

PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS

V78.0685
Spring 2006

Laura Jockusch
Office: 51 Washington Square South
Room 206, Tel. 998-8973
Email: lj264@nyu.edu

The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews

This course provides an overview on the encounter of the Third Reich and the Jews of Europe, discussing the historical events and exploring the possible reasons why 5.8 million Jews died. It investigates the ideological roots of the decision for mass murder, discusses the nature of the Third Reich and the developments of National Socialist policies towards the Jews of Europe. Likewise, it dedicates major attention to Jewish responses to these policies in different European countries. Moreover, this course explores the roles of non-Jews as bystanders, rescuers or collaborators in and outside of Europe. Last but not least, it also introduces students to some of the problems and controversies that characterize the current scholarship on the Holocaust.

1. Introduction

January 16:

Defining the terms Holocaust, Genocide, *Shoah* and *Khurbn*
Was the Holocaust unique?
Why study the Holocaust historically?
Central questions in the study of the Holocaust

Reading: D. Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*, Harlow: Longman, 2000, pp.1-13; doc. 1.

2. Historical Context—Why Germany?

From Empire to Dictatorship: Germany in the nineteenth and twentieth Centuries

January 18:

Germany's quest for national unification
The German Empire 1871-1918
The history of German anti-Semitism in the Imperial period

January 23:

The First World War and its aftermath
The years of the Weimar Republic 1918-1933

Reading:

D. Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*, pp. 20-25.

S. Volkov, "The Written Matter and the Spoken Word," in: François Furet, *Unanswered Questions: Nazi Germany and the Genocide of the Jews*, New York 1989, pp. 33-53.*
S. Friedländer, *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, vol. I, New York: Harper Collins, 1997, pp. 9-40.

January 25:

Hitler's rise to power
The institutionalization of the National Socialist state

Reading:

Allen, William S., *The Nazi Seizure of Power: The Experience of a Single German Town 1930-1935*, passim

3. The Ideological Basis of the Nazi Regime

January 30:

The Jews in Hitler's worldview
Nazi ideology and program
How Nazi ideology was institutionalized

Reading:

D. Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*, pp. 14-20; docs. 2 and 3.
S. Friedländer, *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, 1997, pp. 73-112.
A. Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1971, pp. 84-329.*
Y. Arad et al. eds., *Documents on the Holocaust*, Jerusalem 1981, docs.1, 4,5.

4. Anti-Jewish Actions 1933-1939: Legislation, Boycott, Expropriation and forced Emigration

February 1:

The years 1933-1936:
Street violence versus legislation
Boycott of Jewish businesses
The Nuremberg Laws

February 6:

The years 1936-1939:
The *Anschluß* of Austria
The *Kristallnacht*-Pogrom
The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia

Reading:

D. Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*, pp. 26-37; docs. 5, 6.
K. Schleunes, "Retracing the Twisted Road," in: François Furet, *Unanswered Questions: Nazi Germany and the Genocide of the Jews*, pp. 54-70.*
S. Friedländer, *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, 1997, pp. 113-173; 241-305.
Y. Arad et al. eds., *Documents on the Holocaust*, docs. 7-11, 30-36, 43-50, 52, 53.

5. International Responses to Nazi Persecution

February 8:

Nazi emigration policy

The refugee crisis and the Evian Conference

Reading:

D. Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*, pp. 47-49.

H. Feingold, *The Politics of Rescue: The Roosevelt Administration and the Holocaust, 1938-1945*, New Brunswick, 1970, pp. 3-68.*

B. Wasserstein, *Britain and the Jews of Europe, 1939-1945*, Oxford 1979, pp. 1-39.*

Y. Arad et al. eds., *Documents on the Holocaust*, docs. 20, 42, 47.

6. The German Jewish Response to Nazi Persecution

February 13:

The history of German Jewry since the age of Emancipation

February 15:

German Jewish communal leadership between optimism and resistance

The *Kulturbund*, the *Reichsvertretung* of German Jews and the *Reichsvereinigung* of the Jews in Germany.

Reading:

D. Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*, pp. 38-47; docs. 7, 8, 9.

M. Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair, Jewish Life in Nazi Germany*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998, pp. 17-73, 119-144.

S. Friedländer, *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, pp. 60-68.

Y. Arad et al. eds., *Documents on the Holocaust*, docs. 14-16, 21, 22, 38.

7. Organizing the Holocaust

February 20:

The “Jewish Question” and the war

Initial German plans in Poland: The Nisko Reservation

February 22:

Ghettoization and deportation

The ghettos of Lodz and Warsaw

Reading:

D. Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*, docs. 10, 16.

Ch. Browning, *The Path to Genocide*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992, pp. 1-57.*

———, *Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers and German Killers*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000, pp. 1-25.

Y. Arad et al. eds., *Documents on the Holocaust*, docs. 63, 65, 67, 68, 88, 90, 160, 161, 169, 170.

8. Mass Murder

February 27:

From mass shootings to killing centers
“Operation Barbarossa” and the *Einsatzgruppen*

March 1: Review

March 6: Midterm exam

March 8 (Chapter 8 continued!)

Mass murder is institutionalized: from Chełmno to “Operation Reinhard”

March 13, No Class—Spring Break

March 15, No Class—Spring Break

March 20:

Mass murder is made a global policy: The Wannsee Conference and its aftermath

Reading:

D. Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*, pp. 50-61; docs. 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 28.

Ch. Browning, “The Decision Concerning the Final Solution,” in: François Furet, *Unanswered Questions: Nazi Germany and the Genocide of the Jews*, pp. 96-118.*

———, *Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers and German Killers*, pp. 116-169.

———, *Ordinary Men: The Reserve Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*, New York: Harper Collins, 1992, (optional but highly recommended!!!!)

M. Marrus and R. Paxton, “The Nazis and the Jews in Occupied Europe, 1940-1944, in: François Furet, *Unanswered Questions: Nazi Germany and the Genocide of the Jews*, pp. 172-198.*

9. Strategies for Jewish Survival

March 22 and 27:

The official Jewish leadership:

The Jewish Councils and mass deportation

Reading:

D. Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*, pp. 62-69; docs. 20, 21, 22, 23,

R. Brahm, “The Jewish Councils,” in: François Furet, *Unanswered Question: Nazi Germany and the Genocide of the Jews*, pp. 252-274.*

I. Trunk, *Judenrat. The Jewish Councils in Eastern Europe Under Nazi Occupation*, Lincoln 1972, pp. 388-450. (optional!)*

Ch. Browning, *Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers and German Killers*, pp. 58-115.

Y. Arad et al. eds., *Documents on the Holocaust*, docs. 187-189, 198.

March 29:

The alternative Jewish leadership:

The ghetto underground and the question of resistance

April 3:

The alternative Jewish leadership:
Armed resistance in ghettos, camps, and forests

Readings:

D. Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*, pp. 69-71; docs.15, 18, 19, 24.
Y. Bauer, "Jewish Resistance and Passivity in the Face of the Holocaust," in: François Furet, *Unanswered Questions: Nazi Germany and the Genocide of the Jews*, pp. 235-251.*
Y. Gutman, *The Jews of Warsaw, 1939-1943: Ghetto, Underground, Revolt*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1982, pp. 119-154, 228-249.*

10. Collaborators, Bystanders, Rescuers

April 5:

Non-Jewish responses to the fate of the Jews

April 10:

Possibilities and constraints of rescue

Readings:

D. Engel, *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*, pp. 72-80; docs. 25, 26, 27.
R. Hilberg, *Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders: The Jewish Catastrophe 1933-1945*, New York: Harper Collins, 1992, pp. 195-268.*
D. Engel, *In the Shadow of Auschwitz: The Polish Government-in-Exile and the Jews, 1939-1942*, Chapel Hill and London, pp. 157-202.*
J. Gross, *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001, pp. 3-163.*
E. Ringelblum, *Polish Jewish Relations During the Second World War*, Evanston IL, 1984, pp. 100-151. (optional!)*

11. In the Aftermath of the Holocaust

April 12:

From liberation to reconstruction: Holocaust survivors and the rebuilding of Jewish communities in Europe

April 17:

Holocaust on Trial: Allied justice, German crimes and Jewish victimhood

April 19:

The beginnings of Holocaust research in postwar Europe and the major debates in the scholarship today.

12. Conclusion

April 24: Towards an explanation of why the Holocaust happened in Germany

April 26: **Review**

All the texts marked with a * will be available on Blackboard. The following books can be purchased at the NYU bookstore:

Arad, Y. et al. eds., *Documents on the Holocaust*, Jerusalem 1981.

Browning, Ch., *Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers and German Killers*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

———., *Ordinary Men: The Reserve Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*, New York: Harper Collins, 1992.

Engel, D., *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*, Harlow: Longman, 2000.

Friedländer, S., *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, vol. I, New York: Herper Collins, 1997.

Kaplan, M., *Between Dignity and Despair, Jewish Life in Nazi Germany*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Course requirements: Students are required to attend classes and engage in discussion. They must do the weekly readings. There will be an in-class midterm and a final exam based on identifications and an essay. Students may enhance their grades by writing an optional 3,000 word paper.