

**HIST S-1572 Summer Seminar—The Holocaust in History, Literature, and Film** (4 credits: UN & GR) **Limited enrollment.** Summer 2019

Course reference number: 33856

[Kevin Madigan](#), Winn Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Harvard Divinity School  
Mondays/Wednesdays, 6:30-9:30 PM Sever Hall 111

Michael Ennis, TF ([mae179@mail.harvard.edu](mailto:mae179@mail.harvard.edu)) Office Hours TBA

*We will confront the facts without reservations. We will not justify, not rationalize, not assign God's inscrutable will to the atrocities committed by men. We will seek the truth and not dilute its reality with platitudes. The desire to overstate the episodes of kindness and caring and miraculous survival is quite compelling. . . But these exceptions must not be permitted to obscure the general rule. And for six million, death was the rule.*

Rita Botwinick, *A Holocaust Reader*

**Course Description.** This seminar approaches the Nazi persecution of European Jewry from several disciplinary perspectives. Initially it explores the topic historically using a variety of historical materials dealing with the history of European antisemitism, German history from Bismarck to the accession of Hitler, the evolution of anti-Jewish persecution in the Third Reich, and the history of the Holocaust itself. Texts include primary sources produced by the German government between 1933 and 1945 and by Jewish victims and survivors, documentary films, and secondary interpretations. The aims of this part of the seminar are to give students an understanding of the background and narrative of the Holocaust, to introduce them to the use of primary historical sources, and to familiarize them with some of the major historiographical debates. Students then ponder religious and theological reactions to the Holocaust, using literary and cinematic resources as well as discursive theological ones. They consider the historical question of the role played by the Protestant and Catholic churches and theologies in the Holocaust. The course concludes with an assessment of the role played by the Holocaust in today's world, specifically in the United States.

**Required Texts**      See <https://tinyurl.com/A19-300-HIST-S-1572-1>

**NB: All books are available at the Harvard COOP, both new and used. See this link for details:** <https://tinyurl.com/A19-300-HIST-S-1572-1>.

**Please note that many, if not all of these books can be purchased used at reduced prices with online vendors (e.g., Amazon.com).** All books are on reserve at the Reserve Desk at Lamont Library.

Browning, Christopher. Ordinary Men. Reserve Battalion 101 and the Holocaust in Poland. Penguin, 2005.

Crowe, David M. The Holocaust: Roots, History, and Aftermath. Boulder: Westview, 2008.

Hochstadt, Steve. Sources of the Holocaust. Palgrave Macmillan.

Heschel, Susannah, and Robert Ericksen. Betrayal: German Churches and the Holocaust. Fortress, 1999.

Niewyk, Donald L. The Holocaust: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2011. [4<sup>th</sup> edition]

Sereny, G. Into That Darkness: an Examination of Conscience. New York: Vintage Books, 1983.

Spiegelman, A. Maus: Boxed Edition. New York: Pantheon Books, 1992.

Wiesel, E. Night. New York: **Bantam** Books, 1986. (available online from \$0.01)

Wiesenthal, S., H. J. Cargas, et al. The Sunflower: on the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness. New York: Schocken Books, 1998.

**N.B.** It is *imperative* that you acquire the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Niewyk, The Holocaust and the **Bantam** edition of Night.

## Film Reserves and Purchases

We will discuss a number of films this term. All films, and several others, are available for screening on Canvas Website Media Gallery at [https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/56647/external\\_tools/46097](https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/56647/external_tools/46097).

“Europa, Europa”

“The Pianist”

“Schindler’s List”

“Sophie Scholl: the Final Days”

We will also be discussing “Au Revoir les Enfants” (available through Kanopy on Hollis). Finally, you may view “God on Trial” for free on You Tube at <http://bit.ly/1UfayGL>.

View assigned films before class days on which they will be discussed, except where indicated.

**Format.** During the first three days of the course, our sessions will be taken up with lectures by the Instructor on the background, context and course of the Holocaust. For the rest of the course, we will be spending our time on close, disciplined and well-informed discussion of the assigned reading.

## **Requirements.**

1. Regular, disciplined, informed participation in class discussion. (1/3 of final grade). There is a fair amount of reading for weeks 2-4; get an early start. Attendance at all classes is expected; students should alert Instructor about unavoidable absences and make-up work. See Summer School policy on student responsibility: <http://www.summer.harvard.edu/resources-policies/student-responsibilities>
2. Two 500-word papers due 9 AM. Send to TF via email to ([mae179@mail.harvard.edu](mailto:mae179@mail.harvard.edu)) or via CANVAS on **July 15** and **July 29** (1/3 of final grade)
3. A substantial final project: **UNDERGRADUATE:** Possibilities include: a 15-20 page research paper; a literary-critical interpretation of Holocaust fiction not assigned for class; fictive, dramatic or filmic projects (e.g., short story, novel chapters with outline of novel, play, documentary, interview, etc.).  
**GRADUATE:** a 15-20 page research paper using primary sources, secondary

sources and arguing a thesis. (More in class, but everyone should make an appointment with TF Michael Ennis to discuss and secure approval of his or her project.) **Due on August 7, 2019.** (1/3 of final grade).

**Accessibility Services:** The Summer School is committed to providing an accessible academic community. The Accessibility Office offers a variety of accommodations and services to students with documented disabilities. Please visit <http://www.summer.harvard.edu/resources-policies/accessibility-services> for more information.

**Academic Integrity:** You are responsible for understanding Harvard Summer School policies on academic integrity (<http://www.summer.harvard.edu/policies/student-responsibilities>) and how to use sources responsibly. Not knowing the rules, misunderstanding the rules, running out of time, submitting the wrong draft, or being overwhelmed with multiple demands are not acceptable excuses. To support your learning about academic citation rules, please visit the Resources to Support Academic Integrity (<http://www.summer.harvard.edu/resources-policies/resources-support-academic-integrity>) where you will find links to the Harvard Guide to Using Sources and two free online 15-minute tutorials to test your knowledge of academic citation policy. The tutorials are anonymous open-learning tools.

## **Schedule of Topics and Readings**

### **WEEK ONE**

June 24      The World of European Jewry from Enlightenment to German Unification  
From National Unification to National Socialism

Lecture by Instructor

Crowe, The Holocaust, 1-3

Hochstadt, Sources of the Holocaust, Part II

Niewyk, The Holocaust (Part I, essay by Weiss)

Recommended: Hochstadt, Sources of the Holocaust  
Sections I-II

Browse through German propaganda archive at  
<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/>

June 26      Anti-Jewish Policy and Legislation, 1933-1938

Kristallnacht, War, Ghettoization, 1938-1941

The Holocaust, Crowe, 4-6  
Hochstadt, Sources of the Holocaust, Parts II-V  
Continue to Browse through German propaganda archive at  
<http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/>  
View: “Europa, Europa” (in light of German propaganda)  
View: first ten minutes of Leni Riefenstahl, “Triumph of the Will  
at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHS2coAzLJ8>

## WEEK TWO

July 1            The Evolution of the “Final Solution,” 1941-45

Crowe, The Holocaust 7-8  
Niewyk, The Holocaust, “Chronology of Events,” and  
Glossary,” Map and Tables pp. xix-xxv  
Hochstadt, Sources of the Holocaust, VI-VIII (concentrate  
on Minutes of the Wannsee Conference VI. 42, 132-37)

July 3            The Wannsee Conference: “Conspiracy”

## WEEK THREE

July 8            The Motivations of the Perpetrators I

Browning, Ordinary Men (pay careful attention to  
Afterword and “Goldhagen Thesis”)

Niewyk, The Holocaust [4<sup>TH</sup> edition], Part II: Lifton on the Nazi  
Doctors and Bartov on Hitler’s Army (omit Browning)

July 10          The Motivations of the Perpetrators II

Sereny, Into that Darkness (you may skip Part VI and read for  
7/23)

## WEEK FOUR

July 15          Problems of Interpretation I: Intentionalist/Functionalist Debate

CONCENTRATE ON “ORIGINS OF THE  
HOLOCAUST,” FROM NIEWYK, Part I 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Canvas)

Also: carefully read Kershaw, "Hitler's Decisive Role" (Part I, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.)

**Send 500 word reflection to Instructor by 9 AM on 7/16 on which essay or position you find most persuasive and why. Indicate briefly also what you found unconvincing about the other essays.**

July 17      Problems of Interpretation II: Jewish Resistance/Holocaust Experience

Niewyck, The Holocaust, Parts III and IV (on Victims Exp/Resist)  
Hochstadt, Parts VII-VIII  
View: "The Pianist"  
**(watch first 2 hours at home; we will screen last 30 min. in class)**

## WEEK FIVE

July 22      Protestant and Catholic Churches

Heschel, Betrayal, Chs. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7  
Niewyck, The Holocaust, Part VI, essay by Phayer  
Madigan, "What the Vatican Knew and When"  
and "Kevin Madigan and Critics" (available through Hollis)  
View: "Au Revoir les Enfants" (available online via Hollis)

Neighbors? Forgiveness? God and Belief after the Holocaust

Jan Gross and Polish Collaboration  
<http://nyti.ms/2nT9f5n>  
"Working through Jan Gross's 'Neighbors'"  
(available through JSTOR via Hollis)  
Niewyck, Part V (just essays by Gutman/Krakowski and Lukas)  
Wiesenthal, The Sunflower  
View: "God on Trial" (<http://bit.ly/1UfayGL>)

July 24      Literary Representation

Spiegelman, Maus  
Wiesel, Night (please acquire **Bantam** edition of this book)

## WEEK SIX

July 29      Possibilities of Rescue

Niewyk, Part V (article by N. Tec, “Righteous Gentiles”)  
Niewyk, The Holocaust, Part VI (articles by Rubinstein and  
Laqueur)

View: Sophie Scholl: The Final Days at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXtC08tWxqA>

View: “Weapons of the Spirit” (short excerpt at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdlJql-TY6c>)

Discussion of “Schindler’s List”

**Send 500 word reaction paper on the Wyman/Rubinstein  
debate to Instructor by 9 AM on 7/30**

July 31      Justice? Nuremberg and the Trial of Adolf Eichmann

Sources of the Holocaust, Part IX  
(concentrate on IX. 76 on Nuremberg)

“The Trial of Adolf Eichmann”

Retrospective

## WEEK SEVEN

Project Preparation

**FINAL PROJECTS DUE August 7, 2019 Please submit them to Michael  
Ennis ([mae179@mail.harvard.edu](mailto:mae179@mail.harvard.edu)) by 5 PM**