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RE 380 Special Topics: Holocaust and Genocide
Summer 1998

Description: This course will examine the history of antisemitism which leads to the tragic destruction of most of European Jewry in the Holocaust. It involves a critical reflection on the relationship between Christianity and Judaism and the sources of anti-Judaism and modern antisemitism. The students will look at the Holocaust and the profound questions it raises for Jews, Christians and all peoples as we confront hatred and its political manifestations in genocidal violence. Elie Wiesel, a witness to the horror, speaks to the class through his autobiographical account of the camps, while the students will encounter the many stories and experiences of the Holocaust in the sometimes dark, sometimes hopeful images from those who died and those who survived.

Required texts:

Botwinick, Rita Steinhardt. *A History of the Holocaust: From Ideology to Annihilation*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1996.

Brown, Jean E., Elaine C. Stephens, and Janet E. Rubin, editors. *Images from the Holocaust: A Literature Anthology*.

Weasel, Elie. *Night*.

Excerpt from:

The Liberation of the Nazi Concentration Camps 1945: Eyewitness Accounts of the Liberators, ed. by Brewster Chamberlin and Marcia Feldman (Washington, D.C.: United States Holocaust Memorial Council, 1987);

Fifty Years Ago: Darkness Before Dawn, ed. by United States Holocaust Memorial Council (Washington, D.C.: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 1994)

The Student will be able to:

- * discuss the meaning of democide, genocide, and Holocaust;
- * discuss the nature of hatred and its impact in personal and social policy towards the "other";
- * detail the history of persecution of the Jews in antiquity, in Christian Medieval Europe, and in the modern period;
- * express an understanding of the concepts "anti-Jewish" and "anti-semitic";

- * discuss the foundations of Nazi anti-semitism and its continuities and discontinuities with Western culture and religion;
- * discuss Elie Wiesel's witness and his journey to understanding;
- * discuss the Christian community's response to anti-semitism in the post-Holocaust world; and
- * discuss the methods used by Holocaust deniers and the meaning of their assaults on truth and memory.

Evaluation:

Readings and Participation: Each student is responsible for completing the assigned readings in the course, and participating in the discussions based on those readings.

Journal: The student is required to write and submit a journal recording reflections on readings and themes developed from class activities and outside sources related to the course topic. ***Journals will include reflections up to July 30, and must be submitted on August 4, with a minimum of ten typewritten pages.***

The journal is to be double-spaced, typewritten, well edited, with appropriate footnotes (or end notes) and bibliography, with title page. Use an appropriate style consistently throughout the paper.

There are 25 articles/films that we will be seeing and discussing during the course.

Criteria for grading journals: a "C" journal will include at least 15 entries that adequately **summarize** the content of the material; a "B" journal will include at least 18 entries, with additional material that seeks to **synthesize** the readings with the personal perspectives of the writer; an "A" journal will include all of the previous requirements, and will include a minimum of 22 entries, at least one of which **includes outside materials from other primary sources** on the Holocaust, genocide, and/or current events relevant to the course objectives. An "entry" refers to specific material assigned and/or discussed during class time or read in preparation for class discussions, as well films, videos, or other relevant materials.

It is presumed that the journal will be well edited as part of the minimum grade. Journals will constitute 60% of the overall grade.

Seminar Presentations: Students will participate in small group presentations of assigned reading and small group discussions on assigned readings. **Seminar participation will constitute approximately 30% of the overall grade.**

Final Essay exam: Essay exam questions will be developed from the objectives of the course for the Final Exam. **The Final Exam will constitute approximately 10% of the overall grade.**

Bibliographic Sources

- Aly, Götz, Peter Chroust, and Christian Pross. *Cleansing the Fatherland: Nazi Medicine and Racial Hygiene*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994.
- Bartov, Omer. *Murder in Our Midst: The Holocaust, Industrial Killing, and Representation*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Bauer, Yehuda. *A History of the Holocaust*.
- Bauman, Zygmunt. *Modernity and the Holocaust*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1991.
- Crossan, John Dominic. *Who Killed Jesus? Exposing the Roots of Anti-Semitism in the Gospel Story of The Death of Jesus*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1995.
- Furet, François, ed. *Unanswered Questions: Nazi Germany and the Genocide of the Jews*. New York: Schocken Books, 1989.
- Gager, John. *The Origins of Anti-Semitism*
- Gilman, Sander L., and Steven T. Katz, eds. *Anti-Semitism in Times of Crisis*. New York: New York University Press, 1991.
- Lang, Berel. *Heidegger's Silence*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1996.
- Langmuir, Gavin I. *Toward a Definition of Antisemitism*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990.
- Lipstadt, Deborah. *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*. New York: The Free Press, 1993.
- Pagels, Elaine. *The Origin of Satan*. New York: Random House, Inc., 1995.
- Ruether, Rosemary Radford. *Faith and Fratricide*
- Rummel, Rudy. *Democide*.
- Smiga, George M. *Pain and Polemic: Anti-Judaism in the Gospels*. New York: Paulist Press, 1992.
- Stannard, David E. *American Holocaust*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Wiesel, Elie. *Memoirs: All Rivers Run to the Sea*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1995.
- Williamson, Clark M. *Has God Rejected His People? Anti-Judaism in the Christian Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1982.
- Vatican II, *Nostre Aetate*

Schedule of Classes

Mr. Dave Coleman

Summer 1998

Office: Henry 206a Office Hours: 9:30-10:50

and by appointment

Phone: 735 4866 (please leave a message on the voice mail)

Day 1: Monday, June 29

Introduction

film: "Survive"

Day 2: Tuesday, June 30

Rita Botwinick, "The Nature of Prejudice and the Historic Roots of Anti-Semitism" chap. in *A History of the Holocaust: From Ideology to Annihilation* (Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1996): 5-26.

film: "The Longest Hatred: From Cross to Swastika"

Day 3: Wednesday, July 1

Nicholas de Lange, "The Origins of Anti-Semitism: Ancient Evidence and Modern Interpretations" chap. in *Anti-Semitism in Times of Crisis*, edited by Sander L. Gilman, and Steven T. Katz (New York: New York University Press, 1991): 21-37.

film: "The Longest Hatred: Enemy of the State"

Day 4: Thursday, July 2

Moshe Lazar, "The Lamb and the Scapegoat: The Dehumanization of the Jews in Medieval Propaganda Imagery," chap. in *Anti-Semitism in Times of Crisis*, edited by Sander L. Gilman, and Steven T. Katz (New York: New York University Press, 1991): 38-80.

Day 5: Monday, July 6

Images from the Holocaust: "Rumblings of Danger," 1-43.

Day 6: Tuesday, July 7

film: Heritage (pt. 4)

recommended reading:

Bauer, "Who are the Jews?"; Rummel, "Democide" (11-30) Ruether, "The Social Incorporation of the Negative Myth of the Jews in Christendom" (from Rosemary R. Ruether, *Faith and Fratricide*)

Day 7: July 8

R. Po-chia Hsia, "Jews as Magicians in Reformation Germany," chap. in *Anti-Semitism in Times of Crisis*, edited by Sander L. Gilman, and Steven T. Katz (New York: New York University Press, 1991): 115-139.

Day 8: July 9

Leonard Dinnerstein, "Antisemitism in Crisis Times in the United States: The 1920s and 1930s," chap. in *Anti-Semitism in Times of Crisis*, edited by Sander L. Gilman, and Steven T. Katz (New York: New York University Press, 1991): 212-226. film: Heritage, "The Golden Land"

Seminar Presentations: Students will participate in small group presentations of assigned reading and small group discussions on assigned readings. **Seminar participation will constitute approximately 30% of the overall grade.**

Final Essay exam: Essay exam questions will be developed from the objectives of the course for the Final Exam. **The Final Exam will constitute approximately 10% of the overall grade.**

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- Wiesel, Elie. *Memoirs: All Rivers Run to the Sea*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1995.
- Williamson, Clark M. *Has God Rejected His People? Anti-Judaism in the Christian Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1982.
- Vatican II, *Nostre Aetate*

Day 20: July 27

Images from the Holocaust: "Resisting Evil," 293-334.

film: Occult History of the Third Reich (pt.1)

Day 21: July 28

Film: "Europa, Europa"

Please find two reviews of the film and bring to class on Thursday a one page reaction paper to the reviewers comments, based on your viewing experience. Include a bibliography of the review articles.
recommended reading: Bauer, "The Final Solution" (193-226); "West European Jewry, 1940-1944" (227-244) "The Last Years of the Holocaust, 1943-1945" (303-336)

Day 22: July 29

"Europa, Europa": discussion

Day 23: July 30

Images from the Holocaust: "Liberation," 335-374.

Day 24: July 31

Night

Day 25: August 3

Night

Day 26: August 4

Night: Discussion

Images from the Holocaust: "The Days After," 375-444.

Day 27: August 5

Final Exam