

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE
ANDREWS UNIVERSITY
BERRIEN SPRINGS, Michigan 49104

HIST450. The Holocaust and Society, (3 hrs)
(Fall Semester 2007)

Instructor: John J. Markovic, PhD
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MWTh 14:00–15:15 (other times by appointment)
Class: MW 18:30–19:45 p.m. Nethery Hall 214

OBJECTIVES

The course is designed to address social, cultural, ideological, religious, economic and political issues surrounding antisemitism and the Holocaust. The objective is to learn about the Holocaust, try to understand what actually happened, and prepare to retell the story again for the future generations. We shall seek to understand the forces behind it, to learn from it, to be able to discern and perceive the same or similar forces working in our world today. Antisemitism is directly related to racism, and is one of the most violent expression of hatred, contempt and bigotry.

The Holocaust is not just one among many tragedies that happened in the ages past. The Holocaust is—and for the lack of other term we must use the overused cliché—unique. Every time we ask, “What happened?” we cannot but ask, “Why?” The Holocaust demands explanation, yet no explanation suffices. Human mind seeks a rational explanation, a cause behind it. To begin to understand what really happened, and why it happened, demands enormous intellectual and emotional effort. It also demands soul searching and self-examination.

The course will draw from several disciplines: history, literature, sociology, psychology, philosophy, politics, theology and so forth. The course will challenge our moral and ethical fortitude. The issues raised through the study of the Holocaust will call into question basic values and principles of Western Civilization, of Christianity, and of each one of us as individuals.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Holocaust. A History, by Debórah Dwork and Robert Jan van Pelt (New York, 2002)

Thinking In the Shadow of Hell. The Impact of the Holocaust on Theology and Jewish-Christian Relations, edited by Jacques B. Doukhan (Berrien Springs, MI, 2002).

Survival in Auschwitz, by Primo Levi (New York: Collier Books, 1960).

Night, by Elie Wiesel (Bantam Books, 1960)

REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the course successfully, a student is expected to

- a) attend the classes regularly, as well as assigned meetings on special occasions at other times. Class attendance is imperative for this course.
- b) complete the readings assigned by the instructor, **on time**. The readings are from the above listed textbooks, not excluding other sources the instructor may introduce during the course of the term.
- c) complete the exam and all written assignments. There will be one exam toward the end of the term,

testing your knowledge of factual information. During the course of the ten weeks of instruction, students are expected to write two (2) analytical positional papers (4-5 pages long, double-spaced); one (1) film review (3-4 pages long); one (1) critical book review (2-3 pages long) on a book assigned by the instructor.

D2L: DESIRE TO LEARN ACCESS

The Readings & Assignment Schedule is posted on D2L.

To access D2L, go to <http://d2l.andrews.edu>, and use your AU username and password to access D2L.

To access the course look under “My Andrews University Courses” and there should be a + sign next to the semester that you are in. Click on the + sign and your courses will be listed. Click on “HONS105H-001 Western Heritage I” and you will the page where news and instructions from us teachers will appear throughout the semester.

To access the Readings & Assignment Schedule click on “Content” (in the upper left corner, immediately below the AU logo), and then click on “Information.” You will see the Syllabus and the Reading & Assignment Schedule.

To access the readings, click module “Readings” and then choose the appropriate reading assignment for the day.

NOTE: If you have problems and need help, if username and password do not work, or you have any other technology question, contact Marsha Beal at 471-6200 or email at dlit@andrews.edu.

COURSE ATMOSPHERE AND ATTENDANCE

Only serious illness, death in the family, attending a wedding of immediate family member, or a field trip with another class here at AU, are legitimate reasons for missing a class or failing to meet the deadline. In such cases, the instructor should be notified prior or immediately thereafter of the event.

Bad manners in the classroom will not be tolerated.

If you are planning to take the final exam earlier than the date scheduled you must obtain the permission from the Dean of College of Arts and Sciences.

GRADING STRUCTURE

2 analytical positional papers	200 pts
Film review	100 pts
Book review and class presentation	50 pts
Class participation	50 pts
Exam	100 pts
A 93% and above	A- 90–92%
B+ 87–89%	B 83–86%
B- 80–82%	C+ 75–79%
C 69–74%	C- 65–68%
D 55–64%	F below 55%

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You are welcome to study with friends and even proofread each other’s work. You are not allowed to turn in someone else’s work as yours. All work, papers, reviews, exam essays, quizzes, critical essays, must be your own work. Notice, every time you directly quote—always placed within quotation marks—or indirectly paraphrase someone else’s words or ideas you must acknowledge and credit the source. If you don’t, you are stealing. This type of “borrowing” from others without giving credit is known as plagiarism, and it is the most grievous sin in the academic world. Both cheating and cooperation with cheating are subject to punishment

with an F for the course, accompanied with letters to your parents, the Registrar and the Vice-president for Academic Affairs.

DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations under The American Disabilities Act, please see us (the instructors) as soon as possible for referral and assistance in arranging such accommodations. Students with diagnosed disabilities may request accommodations from the Office of Student Success.

LESSONS FROM HISTORY

The possibilities for manipulating the human mind, in order to get people to believe what you want them to believe, are tremendous and must never be underestimated.

CLASS AND READING SCHEDULE
Fall Semester 2007

- MON Aug 27. Introduction to the Course
- WED Aug 29. Documentary: *The Cross and the Star. Jews, Christians and the Holocaust*
- MON Sept 3. Labor Day: no class
- WED Sept 5. "Why Should I Bless His Name?" (Wiesel, *Night*, chs 1-4)
- MON Sept 10. "Here, there Are No Fathers, No Brothers, No Friends" (Wiesel, *Night*, chs 5-9)
Essay: see D2L for instructions. Due Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007
- WED Sept 12. Why Should We Study the Holocaust?
Motivations, Reasons, Issues, Impact
- MON Sept 17. "The Ecclesiastical Roots of the Holocaust: From the *Adversus Judaeos* Tradition to the Holocaust," in Doukhan, *Thinking in the Shadow of Hell*, 3-27.
- WED Sept 19. Dialogue with Trypho, chs 1-47
(D2L DIALOGUE WITH TRYPHO 1-8 and D2L DIALOGUE WITH TRYPHO 9-47)
- MON Sept 24. Dialogue with Trypho, chs 48-108
(D2L DIALOGUE WITH TRYPHO 48-108)
- WED Sept 26. Discussion: The Great Schism. When the Church left Israel
(D2L From Contempt for the Law of God to the Holocaust," in *Shabbat Shalom*)
(D2L "When the Church Left Israel," in *Shabbat Shalom*)
- MON Oct 1. Augustine of Hippo's Commentaries on the Jews
(D2L Augustine on the Jews)
- WED Oct 3. Martin Luther: "On the Jews and Their Lies"
(D2L Martin Luther: The Jews and Their Lies)
- MON Oct 8. Columbus Day: no class
- WED Oct 10. Discussion: Martin Luther's Anti-Jewish *Vom Schem Hamphoras*
(*Holocaust* by Dwork, 1-28; Jews, Gentiles, and Germans)
- MON Oct 15. Lecture: Adolf Hitler and His *Mein Kampf*
(*Holocaust* by Dwork, 29-62; The Great War and Its Outcome)
- WED Oct 17. Lecture: Adolf Hitler and *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*
(*Holocaust* by Dwork, 63-102; The National Socialists and the Third Reich)
- MON Oct 22. Movie: Triumph of the Will, part 1
(*Holocaust* by Dwork, 103-165; Jews and Gentiles under the Nazi Regime)
- WED Oct 24. Movie: Triumph of the Will, part 2
(*Holocaust* by Dwork, 166-201; World War II)
- MON Oct 29. Lecture: Totalitarian State and the Road to the Second World War
(*Holocaust* by Dwork, 202-238; Jewish Life in the Camps)
- WED Oct 31. Movie: Lodz Ghetto, selected scenes
(*Holocaust* by Dwork, 239-284; In the Shadow of Death)
- MON Nov 5. Movie: The Wannsee Conference, part 1
(*Holocaust* by Dwork, 285-315; The "Final Solution")
- WED Nov 7. Movie: The Wannsee Conference, part 2
(*Holocaust* by Dwork, 316-336; Is There Anyone Who would Help?)
- MON Nov 12. Lecture: The Facts of the Holocaust
(*Holocaust* by Dwork, 337-355; The Rescue)
- WED Nov 14. Review of the Material
(*Holocaust* by Dwork, 356-386; Life after the Holocaust)

- MON 19. **EXAM (on the book *Holocaust* by Dwork)**
- WED 21. Thanksgiving: no class
Thanksgiving: no class
- MON 26. Discussion of *Schindler's List*
Film Review Due: a critical film review of *Schindler's List*.
- WED 28. Discussion of *Survival in Auschwitz* by Primo Levi
Book Review Due: a critical book review of *Survival in Auschwitz* by Levi
- MON 3. Theology of the Holocaust
"Should We Put the Past Behind Us?" by Marvin R Wilson; "Christian Theology after Auschwitz," by Stephen R Haynes; and, "Adventist Theology after Auschwitz," by Jacques B Doukhan; all three articles in *Thinking in the Shadow of Hell*, 63-95.
- WED 5. Jewish-Christian Relations after Auschwitz
"Jewish-Christian Relations after Auschwitz," by Robert M Johnston; "Setting a Jewish-Christian Dialogue," by John Graz; and "The Encounter of the 'Other' in the Aqedah," by Jacques B Doukhan; all three articles in *Thinking in the Shadow of Hell*, 127-146.
- MON 10. FINAL EXAM at 18:30–20:30 a.m. Film: *Life Is Beautiful*
Positional Paper Due: Why should we study the Holocaust? Why should the Christians, the Seventh-day Adventists in particular, study the Holocaust? What lessons could the Christians and Adventists learn from the history of the antisemitism and the Holocaust?