

**HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST**  
**History 142A**  
**Winter, 2015**

Professor David Biale  
Office Hours: Tu-Th 11:30-12:30 in 225 Voorhies  
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In a century of genocides, the Holocaust of the European Jews remains perhaps the most systematic attempt to destroy a whole people. In this course, we will attempt to understand how one nation committed genocide against another. The course will consider the history of the Holocaust against the background of Jewish and German history in modern times. We will also take up the question of the uniqueness of the Holocaust and comparisons with other instances of mass death, both by the Nazis (against the disabled and mentally retarded, the Sinti/Roma, homosexuals, Poles and Russian prisoners of war) and by others in the twentieth century. Students should be aware that this is an emotionally, as well as intellectually challenging subject and they should treat it with the seriousness it deserves.

**Books for Purchase (UC Davis Bookstore)** – all books are also on reserve at the Shields Library Reserve Room

**Required**

Doris Bergen, *War and Genocide*  
Jan Gross, *Neighbors*  
Sebastian Haffner, *Defying Hitler*  
Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*  
Dawid Sierakowiak, *The Diary of Dawid Sierakowiak*

**Course Reader:** Purchase at Copyland 231 G Street (between 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup>) 758-7013. The reader is also posted on the course website of Smartsite under “Resources.”

**Clickers:** purchase at the Bookstore (they can be returned at the end of the quarter). Clickers will be used for ungraded in-class quizzes and for participation (see below). **Clickers should be brought to every class. See instructions for Clickers at the end of this syllabus**

**Course Assignments and Grading Information**

All assignments are to be turned in on SmartSite under “Assignments.” If you are not working with Microsoft Word, please save your assignment as an RTF (rich text format) file and upload in that form. Smartsite will send you an email confirming that your assignment was uploaded. If you do not receive the email, you need to resubmit.

The assignments are designed to build on each other so that you can apply the comments

on each paper to improving the next. Please see the grading criteria below. Any style of footnoting is acceptable.

Participation: To be evaluated via Clicker quizzes – 10% (you are allowed to miss one quiz without penalty)

First paper (4-5 pages): due Jan. 27, 11:00 pm – 25%

Second Paper (5-6 pages): due Feb. 22, 11:00 pm – 30%

Final Examination (will consist of two take-home essays of 4-5 pages each or one longer take-home essay of 8-10 pages): due Saturday, March 21 at 12:30 pm – 35%

**Extra-Credit for Extracurricular Event:** *The Last of the Unjust* (Tuesday, February 3 at 4:30 pm. Place TBA. Attendance at the film and discussion will be worth an extra 5 points.

**Additional Extra-credit:** although you are not required to speak in class discussions or to come see me in my office, students who demonstrate such engagement will be eligible for a subjective amount of extra credit. For example, if your grade is between an A- and B+, such participation will boost you to the higher grade.

**Discussion Section:** On Mondays from 11:00-12:00 in 228 Voorhies, I will lead a discussion section on the course materials. This is purely voluntary and you can drop in when you wish.

**Chat Room:** We will use the Chat Room feature of Smartsite. You are encouraged to post questions or comments. I will try to respond at least once a day. Please keep your comments limited to academic issues relevant to the course.

**Writing Partners:** You are strongly encouraged to choose a writing partner who will give you editorial feedback on drafts of your essays.

### **Course Policies**

1. Because of the seriousness with which this particular subject matter needs to be approached, I will ask all students to arrive on time, not eat in class and not get up and leave the class before it is over. Please refrain from talking to your neighbor. However, you are encouraged to ask questions or make comments during lectures.
2. In order to follow the lectures, you must make every effort to complete the assigned reading **before** the class session in which it will be discussed.
3. All assignments must be turned in on time. Only illness or a family emergency will be considered as grounds for an extension. Any student with special circumstances or problems should discuss them with me well ahead of time, either in my office hours or by email.
4. Copying verbatim from a text without using quotation marks and without citing its

source is plagiarism and will be referred to Student Judicial Affairs. The use of websites such as Wikipedia cannot substitute for the use of the assigned readings. Please note that you cannot receive a grade higher than a C if you do not use the assigned readings.

## **Course Calendar and Reading Assignments**

### **Jan. 6: Introduction: The Uniqueness and Universality of the Holocaust**

Steven Katz, "The Holocaust: A Preliminary Description for Purposes of Comparison," *The Holocaust in Historical Context*, 3-10 (Reader)  
David Biale, "The Perils of Uniqueness," *Tikkun Magazine* (Jan. 1995) (Reader)

### **Jan. 8: Jews and Christians Before the Twentieth Century: Assimilation and Antisemitism**

Bergen, 1-28  
Wagner, Marr, Duehring, Chamberlain, Fritsch, and Goedsche in *The Jew in the Modern World* (Reader)

### **Jan. 13: World War I, the Weimar Republic and the Rise of Nazism**

Haffner, *Defying Hitler*, 3-93

### **Jan. 15: The Problem of Hitler and the Nazi Seizure of Power**

Bergen, 29-52  
Sebastian Haffner, *Defying Hitler*, 97-307  
"Hitler's 1919 Letter to Adolf Gemlich" and Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (Reader)

### **Jan. 20: The Racial State Persecutions of Homosexuals, the Disabled, Roma/Sinti and Political Dissidents**

Michael Burleigh and Wolfgang Wippermann, *The Racial State*, 28-73 (Reader)

## **First Essay Questions Posted**

### **Jan. 22: Anti-Jewish Boycott to Nuremberg Laws (1933-35)**

Bergen, 53-80  
Marion Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, 17-49, 119-144 (Reader)  
"The First Stage: Anti-Jewish Legislation," *The Final Solution*, 38-53 (Reader)

### **Jan. 27: Kristallnacht to the Invasion of Poland (1938-39)**

Bergen, 81-130

“The Interim Stage: ‘All Necessary Preparations,’ *The Final Solution*, 59-67  
(Reader)

**First Essays Due: January 27, 11:00 pm**

**Jan. 29: Life and Death in the Ghettos**

Dawid Sierakowiak, *The Diary of Dawid Sierakowiak*

**Feb. 3: The Invasion of Russia**

Bergen, 131-159

Jan Gross, *Neighbors*

**Feb. 5: Film: “The Wannsee Conference”**

**Feb. 10: The Perpetrators**

Robert Jay Lifton, “The Nazi Doctors,” Christopher Browning, “Ordinary Men”  
and Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, “Hitler’s Willing Executioners” in Donald  
Niewyk, *The Holocaust*, 60-103 (Reader)

“Himmler’s Summation, October 4, 1943,” in Lucy Dawidowicz, *A Holocaust  
Reader*, 130-140

**Feb. 12: The Genesis of the Final Solution**

Mark Roseman, *The Villa, The Lake, The Meeting: Wannsee and the Final  
Solution*, 34-96 (Reader)

**Second Essay Questions Posted**

**Feb. 17: The Fate of the Jews By Countries: Western and Central Europe**

Bergen, 161-193

Lucy Dawidowicz, *The War Against the Jews* (Reader), 359-375

**Feb. 19: The Fate of the Jews By Countries: Eastern Europe**

Bergen, 205-219

Lucy Dawidowicz, *The War Against the Jews* (Reader), 375-401

**Feb. 22: Second Essays Due at 11:00 pm**

**Feb. 24: Life in the Death Camps**

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*  
 Primo Levi, "The Drowned and the Saved" (Reader)

**Feb. 26: Resistance in the Ghettos and Death Camps**

Bergen, 193-203  
 Yehuda Bauer, "Forms of Jewish Resistance," Isaiah Trunk, "Why the Jewish Councils Cooperated" in Niewyk, *The Holocaust*, 148-176 (Reader)

**Mar. 3: Film: "The Partisans of Vilna"**

**Mar. 5: Resistance in the Forests**

Joseph Pell, *Taking Risks* (Reader), 60-122

**Mar. 10: Rescue: Righteous Gentiles**

**Film: "Into the Arms of Strangers"**

**Mar. 12: The Meaning and Memory of the Holocaust**

Bergen, 221-228

Saturday, March 21 at 12:30 pm: **Final Essays Due on Smartsite**

**Grading Criteria**

**Important Note:** You cannot receive a grade higher than a C if you do not make use of the assigned readings.

(1) **Argument:** (a) Your presentation of a significant and clearly stated argument/interpretation on the first page; (b) Your presentation in a concluding paragraph of a clear summation of your argument and of the supporting evidence. This does not meant simply repeating your introductory paragraph.

(2) **Evidence:** (a) The development of your argument in a persuasive manner through the body of your paper by mustering evidence found in the books, articles and films that you have chosen. (b) Your demonstrated understanding of the information in this material. (c) Your use of at least the minimum required number of books and/or articles.

(3) **Writing:** (a) Your command of grammar, spelling, and clarity of expression in your sentences. (b) Your ability to arrange your sentences into coherent paragraphs with an effective topic sentence. (c) Your ability to develop your argument through a series of paragraphs that flow logically from one to the next.

## Clickers

- When purchasing your remote, be sure to tell the bookstore you are in my class and you are using i>clicker2.
- If you have an older i<clicker without the LCD display, you can use also use it for answering multiple choice questions.
- Please realize that we will be using i>clicker in almost every class and clicker points will make up **10%** of your final grade. Please remember that it is your responsibility to come prepared to participate with a functioning remote every day. However, I do realize that difficult circumstances do arise, and for this reason I will drop the lowest i>clicker session from your total participation grade.
- If you have lost or broken your i>clicker remote, you will have to purchase another one. Please email me with your new Remote ID so that I can manually register your new remote.
- I consider bringing a fellow student's i>clicker to class to be cheating and a violation of the University plagiarism policy. If you are caught with a remote other than your own or have votes in a class that you did not attend, you will forfeit all clicker points and may face additional disciplinary action.
- **Register your clicker using your student ID on this website:**  
<http://www.iclicker.com/support/registeryourclicker/>
- **Further** instructions: See Smartsite for our course under "Resources: Clicker Registration"