

Remembering the Holocaust

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[PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS]

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Course description:

Although the Holocaust took place in the middle of the 20th century, its remembrance has become as a major presence in contemporary life, both across the United States and in countries around the world. The Holocaust is recalled not merely, or even primarily, because of its historical significance, but for its value as a moral paradigm. This Contemporary Challenges course examines how Holocaust remembrance figures in contemporary social and cultural practices as a model for deriving lessons from the past in order to respond to traumatic losses, address present social injustices, and prevent future acts of intolerance.

The course analyzes the development of Holocaust memory from the end of World War II to the present, with special emphasis on recent phenomena. Examples studied include works produced in the Americas, Europe, and Israel, and in an array of forms, including documentary and fictional film, radio and television broadcasting, museum displays, tourist practices, monuments, and visual art.

This course fulfills Contemporary Challenges (CC) in the Core Curriculum, goal d: "Analyze contemporary issues of social justice across local and global contexts."

Course Learning Goals

- Students will gain an overview of the length and breadth of representations of the Holocaust from a variety of countries and in an array of media.
- Students will understand how works of memory are responsive to the subjective perspectives of their creators and audiences and how these works are informed by the context—culture, place, time, etc.—and medium in which they are created.
- Students will understand how Holocaust memory practices are used by an array of constituents to engage the public in different issues of social justice.
- Students will develop their ability to express their insights into cultural works through analytic expository writing.

Course Assignments

In-class assignments

Each week students will be given a brief (ca. 100-200 words) in-class writing assignment, in which they will be asked to respond to an example of Holocaust remembrance presented in class. Assignments are to be turned in during class. (See sample assignment below.)

Guided analyses

Each week's assignment asks students to write a short analysis (ca. 500 words) of a work of Holocaust remembrance that relates to materials presented in class and assigned readings. Students are to complete five of these analyses over the course of the semester. **Two** of these assignments are required of all students (marked by asterisks in the course schedule); they are to choose another **three** from among the other nine options. Each analysis is due within one week of being assigned.

Midterm and Final Examination

For each exam, students will write an essay (ca. 750-1,000 words) in response to a question directly related to the core learning goals. (See sample questions below.)

Course Grade

- In-class writing assignments: 25%
- Guided analyses: 25%
- Midterm: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%

Note: Course requirements and schedule are subject to change.

Course Schedule

* = required assignment

Week	Topic	In-class materials	Reading	Assignments / Exams
1	Introduction: Holocaust memory today		Efron et al.	
2	Liberation of concentration camps	Liberation of Nazi Concentration Camps in newsreels (USA, 1945), <i>Judgment at Nuremberg</i> (film, USA, 1961)	Abzug	"No Reason Not to Vote" (PSA, USA, 1992)*
3	The Holocaust on American broadcasting	<i>The Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto</i> (radio play, USA, 1943) <i>This Is Your Life: Hanna Kohner</i> (telecast, USA, 1953)	Shandler	"Survivor" episode of <i>Curb Your Enthusiasm</i> (television, USA 2004)
4	The Eichmann trial	<i>Verdict for Tomorrow</i> (telecast, USA, 1961), <i>Twilight Zone: Deaths Head Revisited</i> (telecast, USA, 1961)	Cesarani	<i>The Eichmann Show</i> (film, UK, 2015)
5	Survivor interviews	Boder audio recordings (USA, 1946) Shoah Visual History Archive videos (USA, 1990s)	Rosen, Blum-Dobkin	"New Dimensions in Technology" (interactive hologram, USA, 2016)
6	Photography	PPT presentations	Hirsch, Raskin	Raphael Goldchain, <i>I Am My Family</i> (photo project, Canada, 2008)
7	The afterlife of Anne Frank	PPT presentation; clips from <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> (film, USA, 1959); Selections from Marjorie Argosín, <i>Dear Anne / Querida Anna</i> (poems, Chile, 1998)	Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and Shandler	MIDTERM: <i>Anne B. Real</i> (film, USA, 2003)
8	Art	PPT presentations	Attie	Gustav Metzger, "To Crawl Into: Anschluss, Vienna, March 1938" (art installation, UK, 2014)
9	Museums	PPT presentation; <i>For the Living</i> (documentary, USA, 1993)	Pearlman, Kleeblatt	"Mirroring Evil: Nazi Imagery/ Recent Art" (art exhibition, USA, 2002)
10	Monuments	PPT presentation;	Young	Atlantic City Holocaust monument competition (USA, 2010)

11	Travel	<i>Divan</i> (documentary, USA, 2003) / <i>Hiding and Seeking</i> (documentary, USA, 2004), excerpts	Lehrer; Kugelmass	<i>The Holocaust Tourist</i> (film, UK, 2007)
12	Lessons of the Holocaust	AJC radio broadcasts (USA, 1940-1955); Holocaust Killing Sites (online documentary project, Poland/UK, 2015-present)	Bonelli; holocaustkillingsites.com	Forum for Dialogue (website, Poland/Ukraine, 2017)*
13	Pedagogical practices for children	"Daniel's Story" (exhibition video, USA, 1993)	Schweber	<i>Paper Clips</i> (documentary, USA, 2004)
14	Analogies and controversies	"Comedy Quintet" television sketches (Israel, 1990s); <i>ABC News Nightline: Columbine High School</i> (telecast, USA, 2000)	Zandberg	FINAL (due during exam period): Holocaust analogy assignment

Abzug, Robert H. *Inside the Vicious Heart: Americans and the Liberation of Nazi Concentration Camps*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987, 127-140.

Attie, Shimon. *Sites Unseen: European Projects*. Boston: Institute for Contemporary Art, Boston, 1998, 1-10.

Blum-Dobkin, Toby. "Videotaping Holocaust Interviews: Questions and Answers from an Interviewer." *Jewish Folklore and Ethnology Review* vol. 16, no. 1(1994): 46-50.

Bonelli, Charlotte. "The Story Behind NBC's Historic Yom Kippur Broadcast on the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising." *Tablet*. Sept. 12, 2013.

Cesarani, David. *Becoming Eichmann: Rethinking the Life, Crimes, and Trial of a "Desk Murderer."* Boston: DaCapo, 2006, Chapter 8.

Efron, John, et al. *The Jews: A History*. Routledge, 2013, 406-438.

Hirsch, Marianne. "Surviving Images: Holocaust photographs and the work of postmemory." *Visual Culture and the Holocaust*, ed. Barbie Zelizer. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2001. 215-246.

Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Barbara, and Jeffrey Shandler. *Anne Frank Unbound: Media, Imagination, Memory*. Indiana University Press, 2012. Introduction.

Kleeblatt, Norman. *Mirroring Evil: Nazi Imagery/Recent Art*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2002.

Kugelmass, Jack. "Why we go to Poland: Holocaust tourism as secular ritual." *The Art of Memory: Holocaust Memorials in History*, ed. James E. Young. Munich: Prestel, 1994. 175-185.

Lehrer, Erica. "Jewish Heritage, Pluralism, and 'Milieux de Mémoire': The Case of Kraków's Kazimierz." In *Jewish Space in Contemporary Poland*, ed. Erica Lehrer and Michael Meng (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2015), 170-192.

Pearlman, Jeanne. "Mirroring Evil: Nazi Imagery/Recent Art Case Study: the Jewish Museum, New York City," <http://animatingdemocracy.org/publications/case-studies/visual-arts#jewishmuseum>

Raskin, Richard. *A Child at Gunpoint: A Case Study in the Life of a Photo*. Aarhus: Aarhus University Press. 2004. Chapters 1, 4.

Rosen, Alan. *The Wonder of their Voices: The 1946 Holocaust Interviews of David Boder*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010, 149-174.

Schweber, Simone. "Simulating Survival" *Curriculum Inquiry* 33:2 (2003): 139-188.

Shander, Jeffrey. "The Man in the Glass Box: Watching the Eichmann Trial on American Television." In *Visual Culture and the Holocaust*, ed. Barbie Zelizer, New Brunswick NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2001, 91-110.

Young, James E. *The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorials and Meaning*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993. 17-48.

Zandberg, Eyal. "Critical Laughter: Humor, Popular Culture and Israeli Holocaust Commemoration," *Media, Culture and Society* 28, no. 4 (2006): 572-73.

