

## GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: **THE HOLOCAUST (HIST 330)**  
Credits: 3 Credits  
Instructor: **Dr. Olga Baranova, Ph.D. in History**



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**Fall Semester 2012. Meeting Times: Monday, Wednesday 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

### OFFICE HOURS

By appointment. Available from Monday to Friday by e-mail [baranova@gonzaga.edu](mailto:baranova@gonzaga.edu) or [olga.baranova04@gmail.com](mailto:olga.baranova04@gmail.com) or mobile phone: +39 329 8047457

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the historical problems associated with the Holocaust - Nazi systematic mass murder of European and Soviet Jews between 1933 and 1945. The main issues discussed in the course include the historical origins of anti-Semitism in Europe; the development of National Socialist ideology in Germany; the Nazi and fascist racial policies in the 1930s; the "Final Solution" - the mass extermination of Jews during World War II; the assistance offered by gentiles to mitigate the Holocaust, and participation of local non-Jews in the Nazi occupied countries in the campaign for the annihilation of their Jewish "neighbors". Special attention in the course is dedicated to the Nazi treatment of other groups destined to annihilation: Roma, black, people deemed handicapped, homosexuals, political opponents, and so called "asocials".

Furthermore, the course discusses the long cultural shadow of the Holocaust, its place in memoirs and historical writings, and examines ongoing debates and controversies in the study of this event.

This course attempts to deal with some of the most difficult historical questions:

- What were the main prejudices against the Jews and how were they aroused?
- Was it the German army (*Wehrmacht*) responsible for extermination of Jews or was it primarily the Nazi SS and its affiliates responsibility? Were all the murderers of Jews Nazis?
- What were the motives behind the perpetrators and their collaborators?
- Did most of Europe know what was happening?
- Did the Jews resist the Holocaust and in what way?
- What was the response of neutral countries, Vatican, and the U.S. Roosevelt administration to the Holocaust?
- What was the aftermath and the legacy of the Holocaust?
- Is Holocaust a unique phenomenon, is it different from other forms of genocide?
- Which lessons can we learn from this dark page of European history?

The study of the Holocaust is difficult and extraordinarily challenging due to both the unprecedented nature of the event and the additional emotional and moral demands it makes on us. The course does not provide simplified answers and does not draw generalised conclusions, but examines variety of cases (countries and individuals) and discusses the complexity of the issue from historical, political, sociological, philosophical, and ethical perspectives.

### COURSE METHOD

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures with a use of Power Point presentation and class discussions. Students will be provided with a variety of primary and secondary source materials and some extracts from documentaries to discuss. A wide use of audio and video sources will be made by instructor to illustrate various issues discussed during this course.

The course adopts interdisciplinary approach. In order to provide diversified perspective and better insights into motivations of perpetrators and rescuers some sessions will be co-taught with professor of social psychology Silia Passeri and professor of history Peter Fischer - specialist on Fascist Italy.

The course is not a narrative of events and facts but rather related to their academic evaluation and interpretation. The framework of the classes is chronological - problematic, examining some of the key issues and events as they unfolded.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of this course is to stimulate students' better understanding of the Holocaust in the context of the European and global history. The aim of the course is to provide students with the necessary basic stable knowledge about the most important events and processes, to make them reflect on and discuss origins and moral legacy of the Holocaust, and to further encourage their interest in the subject.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES**

The main learning objectives are to develop students' critical thinking, analytical and research skills (through readings, internet and periodicals), presentation and writing skills (through written paper, exam essays and oral presentations).

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

During this course students are expected not only to attend classes on regular basis, but also to actively participate through discussions of readings and presentations. This means that students contribute to class discussions by asking questions and making comments appropriate to the topics being discussed. In order for the discussions to be meaningful, each student must carefully read assigned chapter or article and study primary sources and come to class fully prepared.

Tests and assignments (essay questions) on selected readings will take place on regular basis.

Apart from mid-term and final exams, students are expected to give one/two class presentations, and to write one analytical research paper on any of the issues discussed in class.

**Oral Presentation:** should last 15 - 20 minutes, it should be historically sound, interesting and informative; it should also articulate student's own view on the phenomenon analyzed and presented to the others. Presentation should be based on research using additional sources (books, journal articles, on-line sources, videos). Students can choose between the following topics:

- to analyze one of the ghettos: Łódź (Litzmannstadt), Warsaw, Krakow, or Vilna; to describe the functions and activities of the *Judenrate*, the everyday life, and forms of resistance in the chosen ghetto. Due to Wednesday **October 24**.
- to analyze one of the concentration/death camps: Treblinka, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Majdanek, Dachau, Chelmno; to describe structure, transportation and living conditions, to provide testimonies of victims and survivors. Due to Wednesday **November 12**.
- to describe the biography of a Holocaust survivor, focus on his/her background, historical context, political, economic, and legal problems confronting this individual, life and war experience and post-war activities. Due to Monday **December 5**.

Students are encouraged to support their oral presentations with Power Point presentations, photos and other audio and video materials.

**Research Paper:** should be of about 3.000 words (6-8 pages) including footnotes and bibliography. Critical evaluation of the information is required for this paper, plagiarism is not acceptable. A list of appropriate research themes will be proposed by instructor, but students are encouraged to propose their own topics and to describe in the paper why the chosen research issue is important for the understanding of the Holocaust. All topics should

be discussed with and approved by the instructor in advance. The deadline for the research paper submission is Wednesday **November 14**.

Students will be asked to give a brief presentation (10-15 minutes) of their papers to the class summarizing conclusions and/or interesting findings. The paper presentations will take place on **November 19**.

Students are welcome to consult the instructor anytime during the preparation of the oral presentations and the research paper.

**Exams:** both exams have the same form of three essay questions. **Exams can ONLY be taken on the scheduled dates.**

**Note:** a minimum writing requirement for this course is 10 pages (including research paper and written assignments)

### **GRADING SYSTEM AND POLICIES**

Gonzaga University grading system.<sup>1</sup> The final grade will be the outcome of:

- class participation and assignments – 10%
- presentations - 10%
- mid-term exam (written) - 30%
- paper - 20%
- final exam (written) - 30%.

### **READINGS - TEXTBOOK:**

- **Crowe, David M. *The Holocaust: Roots, History, and Aftermath*. Westview Press, 2008**

This book is available for purchase in Florence or can be purchased in advance before students arrive in Florence. Some copies of this book are available at GIF library.

All supplementary materials: chapters from other books, articles, and key documents will be distributed to students by instructor.

### **SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING (Not required, but highly recommended)**

- Abzug, Robert. *America Views the Holocaust*. Bedford, St. Martin's, 1998.
- Bartov, Omer. *The Holocaust: Origins, Implementation, Aftermath. Rewriting Histories*. Routledge, 2000.
- Bauer, Yehuda. *A History of the Holocaust*. Revised edition, Franklin Watts, 2002.
- Bauer, Yehuda. *Rethinking the Holocaust*. New Haven; London: Yale University Press, 2001
- Bergen, Doris L. *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust. Critical Issues in World and International History*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.; 2nd edition, 2009.
- Botwinick, Rita. Steinhardt. *A History of the Holocaust: From Ideology to Annihilation*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1996.
- Browning, Christopher. *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1993.
- Cesarini, David (ed.) *The Final Solution. Origins and Implementation*. Routledge, 2005.
- Dalin, David G. *The Myth of Hitler's Pope: How Pope Pius XII Rescued Jews from the Nazis*. Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing, Inc., 2005.
- Dawidowicz, Lucy S. *The War Against the Jews, 1933-1945*. New York: Bantam Books, 1986.

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<sup>1</sup> 0 - 59 = **F**, 60 - 69 = **D**, 70 - 72 = **C-**, 73 - 76 = **C**, 77 - 79 = **C+**, 80 - 82 = **B-**, 83 - 86 = **B**, 87 - 89 = **B+**, 90 - 92 = **A-**, 93 - 100 = **A**.

- Dean, Martin. *Collaboration in the Holocaust: Crimes of the Local Police in Belorussia and Ukraine, 1941–44*. New York: St Martin's Press, 1999.
- Edelheit, Abraham, Edelheit, Hershel, and Edelheit, Ann. *History Of The Holocaust: A Handbook And Dictionary*. Westview Press, 1995.
- Engel, David. *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*. Longman, 1999.
- Farmer, Alan. *Access to History: Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust*. Revised edition. Oxford University Press, 2010
- Fleming, Gerald. *Hitler and the Final Solution*. UC Press, 1984.
- Fogelman, Eva. *Conscience & Courage: Rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust*. Anchor, 1994.
- Friedländer, Saul. *Nazi Germany and the Jews*. vol. 1, *The Years of Persecution, 1933-1939*. New York: HarperCollins, 1997.
- ----- *Nazi Germany and the Jews*. vol. 2, *The Years of Extermination, 1939 – 1945*. New York: HarperCollins, 2007
- Gilbert, Martin. *The Holocaust: A History of the Jews of Europe During the Second World War*. Holt Paperbacks, 1997.
- Gross, Jan T. *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne Poland*. Penguin, 2002.
- Heschel, Susannah and Ericksen, Robert (eds). *Betrayal: German Churches and the Holocaust*. Augsburg Fortress, 1999.
- Hilberg, Raul. *The Destruction of the European Jews*. 3 vol. set (third edition), Yale University Press, 2003
- Hochstadt, Steve. *Sources of the Holocaust*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.
- Kaplan, Marion. *Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Katz, Jacob. *From Prejudice to Destruction. Anti-Semitism, 1700 – 1933*. Harvard University Press, 1980.
- Landau, Ronnie S. *The Nazi Holocaust*. First American edition. Ivan R. Dee, 1994.
- Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*. New York: Touchstone Books, 1995.
- Marrus, Michael R. *The Holocaust in History*. Key Porter Books Ltd; 2nd edition, 2000.
- Neville, Peter. *The Holocaust*. Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Niewyk, Donald L. *The Holocaust: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation*. Third edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003
- Roth, John K. and Berenbaum, Michael (eds.) *Holocaust. Religious and Philosophical Implications*. Paragon House. St. Paul, Minnesota, 1989.
- Sereny, Gitta. *Into That Darkness: An Examination of Conscience*. New York: Vintage, 1983.
- Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. New York: Bantham, 1982.
- Wiesenthal, Simon. *The Sunflower. On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness*. Revised and Expanded Edition, Schocken Books, New York, 1997.
- Wyman, David S. *The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust, 1941 – 1945*. New York. Pantheon Books, 1984.

#### ON-LINE RESOURCES

- The Holocaust Timeline: <http://www.webster.edu/~woolfilm/chronology.html>  
<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/holocaust/timeline.html#1942>
- *Holocaust and Genocide Studies Journal*: <http://www.oup.co.uk/holgen>
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: <http://www.ushmm.org/>
- Yad Vashem: <http://www.yadvashem.org/>
- Holocaust / Shoah Educational Resources and Projects: <http://ddickerson.igc.org/education.html>
- The Holocaust History Project: <http://www.holocaust-history.org>
- BBC Archive *WWII: Witnessing the Holocaust. Personal Accounts of Persecution and Genocide by the Nazi Regime*: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/holocaust/index.shtml>

- America and the Holocaust (PBS Video) <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/holocaust>
- Simon Wiesenthal Center <http://www.wiesenthal.com>
- A Cybrary of the Holocaust <http://www.remember.org/>

## FILMS

Some excerpts from the following documentary might be screened and discussed during this course:

### ***The Holocaust. Persecution in Europe 1933 – 1945. Documentary (special 6 DVD set).***

Part 1: *The Yellow Star. The Persecution of Jews in Europe 1933 – 1945.*

Part 2: *Holocaust. Concentration Camps Dachau and Sachsenhausen, 1933 – 1945.*

Part 3: *Holocaust. Concentration Camps Ravensbruck and Buchenwald, 1937 – 1945.*

Part 4: *Holocaust. Theresienstadt Camp. Deception and Reality, 1941 -1945.*

Part 5: *Holocaust. The Liberation of Majdanek, July 1944*

Part 6: *Holocaust. The Liberation of Auschwitz, January 1945.*

### **Movies:**

*Night and Fog* (1955) by Alain Resnais;

*The Sorrow and the Pity* (1970) by Marcel Ophuls;

*The Partisans of Vilna* (1986) by Aviva Kemner;

*Shoah* (1985) by Claude Lanzmann;

*Lodz Ghetto* (1989) by Alan Adelson;

*The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* (1970) by Vittorio de Sica;

*The Truce* (1997) by Francesco Rosi – based on the true story of Primo Levi

*Schindler's List* (1993) by Steven Spielberg

*Life is Beautiful* (1997) by Roberto Benigni

*Rosenstasse* (2000) by Margarethe Von Trotta

*The Pianist* (2002) by Roman Polanski

## COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE:

### **WEEK 1:**

MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

#### **What is the Holocaust? Why is it important to study it? Introduction, Terminology, and General Background.**

- *Prologue: Who, What, Where, When, How?* pp. xiii – xxix, and Bauer, Yehuda. *The Place of Holocaust in Contemporary History* in Roth, John K. and Berenbaum, Michael (eds.) *Holocaust. Religious and Philosophical Implications.* pp. 16 – 42 – distributed by instructor during the first class.

WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

#### **Who are the Jews? The Evolution of Christian Anti-Judaic Prejudices from Ancient Times to the Reformation.**

- Chapter 1: *Jewish History: Ancient Beginnings and the Evolution of Christian Anti-Judaic Prejudices Through the Reformation* in Crowe, David M. *The Holocaust: Roots, History, and Aftermath.* pp. 5 – 40

### **WEEK 2:**

MONDAY 1 OCTOBER

#### **Anti-Semitism in Europe in Modern Period.**

- Chapter 2: *Jews: the Enlightenment, Emancipation, and the Rise of Racial Anti-Semitism Through the Early Twenties Century* in Crowe, David M. *The Holocaust: Roots, History, and Aftermath.* pp. 41 - 78

WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER

**Jewish Society in the 19<sup>th</sup> - beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Political Anti-Semitism in Europe and Russia prior to WWI.**

**WEEK 3:**

MONDAY 8 OCTOBER

**Leadership and Will: Adolf Hitler and his View of the World.**

- Chapter 3: *The World of Adolf Hitler, 1889 – 1933: War, Politics, and Anti-Semitism* in Crowe, David M. *The Holocaust: Roots, History, and Aftermath*. pp. 79 – 104.

WEDNESDAY 10 OCTOBER

**WWI and its Aftermath. New Ideologies. Anti-Semitism in Germany in the Period of Weimar Republic, 1918-32.**

**WEEK 4:**

MONDAY 15 OCTOBER

**The Nazi Party in Power and its Ideology: Racism, Anti-Semitism and Extreme Nationalism. The Jews of Germany in the Pre-War Era, 1933 – 1939.**

- Chapter 4: *The Nazis in Power, 1933 – 1939: Eugenics, Race, and Biology; Jews, the Handicapped, and the Roma* in Crowe, David M. *The Holocaust: Roots, History, and Aftermath*. pp. 105 - 148.

WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER

**The Struggle for Pure Arian Race: the Nazi Persecution of Other Groups: Gypsies, Black, the Disabled, Homosexuals, and "Asocials". "Euthanasia" Program.**

**WEEK 5:**

MONDAY 22 OCTOBER

**Nazi Germany at War. Towards the Genocide 1939 – 1941. Occupation of Poland: Expulsion, Deportation and Concentration.**

- Chapter 5: *Nazi Germany at War., 1939 – 1941: Euthanasia and the Handicapped; Ghettos and Jews* in Crowe, David M. *The Holocaust: Roots, History, and Aftermath*. pp. 149 - 190.

WEDNESDAY 24 OCTOBER

**Life of Jews in the Ghettos.**

- **Students' Presentations**

**WEEK 6:**

MONDAY 29 OCTOBER

**Operation *Barbarossa* and the Occupation of the Soviet Union. Barbarization of Warfare.**

- Chapter 6: *The Invasion in the Soviet Union and the Path to the "Final Solution"* in Crowe, David M. *The Holocaust: Roots, History, and Aftermath*. pp. 191 - 224.

WEDNESDAY 31 OCTOBER

**Jews in Soviet-Conquered Territory.**

**WEEK 7:**

MONDAY 5 NOVEMBER

**The "Final Solution": Plans, Decisions, and Implementation.**

- Chapter 8: *The Final Solution in Western Europe and the Nazi –Allied States* in Crowe, David M. *The Holocaust: Roots, History, and Aftermath*. pp. 283 – 338.

WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER - **MID-TERM EXAM**

### **WEEK 8:**

MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER

#### **The Nazi Death Camps**

- Chapter 7: *The Final Solution, 1941 – 1944: Death Camps and Experiments with Mass Murder* in Crowe, David M. *The Holocaust: Roots, History, and Aftermath*. pp. 225 - 282.
- **Students' Presentations**

WEDNESDAY 14 NOVEMBER

#### **Watching and in class discussion of the Documentary Film**

*The Holocaust. Persecution in Europe 1933 – 1945*. Part 1: *The Yellow Star. The Persecution of Jews in Europe 1933 – 1945*.

### **DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PAPER**

### **WEEK 9:**

MONDAY 19 NOVEMBER

#### **Jewish Responses in Eastern Europe, 1941 - 1944. Resistance as Survival Strategy.**

- Chapter 11: *Resistance* in Bauer, Yehuda. *A History of the Holocaust*. pp. 266 – 306 – distributed by instructor.
- **Students' Research Paper Presentations**

WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER – **No class – Thanksgiving Holiday**

### **WEEK 10:**

MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER

#### **Session co-taught with Prof. Passeri**

#### **Perpetrators, Collaborators, and Bystanders. Motives and Considerations.**

- Chapter 2: *The Motivations of the Killers* in Niewyk, Donald L. *The Holocaust: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation*. pp. 57 – 104 – distributed by instructor.

WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER

#### **Session co-taught with Prof. Passeri**

#### **Righteous among the Nations: Christians Who Rescued Jews from the Nazis during the Holocaust.**

- Chapter 12: *Rescue?* in Bauer, Yehuda. *A History of the Holocaust*. pp. 307 – 331 - distributed by instructor.

### **WEEK 11:**

MONDAY 3 DECEMBER

#### **Pope Pius XII, the Response of Vatican to the Holocaust. The American Response to the Holocaust under the Roosevelt Administration. The Role of Europe's Neutral in the Holocaust.**

- Chapter 9: *The Holocaust and the Role of Europe's Neutrals: Then and Now* in Crowe, David M. *The Holocaust: Roots, History, and Aftermath*. pp. 339 - 382.

WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER

#### **The Last Years of the Holocaust, 1943 – 1945. Death Marches.**

- Chapter 13: *The Last Years of the Holocaust, 1943 – 1945* in Bauer, Yehuda. *A History of the Holocaust*. pp. 332 - 389.

**WEEK 12:**

MONDAY 10 DECEMBER

**Recollections of Holocaust Survivors.**

- **Students' Presentations**

WENESDAY 12 DECEMBER

**Liberation, 1944 – 1945. Aftermath: War Crimes Investigation and Trials**

- Chapter 10: *Liberation, DPs, and the Search for Justice: War Crimes Investigations and Trials in Europe, the United States and Israel* in Crowe, David M. *The Holocaust: Roots, History, and Aftermath*. pp. 383 - 442.

**WEEK 13:**

MONDAY 17 DECEMBER

**Representation of the Holocaust in History, Popular Writings, and Films.**

**Review of material for exam.**

WEDNESDAY 19 DECEMBER – **FINAL EXAM**