RS 386 Voices of the Holocaust
HSS 111
TR 11:10-12:25 PM
Spring 2015
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SYLLABUS

Learning Objectives:
Sadly, extremism and hatred have been growing in the United States since 9/11, making the ultimate action of such attitudes more relevant than ever before in our country. The objectives of this course are to familiarize students with the ideas of ethnic cleansing and genocide, and the economic, religious, social and philosophical trends that contributed to the genocide known as the Holocaust, to learn about the different aspects of the Holocaust and the different populations affected by it. After taking this class, students will be able to demonstrate an appreciation for the intersections with other academic disciplines, as well as with broader social, cultural, and political phenomena. Students will also have the methodological and theoretical skills to study genocide critically, and the ability to construct clear written and oral arguments when discussing genocidal activities.

Course Outcomes:
“Voices of the Holocaust” focuses on the historical event known as the Holocaust. During the semester, we will examine the structure of genocide, various aspects of the Holocaust, and other genocides. After completing this course, students will have knowledge of the eight stages of genocide, the Holocaust, and several other genocides.

Course Requirements:
Required texts are: Mira Kimmelman, Echoes from the Holocaust: A Memoir; Michael Berenbaum, The World Must Know; and Helmut Walser Smith, The Holocaust and Other Genocides, as well as supplementary materials on Blackboard.

Students will keep a journal throughout the semester. One thoughtful entry per class reading is required as well as entries on in-class videos and visitors.

Students are also required to 1) observe one of the religious services offered in the Jewish community and to write a one-page reflection paper; 2) watch one out-of-class video (either Hotel Rwanda or The Pianist) and write a two-page review; and 3) attend one of the lectures offered by the Judaic Studies Program and write a two-page report.

There will be a comprehensive final exam.

Grading will be based on the following criteria:
1. Attendance and class participation 20%. Two unexcused absences are allowed, any illnesses must be documented with a written doctor’s excuse. Additional unexcused absences will subtract 3 points each from the attendance grade. Participation is defined as contributing to the class discussion on the assigned readings.
2. Journal entries 40%.
3. Service reflection paper, video review, and lecture report will be combined for 20%. Late submissions will subtract one half point from the assignment grade (a B will become a B-).
4. Final exam 20%.

**Make-up policy:** If a student has three exams in one day, he/she may choose to move one of the exams to a different day. This need as well as any other irregularities must be discussed with the professor in advance of the scheduled exam date.

For table of grades and conversion from numerical to letter grades, see *Blackboard*.

Please check your email regularly for any messages sent via *Blackboard*.

For study aids, academic integrity, and disability information, please see the campus syllabus on the *Blackboard* site.

**Discrimination is not permitted:**
The University of Tennessee prohibits discrimination against employees and students “on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, parental status), national origin, age, disability, or protected veteran status.”

**Week I:**

**Week II:**


Week IV:  1/27  Holocaust and other Genocides.
Today is the 70th anniversary of the Auschwitz death march.

1/29  Holocaust and other Genocides cont’d.
In-class video on Armenian Genocide. Journal entry #7.

Week V:  2/3  Read “Other Genocides” on Rwanda in Helmut Walser Smith, The Holocaust and Other Genocides, 201-222. Journal entry #8.
Two-page review of Hotel Rwanda is due today.

In-class, viewing of video The Wave and discussion. Two journal entries, #9 (on reading) and #10 (on video).
Collecting first half of journals today (A-L).


2/26 Visitor: Dr. William Berez. Journal entry #16. 
**Two-page review of The Pianist is due today.**

Tonight, 6 PM, showing of *Searching for Baghdad: A Daughter’s Journey* in the Hodges Library Auditorium.

Sunday, March 1, showing of *The Last Jews of Baghdad*, at 12:30 PM at the AJCC.

One of these is required for lecture assignment, due March 26.

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**Week XIV:**


4/9 Sinti and Roma. In-class video on Sinti and Roma genocide, *Parroimos.* On Sinti and Roma and medical experiments, read Turner/Schmidt, *National Socialism and Gypsies in Austria,* 106-127 on *Blackboard.* Two journal entries: #27, on in-class video on Roma and Sinti, and #28, on medical experiments.

**Week XV:**

4/14 Righteous Gentiles.

All journals are due today.

4/16 Death marches and liberation.
Today is *Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day).

**Week XVI:**


4/23 Last class. Review for final.

**Final:** Monday, May 4, 2015, 10:15-12:15 pm, in the classroom.

Have a great summer!