

Course for Educators  
History of the Holocaust  
Taught by Roni Stauber, Aresty Visiting Scholar

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General objectives:

This eight-session course will cover the ideological roots of Nazi racial policy, the historical events of the Holocaust, and the fate of the survivors in the aftermath of World War II. Each session will include a lecture and discussion on classroom implementation.

Course dates and description:

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Racism and Antisemitism in Nazi Germany in the 1930s

Discussion topics:

1. Nazi racial ideology:  
Biological racism, racial hierarchy and the eternal struggle between races;  
Social Darwinism, eugenics, and antisemitism
2. Racial governmental policy in the 1930s:  
Antisemitic policy, forced euthanasia, other groups targeted: Roma (Gypsies), Slavic population, blacks, Jehovah's Witnesses and homosexuals

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

The Path to the Holocaust, 1939-1941

Discussion topics:

1. East European ghettos and the "territorial solutions"
2. First genocidal killings (Jews, Roma, Poles, Soviet war prisoners)

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

The Genesis and Implementation of the "Final Solution," 1942-1945

Discussion topics:

1. Who decided, when and why on the "Final Solution"?
2. Implementation of the "Final Solution":  
The machinery of destruction (bureaucratic nature of the killings), the deportations to Poland, structure and operation of the death camps, medical experiments on human beings

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

The Perpetrators: Ideological Soldiers, Bureaucrats or Ordinary Men?

Discussion topics:

1. "The Banality of Evil" - The polemic regarding Hannah Arendt's thesis on Adolf Eichmann and his associates as petty bureaucrats, cogs in the machinery of destruction
2. Ordinary men or willing executioners: Two contradictory theses regarding the characteristics and motives of the perpetrators – antisemitic and racial motives or obedience, conformity and diffusion of responsibility

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Collaborators and Rescuers in Occupied Europe

Discussion topics:

1. Who collaborated with the Germans in Europe and assisted them in carrying out the "Final Solution"? What were the motives of the collaborators and what was the impact of collaboration on the outcome of the Nazis' murderous plans?
2. Who among the largely indifferent population of Europe helped the victims? What were their motives?

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Victim Responses to Persecution

Discussion topics:

1. The Jewish Councils and the policy of cooperation
2. Active and passive resistance in ghettos and camps throughout occupied Europe (armed resistance, spiritual and cultural resistance, the struggle for survival – the sanctity of life)

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

The Free World and the Holocaust (Allies, Neutral Countries and the Vatican)

Discussion topics:

1. What was known to the free world about the Holocaust?
2. Unwanted refugees – the refusal to give shelter to refugees
3. Stopping the "Final Solution": a marginal objective of the free world

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Aftermath

Discussion topics:

1. Defining the uniqueness of the Holocaust
2. The Nuremberg Trials and the policy of retribution
3. Holocaust survivors and the attempt to build new life in the old or in a new homeland

This eight session course meets on Wednesdays from 4:30pm – 7:00pm at The Bildner Center, 12 College Avenue, New Brunswick. A trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum will also be arranged for the class participants.