

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 as 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:

Doris L. Bergen, *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust*, 3rd ed.

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?"

*Moses, "Colonialism," in *The Oxford Handbook of Holocaust Studies*

*Smith, "From Play to Act: Anti-Jewish Violence in German and European History during the Long Nineteenth Century"

3: The Jews of Europe, their Neighbors and the World in the 1930s

The Jews of Eastern Europe and their Neighbors: Bartov, *Anatomy of a Genocide*, 1-128 **or** Kassow, *Who Will Write Our History*, pp 1-103

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

Soviet Jewry: Zvi Gitelman, *A Century of Ambivalence*, 2nd ed., ch 2-3

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

In consultation with me, select a memoir source for presentation week 5

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

*Huttenbach, "The Romani Porajmos: The Nazi Genocide of Gypsies in Germany and Eastern Europe" in *The Gypsies of Eastern Europe*, Crowe and Kolsti, eds., 31-50

**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

*Cohen, "Israel," in *Oxford Handbook of Holocaust Studies*
Lipstadt, *The Eichmann Trial*
Literary texts by Sutzkever, Agnon, Kovner, and others (handout)

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*