HISTORY 444
The Holocaust in History and Literature
Spring 2014
MWF 11:00am-11:50am
Room: 1326 Faner Hall

Instructor: Jonathan Wiesen
Office: 3181 Faner Hall
Phone: 453-7873
Email: jwiesen@siu.edu
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 12:30pm to 3:00pm
Friday, 9:00am to 10:00am

Course Description: This course introduces students to Nazi Germany’s systematic mass murder of Europe’s Jews and other minorities during the Second World War. While its primary focus is the history of these genocides and the historical discussions and debates that have arisen since 1945, it also attempts to present the students with a literary perspective on the Holocaust. Topics to be covered include the history of anti-Semitism, the debate over the role of Hitler in the Holocaust, the mindset of the perpetrators, Jewish reactions to the Holocaust, Holocaust denial, the “uniqueness” of the Holocaust, and memory after Auschwitz. We will read documents from the time period, contemporary historical studies on the Holocaust, and survivor accounts of their experiences.

Format and Expectations: Classes will meet on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays. Regular attendance is required to achieve a good grade. More than three unexcused absences may result in a lower final grade. Discuss ions are an integral part of the course, and you are expected to come to class with the assigned readings, prepared to participate actively. Those who are shy or otherwise inhibited are encouraged to speak to me outside of class so that we can together devise ways of increasing your comfort level.

Assignments and Grading: Final grades will be calculated using the formula below. I will apply these grades with some flexibility. Solid class participation and/or improvement over the course of the semester might weigh more heavily in the final grade than indicated below, as will, conversely, a lack of initiative or missed classes. The three papers will be based on a specific book or set of readings. Paper topics will be distributed about two weeks beforehand in class. Papers are due at the beginning of the class on the dates indicated below. Late papers will be marked down a grade a day. You will occasionally be expected to turn in a short weekly assignment—such as a paragraph, a single page, or a list of questions—in preparation for discussion. These will be graded with a check or check plus and will contribute to your overall participation grade.

3 Papers (4-5 pages each) 200 points each
Exam 100 points
Final Exam 150 points
Participation 150 points

At the end of the semester, the points will correspond to the following letter grades:
Total of 1000 points: 900-1000 = A, 800-899 = B, 700-799 = C, 600-699 = D, Below 600 = F

**Books:** The following books are available at the University Bookstore and 710 Bookstore. One copy of each book has also been placed on reserve at Morris Library.

- Rita Botwinick, *A Holocaust Reader*
- Marion Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*
- Gita Sereny, *Into That Darkness*
- Tadeusz Borowski, *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen*
- Cynthia Ozick, *The Shawl*
- Art Spiegelman, *Maus I (My Father Bleeds History)*

**Weekly Topic Outline and Assignments**

### Week 1
- **Jan. 13**  
  Course Overview/Why Study the Holocaust?
- **Jan. 15**  
  The “Old World” of Jewish Europe
- **Jan. 17**  
  Discussion of Readings

**Readings:**  
Botwinick, 24-36, 40-44

### Week 2
- **Jan. 20**  
  No Class/Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
- **Jan. 22**  
  Jewish Emancipation and Assimilation
- **Jan. 24**  
  Anti-Semitism: The History of an Ideology

**Readings:**  
Bergen, Ch. 1  
Botwinick, 1-23, 124-27

### Week 3
- **Jan. 27**  
  Germany after World War I and the Rise of Hitler
- **Jan. 29**  
  The Great Depression and the Triumph of Nazism
- **Jan. 31**  
  Discussion

**Readings:**  
Bergen, Ch. 2  
Botwinick, 45-64, 132-35

### Week 4
- **Feb. 3**  
  The “Third Reich” and Racial Persecution; **FIRST PAPER DUE**
- **Feb. 5**  
  Jewish Reactions to Persecution, 1933-38
- **Feb. 7**  
  Discussion

**Readings:**  
Bergen, Ch. 3  
Kaplan, 1-119  
Botwinick, 112-23
Week 5
Feb. 10  The Escalation of Terror
Feb. 12  World War II
Feb. 14  Discussion

Readings:  Bergen, Chs. 4 and 5
           Sereny, 21-90
           Kaplan, 119-201

Week 6
Feb. 17  The “Final Solution” I: Planning
Feb. 19  The “Final Solution” II: Implementation
Feb. 21  Discussion

Readings:  Bergen, Ch. 6
           Botwinick, 162-77
           Sereny, 93-142

Week 7
Feb. 24  The Nazi Perpetrator I
Feb. 26  The Nazi Perpetrator II
Feb. 28  Wrap-up discussion of Sereny

Readings:  Sereny, 145-250

Week 8
March 3  Film: Lodz Ghetto (part 1)
March 5  Film: Lodz Ghetto (part 2)
March 7  Discussion of Lodz Ghetto and readings on ghettos; SECOND PAPER DUE

Readings:  Bergen, Ch. 7 (pp. 167-203)
           Botwinick, 65-88, 145-52, 154-61

Spring Break, March 10 through March 14

Week 9
March 17  Life in the Concentration and Death Camps
March 19  Slave Labor
March 21  Discussion

Readings:  Borowski (entire)

Week 10
March 24  Resistance
March 26  Heroes and Rescuers
March 28  Discussion
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<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>March 31</td>
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<td>The End of the Holocaust</td>
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<td>April 2</td>
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<td>EXAM</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<th>Readings:</th>
<th>Bergen, Ch. 7 (pp. 203-14)</th>
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<td>Botwinick, 153-54, 187-205</td>
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<th>Week 12</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>April 7</td>
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<td>Film on the Liberation of the Camps</td>
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<td>April 9</td>
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<td>Discussion of Film</td>
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<td>April 11</td>
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<td>War Crimes Trials and Postwar Memory</td>
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<th>Readings:</th>
<th>Bergen, Ch. 8</th>
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<td>Botwinick, 177-186</td>
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<th>Week 13</th>
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<td>April 14</td>
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<td>TV, Music, Poetry, and the Holocaust</td>
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<td>April 16</td>
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<td>Literature and the Holocaust: Discussion of Ozick and Spiegelman</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
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<td>Art, Hollywood, and the Holocaust</td>
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| Readings: | Spiegelman (entire) |

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<th>Week 14</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>April 21</td>
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<td>Jewish Life After the Holocaust</td>
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<td>April 23</td>
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<td>Excerpts from Film Shoah</td>
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<td>April 25</td>
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<td>Discussion; THIRD PAPER DUE</td>
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| Readings: | Bergen, Conclusion |

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<td>April 28</td>
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<td>Lecture and Discussion: Holocaust Denial</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
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<td>Lecture and Discussion: The Uniqueness of the Holocaust</td>
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<td>May 2</td>
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<td>Review for Final</td>
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| Readings: | Handouts on Holocaust denial |

**Final Exam:** Tuesday, May 6, 12:50 to 2:50
Syllabus Attachment

Spring 2014

http://pvcaa.siu.edu/ ....................................................

IMPORTANT DATES +Semester Class Begins: 01/13/2014 Last day to add a class (without instructor permission): 01/24/2014 Last day to withdraw completely and receive a 100% refund: 01/26/2014 Last day to drop a course using SalukiNet: 03/23/2014 Last day to file diploma application (for name to appear in Commencement program): 03/28/2014 Final examinations: 5/5 – 5/9/2014 * Note: For outreach, online, and short course drop/add dates, visit Registrar’s Academic webpage http://registrar.siu.edu/ SPRING SEMESTER HOLIDAYS

Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday 01/20/2014 Spring Vacation 03/08 – 03/16/2014

WITHDRAWAL POLICY – Undergraduate only Students who officially register for a session may not withdraw merely by the stopping of attendance. An official withdrawal form needs to be initiated by the student and processed by the University. For the proper procedures to follow when dropping courses and when withdrawing from the University, please visit http://registrar.siu.edu/pdf/ugradcatalog1314.pdf INCOMPLETE POLICY – Undergraduate only An INC is assigned when, for reasons beyond their control, students engaged in passing work are unable to complete all class assignments. An INC must be changed to a completed grade within one semester following the term in which the course was taken, or graduation, whichever occurs first. Should the student fail to complete the course within the time period designated, that is, by no later than the end of the semester following the term in which the course was taken, or graduation, whichever occurs first, the incomplete will be converted to a grade of F and the grade will be computed in the student’s grade point average. For more information please visit: http://registrar.siu.edu/grades/incomplete.html REPEAT POLICY An undergraduate student may, for the purpose of raising a grade, enroll in a course for credit no more than two times (two total enrollments) unless otherwise noted in the course description. For students receiving a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F, the course repetition must occur at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Only the most recent (last) grade will be calculated in the overall GPA and count toward hours earned. See full policy at http://registrar.siu.edu/pdf/ugradcatalog1314.pdf

GRADUATE POLICIES Graduate policies often vary from Undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, please visit http://gradschool.siu.edu/about-us/grad-catalog/index.html

DISABILITY POLICY Disability Support Services provides the required academic and programmatic support services to students with permanent and temporary disabilities. DSS provides centralized coordination and referral services. To utilize DSS services, students must come to the DSS to open cases. The process involves interviews, reviews of student-supplied documentation, and completion of Disability Accommodation Agreements. http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/ STUDENT CONDUCT CODE http://policies.siu.edu/other_policies/chapter3/conduct.html


SALUKI CARES

The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students and their families, SIU will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For Information on Saluki Cares: (618) 453-5714, or siucares@siu.edu, http://salukicares.siu.edu/index.html

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. We ask that you become familiar with the SIU Emergency Response Plan and Build-ing Emergency Response Team (BERT) programs. Emergency re-sponse information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety’s website at www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and the Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom and in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

SIU contains people from all walks of life, from many different cultures and sub-cultures, and representing all strata of society, nationalities, ethnicities, lifestyles, and affiliations. Learning from and working with people who differ is an important part of education as well an essential preparation for any career. For more information please visit: http://www.inclusiveexcellence.siu.edu/

MORRIS LIBRARY HOURS
LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Help is within reach. Learning support services offers free tutoring on campus and math labs. To find more information please visit the Center for Learning and Support Services website: Tutoring: http://tutoring.siu.edu/

Math Labs: http://tutoring.siu.edu/math_tutoring/index.html WRITING CENTER: The Writing Center offers free tutoring services to all SIU students and faculty. To find a Center or Schedule an appointment please visit http://write.siu.edu/ AFFIRMATIVE ACTION & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: Our office's main focus is to ensure that the university complies with federal and state equity policies and handles reporting and investigating of discrimination cases. For more information visit: http://diversity.siu.edu/

Additional Resources Available: