

Course Title: The Holocaust as Public History

Faculty Name: Professor Deborah Hertz

Institution: The University of California at San Diego

Semester Taught: Winter 2009

BOOKS

All books have been placed on Reserve and are available for sale at Groundworks Books.

- Tom Segev, *THE SEVENTH MILLION* Henry Holt 0-8050-6660-8
- Hannah Arendt, *EICHMANN IN JERUSALEM* Penguin classics 978 0143039884
- Deborah Lipstadt *DENYING THE HOLOCAUST* Plume books 978 0452272 743
- Norbert and Stephan Lebert, *MY FATHER'S KEEPER* Back Bay books paperback 978 0316089753
- James Young, *THE TEXTURE OF MEMORY* Yale University Press 978 0300059915
- Peter Novick *THE HOLOCAUST IN AMERICAN LIFE* Mariner Books, 978 0618082322
- Omer Bartov, *ERASED* Princeton University press, 978 069 1131214 [currently an inexpensive hardback, but perhaps in paper by the time necessary]
- Jack Kugelmass and Jonathan Boyarin, eds., *FROM A RUINED GARDEN* Indian University Press 978 0691131214

High Use Shelf at the Library

Please ask at the Reference Desk for the location of this important place, where you will find important reference works useful for your research for this course.

San Diego Jewish Film Festival

Please plan to attend as many Holocaust films as possible. Order tickets at www.lfjcc.org/sdiff, or call 858 362 1348. Most films show at the AMC La Jolla, but check the schedule to be sure. We will try to obtain free tickets if possible. These are the films relevant to this class:

Arthur Ssyk: Illuminator, Wednesday February 11, 4:30

Blessed is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh, Sunday February 15, 4 pm

The Last Train [from Berlin to Auschwitz], Wednesday February 11, 7:30 pm

My Opposition: The Diaries of Friedrich Kellner, Thursday February 12, 5 pm

We Must Remember [Carlsbad High School student project and film], Monday February 9, 7:30

REQUIREMENTS

All students must take an in-class midterm examination on February 6, and a final during Finals Week. All students must post at least four mini-essays of at least one long paragraph on our WebCT and make a short presentation in class. Your presentation should be, if possible, on the same topic as your essay or Public History Project. The presentations are not graded. If you wish to show pictures or a film clip at your presentation, please send the material the day before to my personal email address.

By the second week of class you must choose the topic. Suggestions can be found throughout the syllabus. Note that your presentation in class should be on or around the date that topic is covered in the lectures.

Students should choose between the *Academic Track* and the *Public History Track*. Those who choose the *Academic Track* will write a ten page paper due on March 11. Late work will not be accepted. The topic of the paper can be chosen from the subjects, events, individuals, memoirs, fiction or films listed below on this syllabus. Please be sure that Ms Kuruc, Mr Valji or the professor have approved your topic.

Students who choose the *Public History track* can create an educational tool or project. Many of the Public History projects will involve using the *Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive* in conjunction with local survivors and or local high school students. Possible projects include: a power point presentation which a survivor could use in their public talks; additions to the class web site; original poetry, fiction, or journalism; video interview with a local survivor which adds to the previously recorded interview, or possibly a report of your work with local high schools. Expect to work closely with Ms Theresa Kuruc on these public projects, which may require activities outside of the classroom lectures.

Points toward the final grade: midterm 25; final 30; essay or public history project 30; web postings 15.

Course Schedule:

January 5 Introduction: Public History and Private History

Read Novick, Introduction

January 7 Adolf Eichmann and Other Nazis

Read Arendt, Chapters 2-5 and Chapter Thirteen

Lebert, 38-53

Topics: Kurt Becher, Martin Bormann; Joseph Goebbels; Heinrich Himmler; Hans Frank; Odilo Globocnik; Hermann Goering; Rudolf Hoess; Julius Streicher; other Nazi leaders of your choice.

January 9 Guest lecture: Using the Visual History Archive for Historical Research

Ms. Amy Edwards, graduate student in History and former Project Manager of the *Holocaust Living History Workshop*

January 12 The Jewish Way of Remembrance, and Ritual Practices During the Holocaust

Read Kugelmass, Introduction and 51-52; 68-69;141-143; 166-167; 171-172; 182-185; 189-194; 212-218; 231-234

Topics: Salomon Rappaport [An-Sky]; Maurice Halbwachs, life and work; YIVO Yiddish Scientific Institute in Vilna and New York

January 14 The Deportations, Or Who Knew the Secret Destinations?

Read Arendt, Chapters Nine and Ten

Novick, Chapters One, Two and Three

Topics: Jewish Councils [in particular cities and ghettos]; Hannah Arendt's controversy about the Jewish Councils; Rabbi Leo Baeck; Wannsee Conference; Dr. Martin Luther; Vichy France; Werner Best; Heinrich Muller; King Boris of Bulgaria; Dieter Wisliceny; Alois Brunner.

January 16 The Dilemmas of the Israeli Yishuv During the War

Read Segev, Part I and II

Topics: *Ha-avara* agreement; Chaim Arlosoroff; David Ben Gurion; Martin Buber's letter to Ghandi; the White Paper of 1939; the Struma [boat]; Yoel Palgi

January 19 No class Martin Luther King Day

January 21 Hannah Senesh and Other Possible Heroes

Segev, Chapter Four

Kugelmass, 203--204

Topics: Herschel Grynszpan; Zivia Lubetkin Zuckerman; Itzhak Zuckerman; Mordechai Anielewicz; Janusz Korczak; Artur Zygelboim; Haike Grossman; Heinrich Grueber; Rabbi Michael Dov-Ber Weissmandel; Gisi Fleischmann.

January 23 Postwar Trials in Germany

No reading.

Topics: Fritz Bauer; survivor trials of other survivors; Auschwitz guards trial; Nuremberg Tribunal; Telford Taylor.

January 26 Survivors Plot Revenge on the German People

Segev Chapter Eight

Topics: Abba Kovner; Recha Freier; Tzivia Lubetkin; Pasha Reichman [Yitzhak Avidov]; Nakam organization; Chaim Weizmann; Jewish Brigade; Kibbutz Ein Hahores; Hanoach Bartov; Shimon Avidan

January 28 Displaced Persons Camps

Read Segev, Chapter Seven

Novick, Chapter Four

Topics: Landsberg DP Camp; ship *Exodus 1947*; illegal immigration; Haganah; Jewish Brigade; Harrison Report; UNRRA.

January 30 Restitution and Wiedergutmachung

Segev, Part Four

Kugelmass, 243-249

Topics: Karl Jaspers on guilt and shame; Konrad Adenauer; David Ben Gurion; Action Suhnezeichnen; I.G. Farben trial; German Democratic Republic and reparations, compared to the Federal Republic of Germany; Nahum Goldman; Claims Conference.

February 2 The Israelis Try Eichmann in Court

Read Arendt, Chapters One, Two, Fourteen and Fifteen

Segev, Prologue and Part VI

Novick, Chapter 7

Topics: Hannah Arendt; Gideon Hausner; Robert Jackson; Moshe Landau; Abba Kovner; Robert Servatius; De-Nur, Yehiel [Ka-Tzetnik]; Isser Harel.

February 4 The Era of Silence in America, 1939--1962

Read Novick, Chapters Five and Six

Topics: Henry Morgenthau; Rabbi Stephen Wise; Eleanor Roosevelt; President Roosevelt; Bruno Bettelheim; David Wyman [his historical work]; American Jewish Committee; American Jewish Congress; Peter Bergson [Hillel Kook]; Raphael Lemkin and the creation of the concept of genocide; Gerhard Riegner; A.M. Rosenthal and the *New York Times*; *We Shall Never Die* pageant, New York City 1943; Ben Hecht.

February 6 In-class Midterm

Please bring a blue book to class. Lists of possible questions will NOT be distributed before the exam. The exam will consist of one essay, chosen from a list of six questions, and five identifications, chosen from a list of 15. Identifications could be events, places, persons, movements, book titles and the like. Make up exams will not be given unless the circumstances are special.

February 9 Negotiating with the SS in Budapest: The Kastner Affair

Read Segev, Part V

Arendt, 116-145 and Chapter Twelve

Topics: Joel Brand; Regent Nikolaus von Horthy; Arrow Cross; Samuel Stern; Philip von Freudiger; Relief and Rescue Committee; Malchiel Gruenwald; Israel Rudolf Kastner; Kurt Becher.

February 11 *The Warsaw Ghetto Rebellion, and Monuments to Heroism*

Read Arendt, 115-125 and 214-218

Young, Chapter Six

Topics: Marek Edelman; Janus Korczak; Adam Czerniakow; Emmanuel Ringelblum; Chaim Rumkowski; Mordecai Anielewicz; Warsaw Ghetto Monument in Jerusalem; Nathan Rapoport; Jan Gross book *Neighbors*.

February 13 Jews in Postwar Germany and Remembrance in Modern Germany

Read Young, Chapter Five

Bartov, Part Three

Topics: Buchenwald; Sachsenhausen; Dachau; Auschwitz; Martin Walser; Ignaz Bubis; Berlin Holocaust Memorial; Willy Brandt; Bitburg Military cemetery; *Holocaust mini-series*; Maxim Biller; exhibition in Germany on atrocities by the German army; Alexander and Margaret Mitscherlich and *The Inability to Mourn*; Claims Conference; Heinz Galinski; Klaus Gysi; Victor Klemperer; Paul Merker

February 16 No class President's Day

February 18 Memory in the Jewish State

Read Young, Chapters Eight and Nine

Segev, Chapters 24 and 25

Topics: Holocaust Remembrance Day; Jewish theological debates about the Holocaust; Law for the Punishment of Nazis and Their Collaborators; March of the Living; Yad Vashem; Beit Lohamei Hagetaot; Beit Hatfusot [Museum of the Diaspora at Tel Aviv University]; Menashe Kadishman; "the righteous Gentile;" Natan Alterman [poet]; Yitzak Arad; Martin Buber.

February 20 Innovative Public Memorials

Read Kugelmass, 269-272

Young, Chapters Ten and Eleven

Topics: Simon Attlee; Babi Yar Memorial Park in Denver; Birkenau Concentration Camp; Buchenwald Concentration Camp; Dachau Concentration Camp; Maidanek Concentration Camp; Memorial at the Albertinaplatz; Anne Frank House in Amsterdam; Carmelite convent at Auschwitz; Babi Yar; Bergen Belsen Concentration Camp; Ravensbruck Concentration Camp; Auschwitz; resistance memorial in Berlin; Gestapo buildings in Berlin [*Topographie der Terror*]; Alfred Hrdlicka; Memorial Route of Jewish Martyrdom and Struggle in Warsaw; memorial books from specific towns.

February 23 Creating Holocaust Memorial Institutions in America

Read Novick, Chapter Nine and Ten

Topics: Stanley Milgram experiments; Elie Wiesel; President Jimmy Carter; President's Commission on the Holocaust; Rabbi Irving Greenberg and ZACHOR.

February 25 Nazis and their Families after 1945

Read Lebert, 1-140 and Afterword

Topics: Adolf Eichmann; Joseph Mengele; Klaus Barbie; ODESSA [former SS members]; Karl-Otto Sauer and his son; Norbert Lebert; Gudrun Himmler; Wolf-Ruediger Hess; Daniel Bar-On's work with Israelis and children of perpetrators; Niklas Frank.

February 27 Bringing War Criminals to Justice

Read Novick, Chapter Eleven

Topics: Simon Wiesenthal; Beate and Serge Klarsfeld; Simon Wiesenthal; the United States Department of Justice; Josef Mengele; John Demjanjuk.

Sunday March 1 at 5 pm, lecture by Professor Till van Rahden, “*History in the House of the Hangman: How Postwar Germany Became a Site for the Writing of Jewish History.*” This lecture is required for this course, so please plan to attend.

March 2 Holocaust Museums

Read Novick, Chapter Twelve

Young, Chapters Eleven and Twelve

Topics: Museums in Washington D.C.; New York City; Berlin; Jerusalem [Yad Vashem]; Los Angeles Museum of Tolerance; Martyr’s Forest and Memorial.

Lecture by Professor Till van Rahden 4 pm, in the Department of History.

March 4 How Cinema Captures this Past

No reading.

Films: *Night and Fog*; *The Reader*; *The Boat is Full*; *Life is Beautiful*; *David*; *Shoah*; Claude Lanzmann; *The Night Porter*; *The Black Book*; *Escape from Sobibor*; *Judgment at Nuremberg*; *Schindler’s List*; *The Odessa File*; *The Ritchie Boys*; *Playing for Time*; *Aimee and Jaguar* [lesbian love story]; *Defiance* [Bielski Family partisan group]; *Inheritance* [survivor meets child of camp commandant, shown on PBS on the show *P.O.V.*]; *film of your choice.*

If you are presenting on one of these films, please choose a clip to accompany your presentation.

March 6 True and False Memoirs and Autobiographical Fiction

No reading.

Topics: memoirs by former Nazis; memoirs by German and Austrian Jews; memoirs by Jews in hiding; false memoirs [Benjamin Wilkomirski, Misha Defonseca, Herman Rosenblat;]; memoirs by Jews living underground in Germany; the written word and the video interview; K-Zetnik [Yehiel Di-nur, author of *House of Dolls*]; Charlotte Solomon [memoir in pictures]; Art Spiegelman’s *Maus*; Aaron Appelfeld; Anne Frank; Elie Wiesel books; John Hershey *The Wall*; Daniel Mendelsohn’s *The Lost*; memoir or fiction of your choice.

If you are presenting on one of these works, please select a passage to analyze with the class which we can post on the Power Point.

March 9 Forgetting the Holocaust in Eastern Europe

Read Bartov, all students read Chapters One and Three; choose three towns to read about in Chapter Two

Kugelmass, 249-254; 262-266

Young, Chapter Seven

Topics: Galicia in World War One; Yaniv Janowska concentration camp; Alexander Schwarz; Bruno Schulz; Buchach; controversy about Shimon Redlich’s book; Metropolitan Andrei Sheptyts’kyi; Dov Sadan of Brody; Operation Vistula.

March 11 Holocaust Denial

Read Lipstadt, entire book

Topics: David Irving; Robert Faurisson

All projects due, either the Academic Track essay or the Public History project.

March 13 The Future of Holocaust Memory

Read Segev, Chapters 27 and 28

Class-wide debate; topics to be announced.