

HST 560 – Antisemitism and the Jewish Holocaust

Wednesday 6:30-9:15pm – Morton 212

Instructor: Dr. Jarrod Tanny, Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Jarrod Tanny

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Office: Morton 254

Office hours: Monday, 11am-12pm

Wednesday, 1-2pm

Friday, 11am-12pm

Or by appointment



I encourage you either to drop by my office or to get in touch with me as often as you like. I am ready to help you with any problems or questions that you may have pertaining to the course. If there are other personal or academic related problems that may be affecting your performance or your attendance, do not hesitate to contact me. **If you can't make my office hours, let me know and I will gladly set up an alternate meeting time.** I am here to help you learn.

About this Course

In this historiographical colloquium, we will examine some of the major issues surrounding the Holocaust. Although we will primarily focus on the Nazi perpetrators and their Jewish victims, we will situate the destruction of European Jewry in its wider historical context, and what this may suggest about the legacy of medieval anti-Semitism, German history, science and modernity, genocide and ethnic cleansing, the barbarization of warfare on the eastern front, and the commemoration of collective tragedy through monuments, museums, literature and film.

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Grading and Course Requirements

Your final grade will be based on the following:

Presentations and participation	50 %
Weekly response papers and final project	50 %

Attendance: Attending all classes is mandatory. Missing multiple classes will result in a reduction of your final grade. If you are having a serious issue that is affecting your ability to come to class, please come and speak with me.

In order to pass the course, you need to complete **every assignment**. Please retain an **extra copy** or an electronic version of each written assignment until the instructor returns the one you submitted.

Written Assignments

Weekly response papers (1-2 pages):

- Each student must turn in a response paper based on the assigned material each week, between 1-2 pages (i.e. at least 1 page but not more than 2).
- Your papers should **not** be summaries of the material. Rather, you should center each paper on a particular **question or theme** that surfaces in the material and how it relates to the larger historical context.
- You **do not** need to turn in a response paper for our first meeting (January 14) or our final one, on (April 29).

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Final project:

- For your final project, you will construct an **undergraduate course syllabus** (300 level) on Antisemitism and/or the Holocaust. This will include a detailed syllabus, readings, and assignments. You will present your project during our final meeting. More details will be given later in the semester.

All written assignments must be submitted electronically. A **late assignment** will incur a penalty of 1/3 of a letter grade for each day that it is late. You need to submit the electronic copies for your assignments via **email** to **tannyj@uncw.edu**.

*****Your Final Project is due at 5pm on Tuesday May 5th*****

Presentations and Class Participation

All students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the weekly required readings.

Each student will give **presentations** over the course of the semester. These presentations will be based on the **supplemental reading** for that week. The supplemental reading will usually be a book or series of articles that are historiographically significant and related to our main reading for that week. Only the student who is presenting is required to read the supplemental reading. He or she should assess the book, relate its significance to the required readings and the larger themes of the course, and pose pertinent questions for the class to discuss.

Academic Integrity

All members of UNCW's community are expected to follow the **academic Honor Code**. Please read the UNCW Honor Code carefully (as covered in the UNCW **Student Handbook**).

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated in this class.

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Please be especially familiar with UNCW's position on **plagiarism** as outlined in the UNCW Student Handbook. **Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty in which you take someone else's ideas and represent them as your own.**

Course Readings

Students are expected to come to class each week having completed the **required** readings.

Books for purchase – Required readings

The following required readings are available for purchase at the university's bookstore

- Yehuda Bauer, Rethinking the Holocaust
- Joshua Trachtenberg, The Devil and the Jews
- Helmut Walser Smith, The Butcher's Tale: Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town
- Saul Friedlander, Nazi Germany and the Jews: Volume 1: The Years of Persecution 1933-1939
- Henry Friedlander, The Origins of Nazi Genocide: From Euthanasia to the Final Solution
- Christopher R. Browning, The Origins of the Final Solution: The Evolution of Nazi Jewish Policy, September 1939-March 1942
- Jeffrey Herf, The Jewish Enemy: Nazi Propaganda during World War II and the Holocaust
- Jan T. Gross, Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland
- Timothy Snyder, Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin
- Tom Segev, The Seventh Million: The Israelis and the Holocaust
- Zygmunt Bauman, Modernity and the Holocaust
- Deborah Lipstadt, Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory

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- Peter Novick, The Holocaust in American Life

Shorter readings will be available for download on **Blackboard**

Supplemental readings are for the most part available in Randall Library. If you cannot obtain a copy, let me know.

Background Readings

For background on the Holocaust, the following books are recommended (not required):

- Debórah Dwork and Robert Jan van Pelt, Holocaust: A History
- Donald Niewyk (Ed.), The Holocaust: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation
- Dan Stone, Histories of the Holocaust
- Ian Kershaw, Hitler, the Germans, and the Final Solution
- Raul Hilberg, The Destruction of the European Jews
- Doris Bergen, War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust
- Norman Goda, The Holocaust: Europe, the World, and the Jews, 1918-1945

Some of these books may be useful for your syllabus project

Weekly Breakdown

Wed. January 14 – Introduction; Understanding Antisemitism and The Holocaust

Required Readings

- Yehuda Bauer, Rethinking the Holocaust, introduction, chaps. 1-3 (until p. 67)

HST 560 – Antisemitism and the Jewish Holocaust

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Wed. January 21 – Before (I): Antisemitism in the Middle Ages

Required Readings (Secondary Sources):

- Joshua Trachtenberg, The Devil and the Jews.
- Robert Chazan, “Medieval Anti-Semitism” (and response) (**Blackboard***)

Supplemental Reading

- Sara Lipton, The Medieval Origins of Anti-Jewish Iconography

Wed. January 28 – Before (II): Medieval Legacies and Modern Complexities

Required Readings

- Helmut Walser Smith, The Butcher’s Tale

Supplemental Reading

- Jacob Katz, From Prejudice to Destruction: Anti-Semitism, 1700-1933

Wed. February 4 – Nazis in Power and Their Jews Subjects

Required Readings

- Saul Friedlander, Nazi Germany and the Jews: Volume 1: The Years of Persecution 1933-1939

Supplemental Reading

- Lucy Dawidowicz, The War Against the Jews: 1933-1945

HST 560 – Antisemitism and the Jewish Holocaust

Wednesday 6:30-9:15pm – Morton 212

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Wed. February 11 – The Holocaust and Science

Required Readings

- Henry Friedlander, The Origins of Nazi Genocide: From Euthanasia to the Final Solution
- Robert Jay Lifton, The Nazi Doctors (Excerpts) (**Blackboard***)
- Sander Gilman, The Jews Body (Excerpts) (**Blackboard***)

Supplemental Reading

- Alan Steinweis, Studying the Jew: Scholarly Antisemitism in Nazi Germany

Wed. February 18 – Toward the Final Solution

Required Readings

- Christopher Browning, The Origins of the Final Solution: The Evolution of Nazi Jewish Policy, September 1939-March 1942

Wed. February 25 – Nazi Propaganda

Required Readings

- Jeffrey Herf, The Jewish Enemy: Nazi Propaganda during World War II and the Holocaust

Wed. March 4 – Killers

HST 560 – Antisemitism and the Jewish Holocaust

Wednesday 6:30-9:15pm – Morton 212

Instructor: Dr. Jarrod Tanny, Fall 2015

Required Readings

- Jan T. Gross, Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland
- Selected readings and criticism on the study of perpetrators (**Blackboard***)
- Yehuda Bauer, Rethinking the Holocaust, chap. 5

Supplemental Reading

- Christopher R. Browning, Ordinary Men

Wed. March 18 – The Killing Fields of Eastern Europe

Required Readings

- Timothy Snyder, Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin

Wed. March 25 – Grand Interpretations

Required Readings

- Zygmunt Bauman, Modernity and the Holocaust
- Yehuda Bauer, Rethinking the Holocaust, chap. 4

Supplemental Reading

- Gotz Aly, Hitler's Beneficiaries: Plunder, Racial War, and the Nazi Welfare State

Wed. April 1 – Zionism, Israel, and the Holocaust

HST 560 – Antisemitism and the Jewish Holocaust

Wednesday 6:30-9:15pm – Morton 212

Instructor: Dr. Jarrod Tanny, Fall 2015

Required Readings

- Tom Segev, The Seventh Million: The Israelis and the Holocaust
- Yehuda Bauer, Rethinking the Holocaust, chap. 11

Supplemental Reading

- Hannah Arendt, Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil

Wed. April 8 – Neo-Nazism and Holocaust Denial

Required Readings

- Deborah Lipstadt, Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory

Wed. April 15 – Memory

Required Readings

- Peter Novick, The Holocaust in American Life

Supplemental Reading

- Alvin H. Rosenfeld, The End of the Holocaust

Wed. April 22 – TBA

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Wednesday 6:30-9:15pm – Morton 212

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Wed. April 29 – Project Presentations

Assignment – Project Presentations

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History Department Student Learning Outcomes

Our course will address the following learning outcomes.

- Student frames historical questions
- Student employs a broad range of sources and displays breadth in research
- Student demonstrates awareness of interpretive differences
- Student evaluates and analyzes source material
- Student writes clearly and effectively
- Student develops an interpretation based on evidence
- Student shows a grasp of relevant historical facts and contexts
- Student communicates effectively orally