100:415: The Holocaust in Jewish History and Global Culture
Professor Kenneth B. Moss
T 1:30-4, Maryland 114

Intensive introduction to Nazi Germany’s genocide campaign against the Jewish people, commonly referred to at the Holocaust, and some aspects of its aftermath in Jewish and global thought, culture, and politics.

Course Requirements:
This seminar puts heavy emphasis on discussion and participation based on careful analysis of the reading assignments. Confident that each of us has much to contribute to the class, I will begin each class by calling on each student to present some commentary on some of the key reading for the week. The reading assignments listed below a given session should be completed by the date under which they appear.

In order for us to have the intense give-and-take that a class like this allows and deserves, we need to talk to each other and pay attention to our shared texts. I will ask that there be no screens during discussion; this means it is imperative to bring hard copies of all texts.

The final decision on any grade derives from my global assessment of your work and cannot be quantified exactly. Roughly speaking, however, the breakdown is as follows:
- Participation in discussion: 40%
- Two 20-minute book presentations: 30%
- One 12-15-page final paper: 30%
No extensions will be granted without my prior permission, and late papers will be graded lower at the rate of one grade-step per day (A to A-, A- to B+, etc). Needless to say, complete honesty and probity in your work is a must. For information, see http://ethics.jhu.edu

If you are a student with a disability or believe you might have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact Student Disability Services, 385 Garland, (410) 516-4720, studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu.

Required texts:
Primo Levi, Survival in Auschwitz
Chil Rajchman, The Last Jew of Treblinka
Omer Bartov, Anatomy of a Genocide
Sam Kassow, Who Will Write Our History
Deborah Lipstadt, The Eichmann Trial
Hannah Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism

Other required readings marked with *: Most other required readings are scanned and online as e-reserves (via Sheridan Libraries webpage: Reserves). These are marked with a * on the syllabus. Please print these to bring to class.

There are also required independent readings at various junctures throughout the semester; see syllabus for details

Resources on Reserve:
The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933–1945
Anne Kelly Knowles, Tim Cole, et al. Geographies of the Holocaust
Martin Gilbert, The Routledge Atlas of the Holocaust
Claudia Moscovici, Holocaust Memories: A Survey of Holocaust Memoirs, Histories, Novels, and Films

1: Introduction

During week, in consultation with me, choose which readings you will prepare for week 3.

2: Nazism, Fascism, Modernity, Antisemitism, and the Origins of the Holocaust
Bergen, War and Genocide, intro and ch. 1-3
*Friedlander, introductions to Nazi Germany and the Jews v. 1 and v. 2
*Eley, "Where Are We with Theories of Fascism?"
3: The Jews of Europe, their Neighbors and the World in the 1930s


Other Jewish Communities: Choose one other community to read about in consultation with me

- Germany and German Jewry: German-Jewish History in Modern Times, ed. Meyer, v. 4, introduction and ch 3, 7, 8
- Sephardic Jewry: Rodrigue and Benbassa Sephardi Jewry ch 3 and Devin Naar, Jewish Salonica introduction and conclusion
- France and French Jewry: Paula Hyman, The Jews of Modern France, ch 1, 6, 8

The Refugee Question: *Tara Zahra, The Great Departure, ch. 4

4: War, Conquest, Occupation, Ghettoization, and the Turn to Genocide, 1939-1941

Bergen, War and Genocide, ch. 4-6
Bartov, Anatomy of a Genocide, ch 4-5
Kassow, Who Will Write Our History, pp 103-143
*Christopher Browning, Path to Genocide, ch 1, 7

5: Presentations round 1: diaries and memoirs of Jews, Roma, other individuals from targeted populations

In consultation with me, select a monograph on particular aspect of the Holocaust or Porajmos for presentation wk 9

6: The Genocide, 1941-45

Bergen, War and Genocide, ch. 7-9
Bartov, Anatomy of a Genocide, ch. 6-7
*Klee and Dressen, The Good Old Days, 23-58, 63-141, 225-50
*The report of the International Commission on the Holocaust in Romania, ch 1, 5 [https://www.yadvashem.org/docs/international-commission-on-romania-holocaust.html]

7: Jewish Life during the Holocaust: Ghettos, Labor, Resistance, Social Relations

Kassow, Who Will Write Our History, rest of book
*Marrus, Vichy France and the Jews, second ed., ch 4
*Introduction by Henry and essays by Bauer, Bracher, Lefenfeld in Patrick Henry, Jewish Resistance Against the Nazis

8: In the Concentration Camps and Death Camps:

- Primo Levi, Survival in Auschwitz
- Chil Rajchman, The Last Jew of Treblinka

9: Presentation round 2: historical analyses of particular aspects of the genocide

In consultation with me, pick an essay on genocide as category and event for mini-presentation week 13

10: Visit to Holocaust Museum in DC [if this week works for Prof. Sam Spinner; may also be week 11]

Reading for background: *Young, “Memorials and Museums” in Oxford Handbook of Holocaust Studies

11: The Holocaust in Postwar Jewish Culture and Memory:

*Jockusch, Collect and Record!, introduction and ch 4
12: The Holocaust in Postwar Thought and Politics
   Adorno and Horkheimer, *Authoritarian Personality* and related texts, selections tba
   Arendt *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, selections tba
   Judt, *Postwar*, epilogue

13: The Holocaust, Genocide, and Mass Violence in the Post-Holocaust World
   *Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies*, introduction and ch 1-2
   Individual presentations of additional chapter from *Oxford Handbook of Genocide Studies*