

Hist 3244
History of the Holocaust
Spring 2015

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Course Web Site: <http://www.d.umn.edu/claweb/sa/CourseGuide/Hist3244.htm>

Office Hours:
TTH 10:00-11:50 p.m.
TH 3:20-4:00 p.m.
and by appointment on
those days

“Thinking about the Holocaust is like staring into an abyss and hoping it will not stare back. It is the ultimate extreme case, a black hole of history that not only challenges our facile assumptions about modernity and progress but questions our very sense of what it means to be human.”

Robert. S. Wistrich, *Hitler and the Holocaust*, p. xviii

Required Reading:

Doris Bergen. *War and Genocide* (textbook)

Christopher R. Browning. *Ordinary Men*

Ron Hansen. *Hitler's Niece*

Steven Hochstadt. *Sources of the Holocaust*

Pogorelskin, “Phyllis Bottome’s *Mortal Storm*: Film and Controversy” in *The Space Between: Literature and Culture, 1914-1945*, 8: 2010. To Be Supplied by Instructor

Alison Owings. *Frauen. German Women Recall the Third Reich.*

In addition to the above, the Instructor will supply maps and other handouts (readings, Study Guides), which will also figure in class discussion. Assignments will be made on a regular basis to coordinate with material in lectures and class discussion. Study Guides will accompany reading assignments for *Hitler's Niece* and *Ordinary Men*. *Please bring the text under discussion to class.*

Evaluation:

Midterm I (multiple choice format, 20% of grade), TBA

Midterm II (multiple choice format, 20% of grade), TBA

Class attendance and participation: 10%. Class attendance is mandatory. I expect students to come to each class, pay attention, and remain current in the reading. Cell phones are not permitted in class. Students who violate that ban and use a phone in class will drop one third of their final grade. Students who fail to collect a copy of the midterm computerized printout within two class periods of the exam, a clear indication of non-attendance, will similarly be docked one third of their final grade. Repeated violations of the cell phone ban or indications of non-attendance will receive further grade deductions. I apologize about being cranky regarding these matters, but use of a cell phone in class is over the top rude and if you do not intend to attend why sign up for the class in the first place.

Final Exam (in class portion) + take-home component: paper (50% of final exam grade). Time and place for in class portion of final exam to be announced.

Paper due at the time of Final Exam.

Please see below for further description of the **Final Exam**. Also please note the following:

Writers' Workshop:

UMD offers free writing support from graduate student or faculty writing consultants to all members of the campus community at the Writers' Workshop. The consultants will work with you on any writing project at any stage in the writing process.

To make an appointment, visit d.umn.edu/writwork or stop by the Learning Commons on the second floor of the Kathryn A. Martin Library. Look for the Workshop's trademark wall mural covered with quotations about writing.

Students in this class have permission to see a Writers' Workshop consultant for all take-home exams.

Special Facilities and/or Arrangements: Individuals who may have any disability, either permanent or temporary, which might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the Instructor at the start of the semester. Adaptations of methods, materials, or testing may be made as required to provide for equitable participation.

Class Discussion:

Expressing yourself in class is an integral part of this course. Come to class having read assignments and prepared to express your opinion. Reminder: Class participation constitutes 10% of the grade. You do not have to speak to give evidence of engagement. I assume participation unless I have evidence to the contrary. *Bring the text under discussion to class.*

Technology:

Lap top computers are permitted only for taking notes. Cell phones are not. Use of cell phones is expressly forbidden. Please turn them off in this class. Use of a cell phone during an exam will result in automatic failure of the exam in question.

[Student Conduct Code:](#)

Appropriate classroom conduct promotes an environment of academic achievement and integrity. Disruptive classroom behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach, or student learning, is prohibited. Students are expected adhere to Board of Regents Policy: [Student Conduct Code](#)

[Teaching & Learning: Instructor and Student Responsibilities:](#)

UMD is committed to providing a positive, safe, and inclusive place for all who study and work here. Instructors and students have mutual responsibility to insure that the environment in all of these settings supports teaching and

learning, is respectful of the rights and freedoms of all members, and promotes a civil and open exchange of ideas. To reference the full policy please see: <http://www.d.umn.edu/vcaa/TeachingLearning.html>

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty tarnishes UMD's reputation and discredits the accomplishments of students. Academic dishonesty is regarded as a serious offense by all members of the academic community. UMD's Student Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <http://www.d.umn.edu/vcaa/StudentAcademicIntegrity.html>

Excused Absences:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings. It is the responsibility of students to plan their schedules to avoid excessive conflict with course requirements. However, there are legitimate and verifiable circumstances that lead to excused student absence from the classroom. These are subpoenas, jury duty, military duty, religious observances, illness, bereavement for immediate family, and NCAA varsity intercollegiate athletics.

For complete information, please see: <http://www.d.umn.edu/vcaa/ExcusedAbsence.html>

Appropriate Student Use of Class Notes and Course Materials:

Taking notes is a means of recording information but more importantly of personally absorbing and integrating the educational experience. However, broadly disseminating class notes beyond the classroom community or accepting compensation for taking and distributing classroom notes undermines instructor interests in their intellectual work product while not substantially furthering instructor and student interests in effective learning. For additional information, please see: <http://www.d.umn.edu/vcaa/ClassNotesAppropriateUseof.html>

Videos:

The wealth of video material on the Holocaust nearly rivals the printed material on the subject. We will view video on a regular basis which will serve, along with the assigned reading and handouts, as the basis for discussion. We will watch some or all of:

The Nazis: A Warning from History (6 part BBC documentary)

Into the Arms of Strangers, the Kindertransport

The Pianist + Europa Europa

Conspiracy (Wannsee Conference reenactment/mandatory for final exam paper)

The Mortal Storm

The Great Dictator

Reading assignments will be made in conjunction with the following course structure on a weekly basis.:

Jan. 20 Introduction/Volkish Thought/19th century German Anti-Semitism
Reading Assignment: Doris Bergen, "Introduction"
Steven Hochstadt, Documents in Part I

Jan. 27 Modernity and the Emancipation of the Jews
Reading Assignment: Steven Hochstadt, Documents in Part II

- Feb. 3 Germany and World War I: Euphoria and Defeat
Reading Assignment: Ron Hansen, pp.1-95 (Chapters 1-7).
- Feb. 10 Hitler and the Rise of the Nazis: Germany in the 1920s
Reading Assignment: Ron Hansen, pp. 96 to the end
Doris Bergen, chapters 2 and 3
- Feb. 17 Nazi Policy Toward the Jews in the 1930s
Reading Assignment: Doris Bergen, chapters 4-5
- Feb. 24 Nazi Policy Toward the Jews in the 1930s
Reading Assignment: Steven Hochstadt, Documents in Part III
- Mar. 3 No safe haven: Anti-Semitism in America
Reading Assignment: (to be supplied by Instructor) Malcolm Gladwell, "The Social Logic of Ivy league Admissions," *The New Yorker* (October 10, 2005).
- Mar. 10 Hollywood vs. the Nazis
Reading Assignment: Pogorelskin, "Phyllis Bottome's *Mortal Storm*: Film and Controversy," (to be supplied by the Instructor)
- Mar. 24 War and Ghetto Policy in Poland
Reading Assignment: Doris Bergen, chapter 6
Steven Hochstadt, Part IV
- Mar. 31 The Turn to Genocide: How and Why?
Reading Assignment: Doris Bergen, chapter 7
Steven Hochstadt, Part V
- Apr. 7 Wannsee Conference: The Debate Over Turf and Implementation
In class showing of HBO reenactment film *Conspiracy*
- Apr. 14 The Perpetrators: Ordinary Men
Reading Assignment: Christopher Browning: first half of *Ordinary Men*
- Apr. 21 The Perpetrators: Ordinary Men
Reading Assignment: Christopher Browning: second half of *Ordinary Men*
- Apr. 28 Perpetrators and Bystanders: Ordinary Women
Reading Assignment: Selections from
Alison Owings. *Frauen. German Women Recall the Third Reich* (10 selections of 29 TBA).
- May 5 Defiance and Resistance: *Who Will Write Our History?*
Reading Assignment: Doris Bergen, chapter 8

Final Exam: Time and place TBA. Papers due at the start of exam.

Please note: The Final Exam will include a take home paper assignment that will count for half of your grade on the exam.

You will be asked to analyze and contextualize an important document that addresses many of the issues that we will touch on in this course. The Instructor will supply the document or choice of documents as well as instructions to write the essay. You will have approximately one week to complete your *analysis* which will be due at the time of the in-class portion of the Final Exam.