



CIEE Global Institute – Berlin

Course name:	Holocaust Studies
Course number:	HIST 3005 BRGE
Programs offering course:	Summer in Berlin
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Summer 2020, Session III

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the history and study of the Holocaust. 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 students to the evolution of Holocaust studies beginning in the immediate postwar environment (Nuremberg Trials) and continuing through the latest trends in Holocaust scholarship. The third part of the course will focus on the writings of Holocaust survivors. The course will end with an analysis of film treatments of the Holocaust and other cultural production from the 1950s until the present day. Because this course takes place in Berlin, special attention will be given to Berlin and German-specific issues in Holocaust studies, namely questions of Holocaust memorialization, Holocaust and German national self-understanding, and more broadly the concept of “coming to terms with the past.”

Learning Objectives

This course will allow students the opportunity 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 the major historical debates in Holocaust studies.
- Compare major literary, artistic and poetic responses to the Holocaust.
- Debate issues of Holocaust memorialization and the politics of memory.
- Analyze various types of film narratives of the Holocaust.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

This course is taught through lectures, discussion of the assigned readings, and the study of



images. Students will be required to complete mid-term and final exams, as well as complete a short presentation. 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. Short Presentation:	10%
2. Reading Summaries:	15%
3. Midterm:	20%
4. Final Exam:	30%
5. Participation:	25%
TOTAL:	100%

Course Requirements

Reading Summaries

Students will submit a reading summary (approximately 250 words) before each class session. The summary should identify the main points of the reading(s), such as the argument and its stakes.

Short Presentation

Students will all prepare short presentations (of no more than 10 minutes) on local Holocaust memorials. More information will be provided in class.

Midterm and Final Exams

Cumulative exams will be given in class at the midterm and on the final day of the course. The exams will consist of four short IDs and two essays.

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 written warning.

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.

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>Minimum Penalty</i>
Up to 10%	Participation graded as per class requirements
10 – 20%	Participation graded as per class requirements; written warning
More than 20%	Automatic course failure , and possible expulsion



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

Class 1.1 Introduction
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 Holocaust Memorials Walking Tour

Week 2

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

Reading Summary Due

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

Reading Summary Due

Class 2.3 Site Visit: Sachsenhausen Memorial

Week 3

Class 3.1 War, Perpetrators, and Genocide

Reading:

Browning, *Ordinary Men*, 1–79

Reading Summary Due

Class 3.2 Midterm and Victims' Voices

Reading:

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

Reading Summary Due

Midterm Exam Completed in Class

Class 3.3 Memorialization

Reading:

Media coverage of the "Yolocaust" project

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

Due Date for Submission of Short Presentation

Reading Summary Due

Week 4



Class 4.1 Cultural Memory

Reading:

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

Reading Summary Due

Class 4.2 Site Visit: Otto Weidt Museum

Class 4.3 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

Reading Summary Due

Class 4.4 Final Discussion and Final Exam

Final Exam Completed in Class

Reading:

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.

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.

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), pp. 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, pp. 7-10.

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