

# DOWLING COLLEGE

## The Holocaust - Syllabus

**Instructor:** Rhoda Miller, Ed.D.

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E-mail correspondence will **ONLY** be through your Dowling e-mail address

**Hours:** Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM by appointment

**Texts:** Dawidowicz, L.S. (1986). *The war against the Jews, 1933-1945* (10<sup>th</sup> Ed.). New York: Bantam.  
Dawidowicz, L.S. (1976). *A Holocaust reader* (L.S. Dawidowicz, Ed.). New York: Behrman House, Inc.  
Wiesel, E. (2006). *Night* (M.Wiesel, Trans.). New York: Hill and Wang.

### Course Description:

The Holocaust will be explored from the perspective of the perpetrators, the victims, and the bystanders in the context of pre-during-post Holocaust historical periods. Incorporated into the study of one of the most significant events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century will be cultural expressions in oral history, literature, art, music, and film.

### Objectives:

- a. To understand the events of the Holocaust in the context of 20<sup>th</sup> century history
- b. To understand the perspectives of the perpetrators, victims, and bystanders
- c. To experience cultural expressions of the Holocaust
- d. To understand contemporary implications of the Holocaust
- e. To understand the human impact of the Holocaust

**Attendance:** Attendance and participation are required. Students are responsible for reading all material as well as completing all assignments and projects. **Please turn off cell phones and electronic devices during class.**

*Assigned work will not be accepted after the due date.*

### Grading Policy:

Attendance and class participation. ....	24%
Quizzes (2 @ 8 points each).....	16%
News Article .....	10%
Reflective Journals .....	10%
Final Paper .....	25%
Oral Presentation (PowerPoint).....	15%
Total .....	100%

*Plagiarism will be taken seriously as per guidelines in the Dowling College catalog.  
Assignments are required to be typed.*

## Schedule of Classes – Winter 2008

- Jan. 2, 2008
- Introduction – Definitions; the unprecedentedness of the Holocaust in history
    - History of antisemitism in a Judeo-Christian context
    - The Enlightenment
    - Nazi ideology
  - Film – *Race: the Power of an Illusion* (15 min.)
  - Computer Lab (8:30 – 9:10) RC 102 – Exploration of Holocaust websites
  - Wiesel pp. vii-11; Reader Chapter 1; Dawidowicz Chapters 3 and 9
- Jan. 3, 2008
- Social history
    - Life before the Holocaust
    - Persecution 1933-1939
    - Non-Jewish persecution
  - Film – *Image Before My Eyes* (88 min.)
  - Wiesel pp. 11-22; Reader Chapters 2 and 5; Dawidowicz Chapters 10 and 11
- Jan. 8, 2008
- Ghettos and concentration camps
    - Differences between ghettos
    - The dilemma of Jewish leadership
    - Concentration camps
  - **Quiz**
  - Film – *Warsaw Ghetto Uprising* (23 min.); *The Nazi Strike: Blitzkrieg!* (41 min.)
  - Wiesel pp. 23-46; Reader Chapters 3, 6, and 7; Dawidowicz Chapters 4 and 7
- Jan. 9, 2008
- The Final Solution
    - The industrialization of death
    - Death camps
    - Death Marches
  - Film – *Wannensee Conference* (87 min.; German with English subtitles)
  - Wiesel pp. 47-66; Reader Chapters 4, 8, and 9; Dawidowicz Chapters 12, 13, and 14
- Jan. 10, 2008
- Jewish and non-Jewish resistance
    - Righteous Gentiles
    - Bystanders
    - Faith and humanity
  - Librarian session (6:00 – 7:30) RC 105 – Research and website evaluation
  - Wiesel pp. 67-84; Dawidowicz Chapters 15 and 16
- Jan. 15, 2008
- National Response
    - FDR; Quota system; Bergson Group; Berga (Jewish POWs)
    - Post-war life
  - Film – *Who Shall Live and Who Shall Die* (30 min.)
  - **Due:** Thesis statement and outline for final paper
  - **Quiz**
  - Wiesel pp. 85-120

- Jan. 16, 2008 • Cultural expressions of the Holocaust
- Art, literature, music, and film representations
  - Artistic expression during- and post-Holocaust
  - **Due:** News Article
  - Video – Aaron Kramer readings (15 min.); *Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art* (15 min.)
- Jan. 17, 2008 • Contemporary society
- Genocide since 1945
  - Survivors and their descendants
  - Holocaust in historical perspective
  - Film – *Darfur: When they Hurt We Hurt* (5 min.);  
*The Joel Files: A Story of Two Families* (75 min.; some subtitles);  
*The Perils of Indifference: Lessons from a Violent Century* (45 min.)
- Jan. 22, 2008 • Guest Speaker – Holocaust Survivor
- Film – *Journey of the Heart* (60 min.)
- Jan. 23, 2008 • Trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage
- Jan. 24, 2008 • PowerPoint presentations
- **Due:** Final Paper
- Jan. 29, 2008 • PowerPoint presentations

### **Suggested Research Topics**

- Antisemitism
- Nazi Racial Ideology
- Non-Jewish Victims of the Holocaust
- The Enlightenment and the Rise of Nazism
- Life in the Interwar Period 1919-1939
- Life in the Ghetto (specify ghetto(s))
- The Dilemma of Leadership
- Resistance
- Rescued Children
- The Final Solution
- Persecution of the Jews in Nazi Germany
- Concentration Camps / Death Camps (specify camp(s))
- How Was It Humanly Possible?
- The Struggle with Faith during the Holocaust
- Righteous Gentiles
- Berga: German captured Jewish-American POWs
- Cultural Expressions of the Holocaust
- Genocide since 1945
- Issues in Teaching the Holocaust (intended for education majors)

## Museum Visit and Alternatives

### Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

36 Battery Place New York, NY 10280  
<http://www.mjhnyc.org>

### Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County

100 Crescent Beach Road, Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542  
(516) 571-8040 <http://www.holocaust-nassau.org/>

HOURS: The Center is open to the public Monday through Friday 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. and Sunday 12:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. (Center is closed on Saturday)

### Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center & Archives/Queensborough CC

Queensborough Community College, Bayside, NY 11364  
Holocaust Resource Center and Archives  
(718) 281-5770 [hraho@qcc.cuny.edu](mailto:hraho@qcc.cuny.edu) <http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/HRCA/>  
Monday thru Thursday from 10:00am to 12:00 for school visits

### Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity & Human Understanding, Inc.

Suffolk County Community College  
Huntington Library - Second Floor  
533 College Road, Selden, N.Y. 11784  
Phone 631-451-4700 [chdhu@sunysuffolk.edu](mailto:chdhu@sunysuffolk.edu) <http://www.chdhu.org>  
Monday-Thursday 10AM-2PM and by appointment.

**Saturday, January 26, 2008 7:00 PM**

**An Evening With Ruth Gruber**, author of *Haven, the Story of 900 Jewish World War II Refugees*

Huntington Jewish Center  
510 Park Avenue Huntington, NY 11743-3797 (631) 427-1089

Special event, open to the public at no charge. In 1944, President Roosevelt sent Dr. Gruber to Europe to bring refugees from war-torn Italy to a safe-haven in Oswego, NY. At the end of W.W. II, Dr. Gruber successfully lobbied Congress and President Truman to allow refugees to remain in America. Dr. Gruber has written 16 books and inspired the CBS miniseries *Haven*. She lives in NY City, speaks to audiences all over the world, and remains a symbol of hope for all refugees. Signed books will be available for sale.

**Sunday, January 27, 2008 2:00 PM**

**Nolan Altman – JewishGen’s Holocaust-Related Databases and Resources**

Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island  
<http://www.jgsli.org/>

Mid Island Y JCC • 45 Manetto Hill Rd • Plainview, NY 11803 • 516-822-3535

JewishGen’s Holocaust Database has over 1.8 million entries. This presentation will explore how researchers can take advantage of the information contained in that database as well as other JewishGen Holocaust resources. You will learn the types of data available, how it is arranged and how you can find further information. You will also hear some tips on how to conduct searches. By using copies of actual source documents, you will be able to see the raw data and get a better idea of the challenges in creating such a database.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### With Dowling College Library call numbers

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- Dawidowicz, L.S. (1975). *The war against the Jews, 1933-1945*. New York: Bantam Books. D810.J4 D33
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#### Historiography:

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- Friedlander, S. (1997). *Nazi Germany and the Jews*. New York: HarperCollins. DS135.G3315 F75 1997
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### **Ghettos and concentration camps:**

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Hilberg, R. (1985). *The destruction of the European Jews* (Vols. 1-3). New York: Holmes and Meier. D810.J4 H5 1985b

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