 Borowski, *This Way to the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*.

11: P. Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

18: \*Excerpt from Fink, *A Scrap of Time*  
 Showing of the film *Round-Up (La Rafle)*

25: \*Paul Celan: "Nearness of Graves," "The Lonely One," "Black Flakes," "Aspen Tree," "Deathfugue," "Wolfsbean,"  
 "Speech on the Occasion of Receiving the Literature Prize of the Free Hansaetic City of Bremen," and "Tenebrae."

Mar 4: \*Nelli Sachs, "O The Night of the Weeping Children," "What Secret Cravings of the Blood," "Landscape of Screams," and  
 "Chorus of the Rescued."  
 \*Andras Mezei, Christmas in Auschwitz: "Robbery, Naked," "Friday Evening," "A Choice," "A Chorus of Pious Souls."  
 \*Miklos Radnoti, "And Cain Spoke unto Abel His Brother," "Like a Bull," "War Diary,"  
 "Just Walk On, Condemned to Die," and "Foamy Sky."

11: Spring Break

18: Z. Ozsváth, *In the Footsteps of Orpheus*  
 \*Radnoti, "Neither Memory nor Magic," "A la recherche. . ." "Forced March," and "Razglednicas."

25: J. Weil, *Mendelssohn Is on the Roof*

April 1: *Forbidden Games* (film);  
 \*L. Langer, "Preempting the Holocaust."

8: Hochhuth, *The Deputy*

15: Religious Holiday

22: Schwartz-Bart, *The Last of the Just*

29: Discussion  
**\*\*\*PAPERS DUE\*\*\***

### **Grading Policy**

Grades will be based on regular class attendance, participation in class discussions, one class presentation, and one research paper (15-20 pages), which could be suitable for one of the portfolio essays.

#### *Class Attendance*

Regular class attendance (15%) and active participation in class discussions (15%) comprise 30% of the final grade.

**\*\*Missing more than 3 classes will affect your grade. \*\***

**All papers must be submitted in paper form on the due date designated above unless other plans have been approved at least 48 hours prior to the actual due date of the paper. The paper must also be submitted to turnitin.com by midnight of the paper due date. The assignment is not complete unless papers have been submitted to turnitin.com Instructions for the use of turnitin.com will be provided in class.**

**Web sites in general and Wikipedia in particular are not accepted as sources for your papers in this class.**

In addition, you must comply with university policies regarding dishonesty: cheating and plagiarism.

### **Course Policies**

#### *Make-up exams*

N/A

#### *Extra Credit*

N/A

#### *Late Work*

If you cannot turn in your paper by April 29, 2014, please notify the instructor at least 48 hours prior to this due date to make other arrangements. If an incomplete is approved, an "X" will appear on your Fall grade report, and your paper will be due at the beginning of the Spring, 2014 semester. All papers turned in as a result of an incomplete must be turned in two weeks prior to the due date of final grades. **Please check the UT Dallas Catalog and Academic Calendar regarding rules and dates for incomplete work.**

#### *Special Assignments*

N/A

#### *Classroom Citizenship*

See above.

**NOTE: All cell phones and computers must be turned off upon entering the classroom. Students with special needs which require use of computers during class must submit a written request to me signed by representatives of Student Services explaining these needs.**

**NOTE: Students must bring along the various texts assigned in the syllabus for every individual session during the semester.**

For additional information pertaining to academic performance such as Technical Support, Field Trip Policies / Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities, Student Conduct & Discipline, Academic Integrity, Copyright Notice, Email Use, Withdrawal from Class, Student Grievance Procedures, Incomplete Grade Policy, Disability Services, and Religious Holidays, please visit:  
<http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies-and-procedures-text>