

HISTORY 159:

THE HOLOCAUST

PROFESSOR MARC SAPERSTEIN



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Texts (in bookstore):

- Yehudah Bauer, *A History of the Holocaust*.
- Lucy S. Dawidowicz, *A Holocaust Reader*.
- Donald L. Niewyk, ed., *The Holocaust*.
- Terence Des Pres, *The Survivor*.
- Tadeusz Borowski, *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*.
- Joachim Remak, ed., *The Nazi Years: A Documentary History* [optional].

The class will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 A.M. – 12:15. P.M. Most sessions will be divided between lecture and discussion, based on primary sources. Starred material * under Readings should be brought to sections. Three documentary films have been scheduled, as indicated below by the sign #.

Course Outline:

Weeks 1 and 2 :

- Jan 13: Introduction to the Course
- Jan 15: The Legacy of Christian Anti-Judaism
- Jan 20: The Emergence of Modern Anti-Semitism
- Jan 22: Modern Anti-Semitism and Racism

Readings for Weeks 1 and 2:

- Bauer, 3–52
 - Dawidowicz, 28–30
 - Remak, 1–15
 - *Paul Mendes-Flohr and Yehudah Reinharz, eds., *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 280–83, 292–99. Xeroxed pages of this reading and others assigned from the same book will be distributed without charge, courtesy of the History Department office, at the second meeting of the course. Bring to class January 20, 22 and 29.
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Week 3:

- Jan 27 and 29: Germany from World War I to 1933; Hitler; Nazism
- Jan 29: First written exercise (3–4 pages) on Mein Kampf passage (see below), due in class.

Readings for Week 3:

- Bauer 53–92
 - Dawidowicz, 30–33
 - Niewyk, 12–18
 - Remak, 17–47, 107–11
 - *Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, 484–87 (Mein Kampf passage)
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Week 4

- Feb 3: Hitler's Consolidation of Power, 1933–1939
- Feb 5: German Jewry under Hitler, 1933–1939

Readings for Week 4:

- Bauer 93–137
 - *Dawidowicz, 35–53, 150–70
 - Remak, 49–91, 111–15, 146–51
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Week 5 :

- Feb 10: East European Jewry before the War
- Feb 12: War and the "Jewish Problem," 1939–1941

Readings for Week 5:

- Bauer, 139–55
 - *Dawidowicz, 55–82
 - Remak, 116–28
 - Niewyk, 39–42
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Week 6:

- Feb 17 and 19: The East European Ghettos
- #Feb 17 at 12:30 (following class) in Gelman BO1A: "Lodz Ghetto"
- **Feb 19: Second written exercise (3–4 pages) on Czerniakow's Diary selection (in Dawidowicz, 240–58), due in class.**

Readings for Week 6:

- Bauer, 155–91
 - *Dawidowicz, 171–76, 179–81, 193–207, 218–58
 - Niewyk, 110–16, 133–42
 - Des Pres, 30–31
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Week 7 :

- Feb 24 and 26: Massacres and Deportations

Readings for Week 7:

- Bauer 193–207
 - *Dawidowicz, 83–104, 289–316
 - Remak, 133–43, 151–54
 - Niewyk, 18–38, 42–49, 142
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Week 8

- March 3 and 5: Camps of Extermination and Slave Labor

Readings for Week 8:

- Bauer, 207–226
 - Dawidowicz, 104–19
 - Remak, 157–59
 - Niewyk, 66–105
 - *Des Pres, 52–147
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Week 9

- March 10: Psychology of the Perpetrators
- March 12: Psychology of the Victims
- March 12: Third written exercise (3–4 pages) on Himmler passage (Dawidowicz, 130–40), is due in class.

Readings for Week 9:

- *Dawidowicz, 130–40
 - *Remak, 155–57
 - Niewyk, (27–38: re-read), 54–59, 149–97
 - Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, 515–19 (Hoess passage, xeroxed material)
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March 16–20: Spring Recess

Week 10

- March 24: The Problem of Resistance
 - #March 25 at 4:30, Gelman BO4A: "The Partisans of Vilna"
 - March 26: Psychology of the Bystanders
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Readings for Week 10:

- Bauer, 245–77
- *Dawidowicz, 329–40, 354–80, 120–30
- *Remak, 91–92, 161–76

- Niewyk, 116–32, 142–47, 199–241
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Week 11:

- Mar 31: "Auschwitz and the Allies"
 - #Apr 1 at 12:30: Gelman BO1A: "Weapons of the Spirit":
 - Apr 2: The Role of the Church
 - **Apr 2: Statement of paper topic is due (see below)**
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Readings for Week 11:

- Bauer, 279–302
 - *Dawidowicz, 316–21
 - *Remak, 93–105
 - *Niewyk, 241–68, 277–91
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Week 12:

- Apr 10: Hungarian Jewry
- Apr 12: Death Marches, Liberation, "The Road Back"
- ?? "The Liberation of Auschwitz"

Readings for Week 12:

- Bauer, 303–30
 - *Dawidowicz, 321–27
 - Des Pres, 132–33
 - Borowski, 161–63
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Week 13:

- Apr 14 and 16: Literature of the Holocaust

Readings for Week 13:

- Des Pres, 3–25
 - *Borowski, entire book
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Week 14:

- Apr 21: Philosophical, Theological, Religious Dimensions
- Apr 23: The Holocaust in Historical Memory; Contemporary Uses and Misuses
- **Apr 23: ALL PAPERS DUE AT CLASS (see below)**

Readings for Week 14:

- Bauer, 330–49
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Apr 28: Review

A group visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum will be scheduled either on this day or on April 30 (first day of reading period). This will serve as a good way to begin your review for the final exam.



Course Requirements:

As indicated above, there will be three brief written exercises, each analyzing a specific historical document and 3–4 pages in length, due in class on January 29, February 19, and March 12. As the texts to be analyzed in the exercises will be discussed at these class meetings, THE EXERCISES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE MEETING AT WHICH THEY ARE DUE.

There is also one short paper, a critical review *in light of what you have learned from the course* of either 1) a memoir written by a survivor, or 2) a significant work of fiction with a Holocaust setting. This is to be approximately 10–12 pages in length, and will be due at the last meeting (April 23). A written statement of the subject of your paper should be given to the instructor no later than the meeting of April 2.

The following bibliographical works will be on reserve in Gelman for your use:

- Harry Cargas, *The Holocaust: An Annotated Bibliography* (1985)
- David M. Szonyi, *The Holocaust: An Annotated Bibliography and Resource Guide* (1985)
- Abraham and Hershel Edelheit, *Bibliography on Holocaust Literature* (1986)
- (Another, more recent bibliography--Marty Bloomberg, *The Jewish Holocaust: An Annotated Guide to Books in English* (1991)--is not yet in Gelman).

ALL STUDENTS MUST TAKE THE FINAL EXAM.

Instructor's Office Hours are Wednesdays from 2–3:30 at 2142 G Street (Judaic Studies Building) and Thursdays from 3:30–5:00 at Phillips 323 (History Department). Students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to come and discuss matters arising from the material of the course.

In order to receive accommodations on the basis of disability, students with special needs must give notice and provide proper documentation to the Office of Disability Support Services, Marvin Center 436, 994–8250.

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