



CIEE Global Institute – Berlin

Course name:	Holocaust Studies
Course number:	HIST 3005 BRGE
Programs offering course:	Berlin Open Campus, Berlin Global Architecture and Design
Open Campus Track:	Language, Literature and Culture
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2020

Course Description

This course introduces some of the major questions and historical debates that continue to surround the origins, implementation, and aftermath of the Holocaust – the systematic, industrialized mass murder of an estimated six million European Jews, as well as homosexuals, communists, Roma and Sinti, handicapped, and other victims by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during WWII. The first part of the course will focus on the historical context, planning and execution of the Holocaust. The second part of the course will introduce you to the major historiographical debates in the post-war period. The third part of the course will focus on memorialization and the politics of memory in contemporary Germany. Because this course takes place in Berlin, the former Nazi capital, where the political and logistical decisions for the Final Solution were made, special attention will be given to issues in Holocaust studies that are peculiar to Germany as the country of the perpetrators, namely domestic German controversies about Holocaust memorialization, the place of the Holocaust in German national self-understanding, and more broadly the concept of “coming to terms with the past” (*Vergangenheitsbewältigung*)

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss the historical context preceding and during the Holocaust.
- Discuss the central events of the Holocaust, including its planning and execution.
- Compare and contrast different ways historians have approached their analyses of the Holocaust, beginning in the immediate postwar period and lasting until today.
- Identify and evaluate major historical debates in Holocaust studies including issues of Holocaust memorialization and the politics of memory.



- Develop skills in presenting arguments with clarity and precision in written and oral contexts

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

This course is taught through lectures, discussion of the assigned readings, and the study of images. Visits to key sites in Berlin will be incorporated into the instruction.

Assessment and Final Grade

Students will be assessed according to the following criteria:

1. Paper 1:	10%
2. Group Presentation:	15%
3. Paper 2:	10%
4. Midterm Exam:	20%
5. Final Exam:	25%
6. Participation:	20%
TOTAL:	100%

Course Requirements

Paper 1

This will be a short, 750-word paper on the first excursion on Jewish Berlin and the Kaplan reading from Week 2. Students will write a reflection comparing the two and examine the problem of social life and social death of Jews in German history

Group Presentation

Each student will be part of a group and responsible for making a 15-minute presentation on a specific aspect of a Berlin memorial and how it relates to Holocaust memory. The presentations will take place during the Memory Walk excursions in the final week of the course. The groups and the specific questions to be answered will be determined in class in Week 4.



Paper 2

A written version of the presentation (approximately 750 words) will also be submitted as the second writing assignment before the day of the presentation.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will consist of short ID and essay questions.

Final Exam

The midterm exam will consist of short ID and essay questions. It will be both cumulative and analytic.

Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, unexcused absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a 3% reduction in the final course grade and a written warning from the Academic Director, including notification to the student's home school. Unexcused absences that constitute more than 20% of the total course will result in automatic course failure and possible expulsion.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for



personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

An absence in a CIEE course will only be considered excused if:

- a doctor's note is provided
- a CIEE staff member verifies that the student was too ill to attend class
- satisfactory evidence is provided of a family emergency

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Unexcused absences will lead to the following penalties:

<i>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</i>	<i>Equivalent Number of Open Campus Semester classes</i>	<i>Minimum Penalty</i>
Up to 10%	1 content classes, or up to 2 language classes	Participation graded as per class requirements
10 – 20%	2 content classes, or 3-4 language classes	Final course grade is marked down by 3%; written warning; Participation graded as per class requirements
More than 20%	3 content classes, or 5 language classes	Automatic course failure , and possible expulsion; student is notified in writing

Weekly Schedule

NOTE: this schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to take advantage of current experiential learning opportunities.

Week 1 Introduction

Class 1.1 Overview of the course
Introduction to Modern anti-Semitism

In-class documents/sources:

Herzl, *The Jewish State*, 85–97

Kastan, "A General Assembly of German Israelites" (1893)

Drumont, "Jewish France" in Perry, *Sources of the Western Tradition*

Class 1.2

Jewish Berlin

A walk along Oranienburger Straße, from Hackescher Markt to Tucholskystraße, including a visit to Grosse Hamburger Straße Cemetery

Reading:

Raul Hilberg, "The Destruction of European Jews: Precedents" in Bartov, ed., *The Holocaust*

Online Resource:

<http://www.jg-berlin.org/en/judaism/cemeteries/grosse-hamburger-strasse.html>

Week 2

Weimar Germany and the Third Reich

Class 2.1

The Nazi Rise to Power and NS Ideology

In-class sources: NSDAP 25 Points; Nuremberg Racial Laws (The Reich Citizenship Law [September 15, 1935] and the First Regulation to the Reich Citizenship Law [November 14, 1935])

Reading:

Kershaw, "The Hitler Myth"

Hitler, selections from "Nation and Race" from *Mein Kampf* in Gigliotti and Lang, *The Holocaust: A Reader*, 68–81

Class 2.2

Victim Groups and Stages of Persecution

The Jewish Question; concentration camps; death camps

In-class sources: Hitler's Reichstag Speech (January 30, 1939)

Reading:

Friedländer, "Redemptive Anti-Semitism", in *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, 73–112.

Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, vii–xii, 3-49



Week 3 World War II and the Holocaust

Class 3.1 War, Perpetrators, and Genocide

In-class documents/sources:

Göring Order to Heydrich (31 July 1941)

Himmler Address to SS at Posen (4 October 1943)

Reading:

Browning, *Ordinary Men*, 1–79

Due Date for Submission of Paper 1

Class 3.2 Victims' Voices

Reading:

Levi, "The Grey Zone" in *The Drowned and the Saved*, 36–69

Delbo, *Days and Memory* (excerpts)

Class 3.3 Site Visit: Sachsenhausen Memorial

Reading:

Bergen, *War and Genocide*, 207–235

Omer Bartov, "Defining Enemies, Making Victims: Germans, Jews, and the Holocaust"

Week 4 Memory and Remembrance

Class 4.1 Cultural Memory

Reading:

Spiegelman, *Maus I* (required); *Maus II* (recommended)

Midterm Exam Completed in Class



Class 4.2 Memorialization

Reading:

Young, "Germany's Holocaust Memorial Problem and Mine" in *At Memory's Edge*, 184–223

Class 4.3 Site Visit: Otto Weidt Museum

Reading:

[Biographical overview of Inge Deutschkron](#), who found protection and received support from Otto Weidt.

Week 5 Memory and Remembrance

Class 5.1 Memory Walk

Sites visited include Stolpersteine along Auguststraße, "The Empty Room," "The Missing House," The Former Jewish Girls' School

Reading:

Theodor Adorno, "What does Coming to Terms with the Past Mean?" in Harman, *Bitburg in Moral and Political Perspective*, pp. 114-129.

Due date for Submission of Paper 2

Group Presentation

Class 5.2 Memory Walk (Continued)

Sites include: The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, The Memorial to the Sinti and Roma Victims of National Socialism, The Memorial to Homosexuals Persecuted under Nazism

Reading:

Jonathan Ahr, "Memory and Mourning in Berlin: On Peter Eisenman's Holocaust Mahnmahl"

Group Presentation (Part 2)



Week 6

Class 6.1 Genocide Studies

Reading:

Moses, "Raphael Lemkin, Culture, and the Concept of Genocide" in Bloxham and Moses, eds., *The Oxford Handbook on Genocide Studies*, 19–41

Zimmerer, "Colonialism and the Holocaust – Towards an Archeology of Genocide" in *Development Dialogue* 50, December 2008, 95–124

Class 6.2 Conclusion

Final Exam Completed in Class

Reading:

Ahr, Jonathan. "Memory and Mourning in Berlin: On Peter Eisenman's Holocaust Mahnmahl," *Modern Judaism*, 28.3, pp. 283–305.

Bartov, Omer. "Defining Enemies, Making Victims: Germans, Jews, and the Holocaust," *The American Historical Review* Vol. 103, No. 3 (Jun., 1998), pp. 771–816.

Bartov, Omer, ed., *The Holocaust: Origins, Implementation, Aftermath*. Routledge, 2000.

Bergen, Doris. *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2016.

Bloxham Donald and A. Dirk Moses, eds. *The Oxford Handbook on Genocide Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Browning, Christopher. *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1998.

Delbo, Charlotte. *Days and Memory*. Chicago: Northwestern University Press, 2001.

Friedländer, Saul. *Nazi Germany and the Jews, Vol. 1, The Years of Persecution, 1933-1939*. New York: HarperCollins, 1997.

Gigliotti, Simone and Berel Lang, eds. *The Holocaust: A Reader*. New York: Wiley Blackwell, 2005.

Harman, Geoffrey H. *Bitburg in Moral and Political Perspective*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986.

Herzl, Theodor. *The Jewish State*. New York: American Zionist Emergency Council, 1946.

Kaplan, Marion. *Between Dignity and Despair*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Kastan, J. "Eine Generalversammlung deutscher Israeliten" ["A General Assembly of German Israelites"], *Allgemeine Zeitung des Judenthums* (March 31, 1893), 148-49.

Kershaw, Ian. "The Hitler Myth", *History Today* 35 (11), November 1985.

Levi, Primo. *The Drowned and the Saved and Survival in Auschwitz*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2017.

Perry, Marvin. *Sources of the Western Tradition Volume II: From the Renaissance to the Present*. 9th ed. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage, 2014.

Spiegelman, Art. *The Complete Maus*. New York: Penguin Books, 1991.

United States Chief Counsel for the Prosecution of Axis Criminality, *Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression*, Volume IV. Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office, 1946. Documents 1416-PS and 1417-PS, -10.

Young, James E. *At Memory's Edge: After-Images of the Holocaust in Contemporary Art and Architecture*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000.