

History 043-497-2
The Holocaust
Summer 2007
T, R 1 to 3:50, DH 355

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Course Objectives:

- 1). To understand the events, ideas and processes that led to the “Final Solution”
- 2). To place these ideas, events and processes in historical perspective.
- 3). To examine how the Holocaust is interpreted and understood today.

Course Texts: Required:

Debórah Dwork and Robert Jan Van Pelt, *The Holocaust: A History*. (Norton, 2003). (DVP)
Donald Niewyk and Francis Nicosia, *The Columbia Guide to the Holocaust*. (Columbia Univ. Press, 2000). (N&N)
Dan Stone, ed., *The Historiography of the Holocaust*. (Palgrave, 2003). (Stone)
Joseph R. Mitchell and Helen Buss Mitchell, *The Holocaust: Readings and Interpretations* McGraw-Hill (2001)
(M&M)
Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. (Penguin, 2006). (Arendt)

In addition to the texts listed above, you will also be responsible for reading and analyzing material posted on the Class Notes website or emailed to you by the instructor. The University of Windsor requires that all email correspondence between students and the university be carried out via university assigned email addresses. It is your responsibility to check your @uwindsor.ca email address on a regular basis for class updates, announcements etc.

Class Rules:

- 1). **Attend Class** and participate. Regular attendance and participation are essential to the learning process and essential to your final grade. Not attending class will lower your grade.
- 2). **Do the reading**. As you can tell from the class schedule, there is a large amount of reading required for this class. Do your best to keep up with all of the readings.
- 3). **Turn-in assignments on time!** **The penalty for late assignments is 2% per day. After 5 days, the assignment will no longer be accepted and you will receive the grade of “F” for the assignment. All late assignments must be handed-in at the history department, timed stamped and placed in my mailbox. NO assignments will be accepted via email.** Exceptions to this will only be granted in the case of a serious, verifiable emergency. If this occurs, it is your responsibility to notify your instructor in the case of an extended absence. It only takes a minute to send an email!

How you are evaluated: You will be evaluated in several areas:

- 1). 2 Historiographic Surveys (5-7 pages) @ 20% each accounting for 40% of your final grade.
- 2). 1 Book Review (5-7 pages) accounting for 25% of your final grade.
- 3). 1 Final Examination accounting for 30% of your final grade.
- 4). Class Participation accounting for 5% of your final grade.

Instructions on how to complete surveys and reviews are attached.

Tentative Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

Week 1

7/3 Introductions, Expectations and Course Mechanics. Defining the Holocaust. Jewish History Overview.
Reading: DVP xvii-xx, N&N 3-70, Stone vii-8, M&M, xv-39.

7/5 Modern German History, 1789-1933.
Reading: DVP 3-62, Stone 9-23, M&M, 40-62.

Week 2

7/10 Germany, National Socialism and the Jews, 1933-1938.
Reading: DVP 63-102, Stone 24-64, M&M, 62-86.

7/12 World War II and Nazi Jewish Policy, 1939-1941.
Reading: DVP 133-238, N&N 71-82, Stone 65-119.

Week 3

7/17 "Fateful Months": The Invasion of the Soviet Union and Mass Killing, Summer/Fall 1941-January 1942.
Reading: DVP 239-284, Stone 173-196, M&M 86-97.

7/19 The Final Solution, 1942-1943. *****Historiographic Survey #1 DUE*****
Reading: DVP 285-315, Stone 533-555, Arendt ALL.

Week 4

7/24 The Final Solution, 1944-1945.
Reading: DVP 365-374, Stone 216-252, 383-396, Arendt ALL.

7/26 The Perpetrators and Institutions of the Holocaust. *****Last class period before final withdraw date (7/30/07)*****
Reading: N&N 83-96, Stone 120-172, 197-252, Arendt ALL.

Week 5

7/31 The Victims of the Holocaust. **Review of Arendt due.**
Reading: N&N 97-108, Stone 364-396, M&M 193-253, 363-385.

8/2 Bystanders, Resistance and Rescue.
Reading: DVP 316-355, N&N 109-128, Stone 253-363, M&M, 254-362

Week 6

8/7 Memory and Memorialization.
Reading: Stone, 487-531, M&M 410-447.

8/9 Epilogue: The Holocaust, 1945-2007. *****Historiographic Survey #2 DUE*****
Course Evaluations
Reading: DVP 375-386, N&N 129-138, Stone 420-486, 533-555, M&M 503-560.

Final Exam will be take-home and is due at our scheduled exam place/time. August 14, 2007. Location TBA.

Instructions for Completing Assignments in History 497

As stated in the syllabus, each student enrolled in History 497 will complete two historiographic reviews and one book review. Accounting for over 1/2 of your final grade, these assignments are crucial to your success in History 497 and therefore it is important that you understand how to complete them.

Historiographic Surveys

Historiography plays an important role in understanding the Holocaust. Examining how the event is interpreted is important in understanding not only why and how it happened, but also allows to us to understand how it is viewed in the present. Each student enrolled in History 497 will therefore complete 2 historiographic surveys of one of the many debates surrounding the Holocaust. Examples of these debates can be found in both Niewyk and Nicosia and Mitchell and Mitchell, as well as, Stone's *Historiography of the Holocaust*. Each paper should be between 5-7 pages in length (typed and double-spaced, using 12 point font) and examine a single debate. Your paper should be based primarily on the readings in Stone, but must also utilize material from N&N and M&M. Although using outside sources is not required, it is strongly encouraged to help bolster your argument and therefore, may result in a better grade.

Due dates for each paper are indicated in the syllabus and you may choose any debate covered in N&N, M&M or Stone for your survey. In addition to the debates outlined in the course texts, students may choose a different debate in consultation with the instructor.

A successful historiographic survey will address the following:

- 1). Identify and define the main question of the debate.
- 2). Identify and discuss the various arguments surrounding the debate.
- 3). Identify and analyze the most persuasive (in your opinion) argument.
- 4). Explain why it is the most persuasive (in your opinion).
- 5). Identify the importance of the debate to the overall study of the Holocaust.

Examples of Historiographic Debates

The Intentionalist/Functionalist Debate	The Sonderweg Debate
The Role of the Churches	The Historikerstreit
Holocaust Survivors and Memory	The Role of Big Business
The Role of the Judenrät	The Possibility of Rescue

Book Review

Each student enrolled in History 497 will complete a review of Hannah Arendt's, *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. The review should be between 5-7 pages in length (typed and double-spaced, using 12 point font).

The publication of Arendt's book in the 1960s is a watershed in the historiography of the Holocaust. For the first time since the end of the war, the Holocaust re-entered public dialogue, especially in North America. It was also quite controversial in its discussion of the role of the victims' of the Holocaust. Keeping this background in mind, your review should specifically address/answer the following questions in some detail:

- 1). Is there a thesis to the book? If so, what it is?
- 2). What does Arendt conclude about Eichmann and the crimes he committed?
- 3). What does Arendt conclude about the role of the victims of the Holocaust, especially the role of the Judenrät?
- 4). How does Arendt view the trial? Does she portray the prosecution negatively or positively?
- 4). What is the importance of the book and where does it fit within Holocaust Historiography?

Again, using outside sources is not required, it is however, strongly encouraged to help bolster your argument and therefore, may result in a better grade. Material such as book reviews and articles about Arendt's book abound, however, you may NOT USE internet sources without prior consultation with the instructor (book reviews and articles found online are acceptable).

While I do not specifically grade for grammar, spelling and style, excessive errors will result in a grade reduction. Take the extra-time to PROOF-READ your work, ask a friend, relative or colleague to PROOF-READ it as well.

All assignments for History 497 should be properly documented using either Kate Turabian's, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations* or *The Chicago Manual of Style*. The Leddy Library has multiple copies of each book. For more information about Turabian and the Chicago Manual of Style, see:

<http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChiNotes.html>

