

# Course Syllabus

## Freshman Seminar: The Holocaust in Historical Perspective

22815 - HIST 0970R - S01 Fall 2014

Tues. 6pm-8:20pm: Pavilion Room, Peter Green House, 79 Brown St.

Enrollment limited to 20. Written permission required

This course will analyze the Nazi destruction of the European Jews both within the wider historical context of genocidal thinking and practices in the modern era and from the event's "heart of darkness." We will also examine the aftermath of the Holocaust and attempts to reconstruct its facts, bring its perpetrators to justice, and historicize it within a framework of crimes against humanity more generally. Students will read a wide variety of recent historical studies as well as a range of contemporary documents. Another crucial "text" for the course is Claude Lanzmann's film *Shoah* and the text of the film published under the same title, which is on the required readings list. Students need to have watched the entire film (some 8.5 hours) and to have read the text by Week 12.

Students are required to present 3 papers during the semester: The first on racism and antisemitism; the second on implementation; and the third on the aftermath. Each paper must include discussions of historiography, documentation, and, where relevant, testimony. Papers may not exceed 5 pages each. The grade will consist of 25% per paper, and 25% for participation in class discussions.

### ***Schedule:***

#### **Week 1: Introduction**

Introduction to Omer Bartov, *The Holocaust: Origins, Implementation, Aftermath*, 2nd ed. [pdf](#) 




#### **Origins: racism and antisemitism**

#### **Week 2: Colonialism, antisemitism, and genocide**

Cathie Carmichael, 56-70 [pdf](#)


Gigliotti 11-43; Hochstadt, 7-28

### **Week 3: Judeophobia and Nazism**

Philippe Burrin, 39-63 [pdf](#) 

Gigliotti, 44-81

### **Week 4: Racial science and mass murder**

Isabel Heinemann, 35-59 [pdf](#) 

Gigliotti, 92-123; Hochstadt, 29-31

### **Implementation: normalizing genocide**

### **Week 5: Camps and Ghettos**

Wolf Gruner, 177-195 [pdf](#); Dieter Pohl, 149-166 [pdf](#)

Gigliotti, 124-69; Hochstadt, 85-94, 98-102, 181-82, 242-45

*\* First paper due \**

### **Week 6: Decision-making in the “Final Solution”**

Peter Longerich, 422-435 [pdf](#)

Gigliotti, 171-219; Hochstadt, 110-36

### **Week 7: The Perpetrator’s Perspective**

Ernst Klee, et al., 87-107 [pdf](#)


Hochstadt, 95-7, 103-5, 108-9, 137-49, 152-7, 161-5, 170-8, 190-4, 205-7, 214-26

### **Week 8: Jewish women: normality and atrocity**

Marion Kaplan, 39-54 [pdf](#); Helene Sinnreich, 1-22 [pdf](#) 


Gigliotti, 376-86; Hochstadt, 39-46, 56-65, 73-82, 211-13, 227-34, 248-54

### **Week 9: Leaders and children in the Ghettos**

Gordon Horwitz, 192-231 [pdf](#); Janusz Korczak, 100-115 [pdf](#) 

Gigliotti, 307-75; Hochstadt, 195-199


### **Week 10: Collaboration and Resistance**

Gideon Greif, 37-60 [pdf](#) 

Hochstadt, 150-1, 158-60, 186-9, 208-10, 235-41, 246-7

### **Aftermath: testimony, justice, and continuity**


### **Week 11: Testimonies of genocide**

Omer Bartov, 486-511 [pdf](#) 

Gigliotti, 264-300

*\* Second paper due \**

### **Week 12: Historical Commissions**

Laura Jockusch, 441-473 [pdf](#) 

Lanzmann, *Shoah* (film and book)

### **Week 13: Reconceptualizing Crimes and Justice**

Alexa Stiller, 104-133 [pdf](#)

Gigliotti, 301-5, 389-419; Hochstadt, 255-99

### **Week 14: The Holocaust and Comparative Genocide**

Maureen Hiebert, 309-339 [pdf](#)

Gigliotti, 448-62

*\* Third paper due on December 11 \**

### ***Required Reading (books available in bookstore and library):***

Simone Gigliotti and Berel Lang, eds., *The Holocaust: A Reader*

Steve Hochstadt, ed., *Sources of the Holocaust*

Claude Lanzmann, *Shoah: An Oral History of the Holocaust*

**All other readings are available through Canvas**