

CET Syllabus of Term



Program: CET Prague
Course Title: Memory of the Holocaust in Central Europe
Course Code: JS357
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Suggested Cross Listings: History
Language of Instruction: English
Prerequisites/Requirements: none
Professor: Dr. Michal Frankl
Class Schedule: Tue 9:00-12:00

Description of the course

The goal of the course is to provide a short overview of the history of the Holocaust in Bohemian (Czech) lands and Central Europe and to explore different facets of post-war memory of the Holocaust. The Second World War seriously affected and traumatized all societies in Central Europe and, together with the post-war expulsions of Germans, changed the ethnic map of the region. Moreover, in a couple of years after liberation, the discussion about the WWII history was largely prevented by the communist regimes.

The varying and often conflicting ways of researching, remembering and memorializing the persecution and genocide of Jews will be examined against the background of the broader social developments and of the scholarly and popular, official and civic interpretations of the war. How was the topic of the Holocaust discussed and memorialized under the domination of the Communist ideology and what role did it play in the post-Communist transformation of the Czech Republic? Special attention will be devoted to the question of survivors' testimony and its use, to memorials and the places of memory (*lieu de memoire*), as well as larger interpretative templates such as resistance, collaboration and totalitarianism. The uneasy relationship between the memory of the Holocaust and the post-WWII expulsion of Germans from Czechoslovakia will be discussed as well.

The course will also include a visit to the Jewish Museum in Prague and a walk through some of the memorials in Prague.

Objectives:

- Students will have basic orientation in the history of the Holocaust in Central Europe and in Bohemian Lands specifically.
- The course will help students to understand the ongoing process of re-interpretation of the Holocaust and its legacy.
- Students will also better understand the process of building and negotiating of historical consciousness and collective memory.

CET Syllabus of Term

Course Method & Requirements

Participation in class	10%
Short tests based on weekly readings	10%
Midterm paper (book review)	20%
Final test	20%
Final paper	40%

Students will be required to prepare their final (research) paper during the semester whereby a substantial amount of research effort is expected from their part. Students have to read – as an absolute minimum – one scholarly monograph and use at least three other substantial sources (such as scholarly articles). The mid-term paper will focus on a specific country in East-Central or South-Eastern Europe and will also be presented in class. The mid-term and final papers must be at least 1000 and 3000 words long respectively and contain proper references to the sources used. In each paper, students should demonstrate both their comprehension ability and their ability to formulate new ideas.

Active participation of students in class is expected. Two quizzes (without prior announcement) can be administered to check that students have mastered the obligatory weekly reading. The final test will be specifically focused on students' understanding of the major topics dealt with in class and/or in the reading.

Attendance Policy:

Mandatory attendance is a primary requirement for a responsible learning experience. Please consider that every absence has the potential to lower the final grade, as it may affect the “attendance and participation” portion of your grade or result in missing key information that could appear on quizzes or exams. In addition, professors take attendance at the beginning of the class. If you are more than 10 minutes late, professors mark one hour of absence from class. Onsite visits count as regular class hours. A no-show to a site visit counts as an absence. Detailed information about the Attendance you will find in the **CET**

Prague Academic Policies

Grading scale

A:	93-100%	C+:	77-79%
A-:	90-92%	C:	73-76%
B+:	87-89%	C-:	70-72%
B:	83-86%	D+:	67-69%
B-:	80-82%	D:	60-66%
		F:	59% and below

Primary Texts

David Bankier (ed.): The Jews Are Coming Back. The Return of the Jews to their Countries of Origin after WW II. Jerusalem 2005

Ruth Bondy: „Elder of the Jews“. Jakob Edelstein of Theresienstadt. New York 1989

Ruth Bondy: Trapped. Essays on the History of the Czech Jews, 1939-1943. Jerusalem 2008

Chad Bryant: Prague in Black. Nazi Rule and Czech Nationalism. Harvard UP 2007

CET Syllabus of Term

Cesarani, David, and Eric J. Sundquist. *After the Holocaust. Challenging the Myth of Silence*. London; New York: Routledge, 2012.

Dan Diner, Gotthart Wunberg (eds.): *Restitution and Memory. Material Restoration in Europe*. New York/Oxford 2007

František Ehrmann, and Otta Heitlinger, and Rudolf Iltis (eds.): *Terezín*. Prague: The Council of Jewish Communities in the Czech Lands 1965

Anita Franková (ed.): *World without Human Dimensions. Four Women's Memories*. State Jewish Museum, Prague 1991

Benjamin Frommer: *National Cleansing. Retribution against Nazi Collaborators in Postwar Czechoslovakia*. Cambridge University Press 2005

Fred Hahn: „Anti-Semitism and the Treatment of the Holocaust in Postcommunist Czechoslovakia (The Czech Republic),“ in: Randolph L. Braham, *Anti-Semitism and the Treatment of the Holocaust in Postcommunist Eastern Europe*. New York 1994, pp. 57-77

Alena Heitlinger: *In the Shadows of the Holocaust & Communism. Czech and Slovak Jews since 1945*. New Brunswick 2006

Himka, John-Paul, and Joanna B. Michlic, eds. *Bringing the Dark Past to Light. The Reception of the Holocaust in Postcommunist Europe*. Lincoln - London: University of Nebraska Press, 2013

Yeshayahu A. Jelinek: „Capturing the Public's Imagination: Publications on Jewish Themes in Slovakia and the Czech Lands, 1989-1995,“ in: *East European Jewish Affairs*, Vol. 27, No. 2, 1997, pp. 108-119

Jewish Gold and other Precious Metals, Precious Stones, and Objects made of such Materials - Situation in the Czech Lands in the Years 1939 to 1945. Unlawful Infringement of Property Rights and its Scope; Subsequent Fate of the Jewish Assets affected by this Infringement. Report by a Team of Experts Created by the Joint Task Force based on Decision No. 773 of the Czech Government of November 25, 1998. Praha 2001

The Jews of Czechoslovakia, Vols. I-III. New York/Philadelphia 1968-84

Jockusch, Laura. *Collect and Record! Jewish Holocaust Documentation in Early Postwar Europe*. Oxford University Press, USA, 2012.

Zdeněk Lederer: *Ghetto Theresienstadt*. London 1953, reprint New York 1983

Jan Munk: *60 let Památníku Terezín / 60 Years of the Terezín Memorial*. Památník Terezín 2007

Jan Munk: „The Terezín ghetto memorial today and tomorrow,“ in: *Review of the Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jews*, Vol. 5, 1992-93, pp. 127-134

Ctibor Nečas: *The Holocaust of Czech Roma*. Praha 1999

Leo Pavlát: *The treatment of Jewish themes in Czech schools*. New York 1998

CET Syllabus of Term

Livia Rothkirchen: *The Jews of Bohemia and Moravia Facing the Holocaust*. Yad Vashem – University of Nebraska Press 2005

Livia Rothkirchen: „State-sponsored Anti-Semitism in Communist Czechoslovakia, 1948-1989,“ in: Rolf Steininger (ed.), *Der Umgang mit dem Holocaust*. Wien/Köln/Weimar 1994, pp. 279-295

Michael Shafir: „Between Denial and 'Comparative Trivialization'. Holocaust Negationism in Post-Communist East Central Europe“. Jerusalem 2002

Raya Czipner Schapiro: *Helga Czipner Weinberg: Letters from Prague, 1939-1941*. Chicago Academy Publishers 1991

Sniegón, Tomas. *Vanished History. The Holocaust in Czech and Slovak Historical Culture*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2014.

James E. Young: *The Texture of Memory. Holocaust Memorials and Meaning*, New Haven/London 1993

Most relevant journals:

Review of the Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jews

Yad Vashem Studies

Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Polin

Course schedule:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics Covered During Class</i>	<i>Readings or Homework Required for this Class</i>
Jan 30	Introduction (structure of course and basic facts about genocide of Jews in Central Europe)	
Feb 6	Oral history workshop (Malach Center at the Charles University)	Gigliotti, Simone. “The Voice As a Human Document: Listening to Holocaust Survivors in Postwar Europe.” <i>Yad Vashem Studies</i> 40, no. 2 (2012): 217–35. Roseman, Mark. “Surviving Memory: Truth and Inaccuracy in Holocaust Testimony.” In <i>The Oral history reader</i> , edited by Robert Perks and Alistair Thomson, 230–243. London: Routledge,

CET Syllabus of Term

Feb 13	Antisemitism and ethnic conflict	<p>Zahra, Tara. "Lost Children: Displacement, Family, and Nation in Postwar Europe." <i>The Journal of Modern History</i> 81, no. 1 (March 1, 2009): 45–86.</p> <p>Krzywiec, Grzegorz. "The Crusade for a Numerus Clauss 1922/1923. Preliminaries of Polish Fascism in the Central and Eastern European Context." In <i>Alma Mater Antisemitica. Akademisches Milieu, Juden und Antisemitismus an den Universitäten Europas zwischen 1918 und 1939 = Academic Milieu, Jews and Antisemitism at European Universities between 1918 and 1939</i>, edited by Regina Fritz, Grzegorz Rossolinski, and Jana Starek. Beiträge Zur Holocaustforschung Des Wiener Wiesenthal Instituts Für Holocaust-Studien 3. Wien: new academic press, 2016.</p>
Feb 20	Refugees and citizenship	<p>Nemes, Robert. "Refugees and Antisemitism in Hungary during the First World War." In <i>Sites of European Antisemitism in the Age of Mass Politics, 1880-1918</i>, edited by Robert Nemes and Daniel L Unowsky, 236–54. The Tauber Institute Series for the Study of European Jewry. Waltham, Massachusetts: Brandeis University Press, 2014.</p> <p>Brade, Laura E., and Rose Holmes. "Troublesome Sainthood: Nicholas Winton and the Contested History of Child Rescue in Prague, 1938–1940." <i>History & Memory</i> 29, no. 1 (March 30, 2017): 3–40.</p>
Feb 27	Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia – exclusionary policies and local participation under occupation	<p>Gruner, Wolf. "Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia." In <i>The Greater German Reich and the Jews. Nazi Persecution Policies in the Annexed Territories</i>, edited by Wolf Gruner and Jörg Osterloh,</p>

CET Syllabus of Term

		<p>99–135. War and Genocide 20. New York: Berghahn Books, 2015.</p> <p>Bondy, Ruth. “The History of the Closing Gates. Jüdisches Nachrichtenblatt - Židovské Listy. The Jewish Newspaper in Prague during the Occupation Years, 1939-1945.” In <i>Trapped. Essays on the History of the Czech Jews, 1939-1945</i>, 14–42. Jerusalem: Yad Vashem, 2008.</p>
Mar 6	Oral history workshop 2	<p>Kushner, Tony. “Holocaust Testimony, Ethics, and the Problem of Representation.” <i>Poetics today</i> 27, no. 2 (2006): 275–295.</p> <p>Peschel, Lisa A. “‘A Joyful Act of Worship’: Survivor Testimony on Czech Culture in the Terezín Ghetto and Postwar Reintegration in Czechoslovakia, 1945-48.” <i>Holocaust and Genocide Studies</i> 26, no. 2 (2012): 209–228.</p>
Mar 13	Theresienstadt ghetto and the Theresienstadt Family Camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau	<p>Hájková, Anna. “Sexual Barter in Times of Genocide: Negotiating the Sexual Economy of the Theresienstadt Ghetto.” <i>Signs</i> 38, no. 3 (2013): 503–33.</p> <p>Kulka, Otto Dov. “Ghetto in an Annihilation Camp. Jewish Social History in the Holocaust Period and Its Ultimate Limits.” In <i>The Nazi Concentration Camps: Proceedings of the Fourth Yad Vashem International Historical Conference</i>, 315–30. Jerusalem: Yad Vashem, 1984.</p> <p><i>submit midterm paper</i></p>
Mar 27	Coming back? Suvivors in post-WWII Czechoslovakia and East-Central Europe	<p>Čapková, Kateřina. “Germans or Jews? German-Speaking Jews in Poland and Czechoslovakia after World War II.” <i>Kwartalnik Historii Żydów</i>, no. 2 (246)</p>

CET Syllabus of Term

		<p>(2013): 348–62.</p> <p>Cichopek-Gajraj, Anna. “Limits to ‘Jewish Power’: How Slovak Jewish Leaders Negotiated Restitution of Property after the Second World War.” <i>East European Jewish Affairs</i> 44, no. 1 (January 2, 2014): 51–69.</p>
Apr 10	Early documentation and post-war justice	<p>Aleksion, Natalia. “The Central Jewish Historical Commission in Poland, 1944–1947.” <i>Polin</i> 22 (2008): 74–97.</p> <p>Frommer, Benjamin. <i>National Cleansing. Retribution Against Nazi Collaborators in Postwar Czechoslovakia</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005, chapter „Denunciation“, pp. 142–185.</p>
Apr 17	Holocaust memory and research under state socialism	<p>Fox, Thomas C. “The Holocaust under Communism.” In <i>The Historiography of the Holocaust</i>, edited by Dan Stone, 420–439. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.</p> <p>Heitlinger, Alena. “Politicizing Jewish Memory in Postwar Czechoslovakia.” <i>East European Jewish Affairs</i> 35, no. 2 (2005): 135–153.</p>
Apr 24	Museums and memorials	<p>Rupnow, Dirk. “‘Ihr müßt sein, auch wenn ihr nicht mehr seid’: The Jewish Central Museum in Prague.” <i>Holocaust and Genocide Studies</i> 16 (2002): 23–53.</p> <p>Veselská, Magda. “The Story of the Torah Scrolls from the Collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague after the Second World War.” <i>European Judaism</i> 41, no. 1 (2008): 113–23.</p>
May 1	Places of memory: Walk through some less known memorials to the WWII in Prague	<p>Cramsey, Sarah A. “Saying Kaddish in Czechoslovakia.” <i>Journal of Modern Jewish Studies</i> 7, no. 1 (2008): 35–50.</p> <p>Young, James E. “The Biography of a</p>

CET Syllabus of Term

		Memorial Icon: Nathan Rapoport's Warsaw Ghetto Monument.” <i>Representations</i> no. 26 (April 1989): 69– 106.
May 15	Final test	<i>submit final paper</i>