The Shoah (Holocaust) in Literature and the Arts
COLT-485, Class #22067R, Fall 2009
Tues & Thurs 3:30-4:50, THH 121

We should abandon forever the unfortunate term of “holocaust” [i.e., “a burnt offering to God”] used by Elie Wiesel and others and adopt the rare biblical term of SHOAH [“an earthshaking human annihilation of the greatest magnitude”] as used by Claude Lanzmann in his filmed documentary series in 1985 and more recently by Steven Spielberg in Schindler’s List in 1993 and in the name of his Shoah Foundation, now at USC, which has collected and preserved the testimonies of 50,000 survivors. To quote from Raoul Hilberg’s study: “…the missionaries of Christianity had said, in effect, to the Jews: ‘You may not live among us as Jews’. The secular rulers who followed them from the Middle Ages then decided: ‘You may not live among us’, and the Nazis finally decreed, ‘You may not live’.”


Grading: Active participation: 30%; mid-term paper: 30%; final individualized project: 40%.

COLT L/M/CT Track: This is a Literature Concentration Course.

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