This course will examine the Holocaust – the term used to denote the destruction of European Jewry by the Nazis and their helpers during World War II – within the contexts of twentieth-century European and Jewish history. This course analyzes the steps leading to the genocide of the Jews in Europe as well as the economic, social, and political factors that enabled its implementation, focusing on the interaction of victims, perpetrators, and witnesses/bystanders. The course also deals thematically with contemporary interpretations and literary and visual representations of the Holocaust and its meaning, exploring how the construction of history and shaping of memory affect how we learn about these killings and their implications. Readings include primary source documents, images, and eyewitness accounts, as well as secondary sources by historians and other experts in the field. Students will analyze and critically evaluate primary and secondary historical texts, interpret literature and film, and synthesize historical data and other types of information regarding events in Holocaust history. Students will also write a history research paper based upon primary and secondary sources.

All instruction and evaluation in this course is conducted online through the class website on Canvas. All class announcements will either be posted on the Canvas website or will be sent to you at your UWM e-mail address, so make sure to check your e-mail and Canvas at least once a day. If you know you will not be able to access a computer almost every day of the semester, you should not take this course. Lack of access to a computer will not be accepted as a valid excuse for late or missing work.

Instead of spoken lectures for this course, I offer written lectures consisting of text and images saved in .pdf format. Occasionally, I may include a voiceover component. I use these lectures to explain complex issues presented in the readings and the rest of the unit, to give you questions to think about, and to present my analysis of historical issues based on the most recent available research by experts in the field. Sources for each lecture are listed at the bottom of the first slide. You will be able to access the lectures as they become available for each unit so that I can tailor them to our class discussions and questions.
Our course website is on the Canvas system maintained by the University of Wisconsin System. To use Canvas, click here for the login page with the direct address for Canvas. At the login screen you will be asked to provide your e-Panther ID and password. For informational videos and FAQ's on Canvas, click here.

During the semester, if you need assistance with how to use Canvas, you can contact Canvas 24/7 for support by calling them at 1-833-826-8713, emailing them at support@instructure.com or clicking here to chat with them.

For technical issues with your computer, contact UWM’s Campus IT Support by clicking here or call them at 414-229-4040 (toll-free at 877-381-3459). The personnel of the Help Desk are much more knowledgeable about computers than I am, so always turn to them for technical advice!

**Skills:** You will need basic word processing skills, the ability to send and receive email, and a simple understanding of how to access and browse Web sites. You must be able to receive email via your UWM email account. Checking your email and our course Web site regularly is very important for your ability to do well in this course.

**Resources:** You will need routine access to a computer that has a wifi or broadband connection or a campus network connection to the Web. It is imperative that you have regular access to adequate, reliable technology throughout the term. A computer glitch, lost file, or any other technical problem is never an excuse for late or missing work. Your connection to the Internet must be high-speed and you should have an Internet browser of recent vintage. The computer you use must have a basic word processing package such as Word. You will also have to be able to view Adobe PDF files. These types of files can be viewed using free downloads. If you need help downloading these materials, please contact UWM’s Help Desk.

The amount of time you will need to spend on this course varies among students. Do not make the mistake of assuming that an online class is less work or easier than its face-to-face version. **It will be up to you to organize your time effectively to get your work done!** Please also note that this is not a self-paced course. The course is divided up units that everyone will be working on at the same time. In some cases, deadlines fall at the end of the week, while in others they fall mid week. I will send you one e-mail per week to remind you of deadlines, but you should make sure to note the deadlines for each assignment now.

At some point Canvas might go down and be unavailable without any notice. This problem does not occur frequently and usually is fixed quickly. Please be patient if this happens.

**Readings:**
Assigned readings are available on our course Canvas site under the unit with which they are associated, **with the exception of the following two-volume set that is required for purchase:**


This book can be purchased at any bookstore or online site. It can also be ordered through the UWM Virtual Bookstore at https://uwm.ecampus.com under the listing for this course.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:
- Describe the step-by-step destruction of European Jewry by the Nazis and their helpers between 1933-1945 (Assessment: short papers, quizzes)
- Describe the genocide of the Jews in Europe and the factors that enabled its implementation within the contexts of twentieth-century European and Jewish history (Assessment: short papers, quizzes)
- Analyze Holocaust representations (memorials, museums, literature, etc.) and critically evaluate their strengths and weaknesses (Assessment: short papers, discussion posts, quizzes)
- Generate and sustain a historical argument based on primary and secondary source material used to study the Holocaust (Assessment: short papers, discussion posts, research paper)
- Research and write a 7-10 page paper on a specific aspect of Holocaust history based on primary and secondary sources (Assessment: research paper proposal, research paper)

Quizzes
In this course you will take six timed quizzes of 30 minutes each, consisting of 10 true/false and multiple choice questions based on the material for that unit. Each quiz is worth 5% of your grade. You must complete the quiz in 30 minutes or you will be booted off. Once you start a quiz, you have to finish it – there is no starting a quiz, exiting, and coming back to it at another time. The dates by which all quizzes must be completed are listed in the syllabus. DO NOT begin the quiz until you are caught up with the material. You are permitted to make only one (1) attempt to complete each quiz, and quizzes cannot be taken after the deadline has passed. Please make sure that you have saved all your responses (including those you may have altered) before submitting the quiz. You must take the quiz alone and may not take the quiz in the company of another student. You also may not communicate any information about the quiz to any other student. Any violation of these rules counts as cheating and will result in failure. However, the quizzes are “open book.” This means you may consult the readings, discussions, notes, and lectures as you take the quiz. Answers to the quiz will be made available only after the quiz deadline has passed.

Papers
In this course you will write two short (2-3pp.) papers, worth 7.5% of your grade each. The dates by which these must be uploaded to Canvas are listed in the course schedule below. Detailed instructions about the requirements for these short papers will be posted with the assignment. You will also write a 7-10pp. research paper based on one of several assigned topics and sources and also submit a 1-2pp. research paper proposal that includes a title, a brief description of your paper topic, and a preliminary bibliography. Your proposal will be graded and you may receive comments that will need to be addressed in your final paper. The final paper is worth 20% of your grade and the proposal is worth 5% of your grade. We will not accept your final paper unless you have submitted a proposal for it by the deadline listed in the syllabus. Likewise, your proposal grade is provisional: you will not receive credit for it unless you also submit the research paper by the required deadline. Please upload all written work as a Word file (with a .doc or .docx suffix).

Your short papers, research paper, and research paper proposal will be graded according to the following rubric: (1) Thesis is clear, strong, and appears in the introduction (2) Excellent background, context, and idea development (3) Excellent use of research sources and discussion of detail to reinforce the thesis (4) Impressive depth of insight/analysis (5) Effective conclusion.
In terms of style, make sure your papers fulfill these conditions: (1) Correct grammar and spelling; paper has been proofread (2) Clean/legible manuscript that is formatted according to instructions (3) Writing style is smooth and uses precise language. (4) Paper is well-organized; the reader can easily follow the argument of the paper (5) Transitions between paragraphs are smooth. You may lose points if these conditions are not met.

Discussions:
In this course you will participate in three online discussions in which you will be graded during the term. You will be divided into groups and asked to respond both to specific questions and to your classmates’ responses. For each discussion, you are required to make one original post, and also to post one response to another group member’s post. Each post should contain a minimum of 200 words but not more than 400 words. Do not post an attachment! You should either type your response directly into Canvas or cut and paste it from a word processing program. You will receive 1-3 points for each post, depending on the thoughtfulness and clarity of your post as well as your ability to integrate class readings, lectures, and film clips into your reflections. Whenever possible, make explicit reference to class materials and cite page numbers. The dates by which these discussion posts must be completed are listed in the syllabus. We will monitor the online discussions but limit our interventions to facilitate the emergence of genuine discussions. We want you to respond to each other and develop your own skills of analysis. When replying, please first read all of the posted messages on the topic in question. That way you can make sure ahead of time that your message will contribute something new to the discussion. Spelling and grammar count in the evaluation of your posts.

We expect students in this course to observe the rules of "netiquette" when posting messages: all posts must be written respectfully and be free of bullying, intimidating, vulgar, and offensive language. You are required to engage the posts of your classmates in a constructive manner. Posts that violate this requirement will be deleted and will receive no credit. Express opposing points of view clearly and civilly.

Under the module “General Information” you can find a copy of the course syllabus. You will also find a discussion forum titled “Current Events related to the Course.” Here you can post about current issues related to the course that are of interest to the entire class. Posts to this forum are not graded and are a good place for informal discussion. However, please do not use this forum to discuss matters extraneous to the course. There is also a discussion forum titled “Introduce Yourself!” where I encourage you to submit a brief introduction.

Evaluation
The Grades section is where your grades for each assignment are posted. Your final grade in the class will be calculated according to the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Quizzes (5% each)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Short papers (2-3pp.) (7.5% each)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Discussions: (3 posts and 3 responses at 5% each)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 7-10pp. Research paper (20%) + paper proposal (5%)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
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Typically, late work will only be accepted in cases of illness verified by a doctor’s note or in cases of a family emergency. Quizzes cannot be taken after the deadline has passed and answers have been released. I do not accept as valid excuses either the lack of synchronization between your clock and that of the Canvas system or the existence of problems with your computer or with
your internet connection. If you are in a different time zone than Milwaukee, note now that all deadlines indicated in the syllabus and on Canvas are Central Time (CST). I have made sure to allow ample time for you to submit your required posts and papers and to complete the quizzes. **However, we realize that situations arising from COVID-19 may cause unexpected scheduling changes for many of us. If you need more time to complete an assignment because of an unavoidable situation, please contact me in advance of the deadline.**

If you have a question or would like to discuss any aspect of the course, please email me at silverld@uwm.edu. I will respond as soon as I can, usually within 24 hours. I am also happy to set up a time to speak on the phone. Your written work in this course will be graded by our class Teaching Assistant Greg Lutz under my supervision. If you would like to clarify a grade or comment on your written work, please first get in touch with him at gtlutz@uwm.edu. Appeals of assignment grades must be submitted within one week after you receive the grade.

**Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Important UWM Policies**

To succeed at UWM you should be familiar with university policies regarding disabilities, religious observances, military duty, incompletes, discriminatory conduct, academic misconduct, complaint procedures, grade appeal procedures, and other issues. Please consult the following link for a full listing of these policies:


If you require any special accommodation according to UWM’s policies for disabilities, religious observance, etc., please contact me within the first week of the semester.

Note that plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. For the definition and consequences of academic misconduct see

http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

The following schedule lists the content and assignments for each unit. **Read the dates and deadlines for each unit carefully and mark them in your calendar now. Make sure to note that the length of each unit can vary!** More specific instructions for completing the work in each unit will be given on Canvas as the units are made available. You will also receive ONE e-mail every week from me reminding you of upcoming assignment deadlines. For each unit there will be some combination of readings, films, lectures, discussions, quizzes, and paper assignments. It is up to you to decide when to allocate your time to work on the class within the parameters of each unit. This online course will take advantage of the flexibility that the virtual classroom provides; at the same time, it is designed with the assumption that you will devote a certain amount of time each day on the course. In order to succeed you must prepare the assigned material and complete related assignments by the dates posted. **Do not get behind!**
Schedule of Readings and Assignments

AVAILABLE BEFORE CLASSES BEGIN ON JANUARY 25

INTRODUCTION: THE HOLOCAUST: UNIQUE OR UNIVERSAL?
   1. Make sure that you have thoroughly read this syllabus, which is also posted under “General information.”
   2. Listen to the 7-minute lecture titled “Introduction.”
   3. Read the brief lecture titled “Europe and the Jews – A Long History.” It will provide you with important background information about Jewish life in Europe before we start to discuss the events that occurred from 1933-1945.
   4. Submit a brief introduction to the discussion forum titled “Introduce Yourself!”

MONDAY, JANUARY 25 – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

UNIT 1: INTO THE THIRD REICH
   1. Read the lecture titled “Into the Third Reich.”
   3. Read Marion Kaplan, Between Dignity and Despair, pp. 17-49.
   4. Watch posted clips Part I and Part II from the film Triumph des Willens (Triumph of the Will) (1935, Germany, dir. Leni Riefenstahl) (Film clips can be found on our Canvas site under the corresponding unit.)
   5. Submit your first post to Discussion #1 before January 31 at 11:59pm, and post a response to another group member’s post before February 7 at 11:59pm.
   6. Take Quiz #1 any time before February 7 at 11.30pm.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8 – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

UNIT 2: ANTISEMITISM
   1. Read the instructions for Short Paper #1.
   2. Read the lecture titled “Antisemitism.”
   5. Upload Short Paper #1 before 11:59pm on February 14.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

UNIT 3: REFUGEES, DEPORTATIONS, WAR
   1. Read the lecture titled “Refugees, Deportations, War.”
   2. Read Marion Kaplan, Between Dignity and Despair, pp. 62-118.
   3. Take Quiz #2 before Sunday, February 21 at 11:30pm.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22 – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

UNIT 4: THE BUREAUCRATIZATION OF KILLING
   1. Read the lecture titled “The Bureaucratization of Killing”
   3. Take Quiz #3 any time before February 28 at 11.30pm.
**MONDAY, MARCH 1 – SUNDAY, MARCH 14**

**UNIT 5: LIVING IN GhettoS AND CampS**
1. Read the lecture titled “Living in GhettoS and Camps.”
2. Read the instructions for Short Paper #2.
5. Upload Short Paper #2 before 11:59pm on **March 14**.

**MONDAY, MARCH 15 – SUNDAY, MARCH 21**

**UNIT 6: JEWISH VICTIMS IN NAZI EUROPE – A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**
1. Read the lecture titled “Jewish Victims in Nazi Europe - A Comparative Perspective.”
3. Take Quiz #4 any time before **March 21** at 11.30pm.

***Make sure to read “Instructions for the Research Paper and Paper Proposal” and start thinking about your research paper. You will need to upload your 1-2pp. Paper Proposal before 11:59pm on **April 11.***

**Spring Break**

**MONDAY, MARCH 29 – SUNDAY, APRIL 11**

**UNIT 7: RESISTANCE AND RESCUE**
1. Read the lecture titled “Resistance and Rescue.”
4. Submit a post to Discussion #2 before **April 4** at 11:59pm, and post a response to another classmate’s post before **April 11** at 11:59pm.
5. *** Upload your 1-2pp. Paper Proposal before 11:59pm on **April 11.***

**MONDAY, APRIL 12 – SUNDAY, APRIL 18**

**UNIT 8: WITNESSING AND TESTIMONY**
1. Read the lecture titled “Witnessing and Testimony.”
5. Take Quiz #5 before 11:30pm on **Sunday, April 18.***

**MONDAY, APRIL 19 – SUNDAY, MAY 2**

**UNIT 9: MAUS: FACT OR FICTION?**
1. Read the lecture titled “Maus: Fact or Fiction?”
3. Submit a post to Discussion #3 before **April 25** at 11:59pm, and post a response to another classmate’s post before **May 2** at 11:59pm.
MondAy, May 3 – SUNDAy, May 9
UNIT 10: MEMORY AND MEMORIALS
1. Read the lecture “Memory and Memorials.”
4. Take Quiz #6 before May 9 at 11.30pm.

***YOUR RESEARCH PAPER MUST BE/uploaded BY 11:59PM ON SUNDAY MAY 16***

Course Bibliography

“Echoes and Reflections,” Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation Institute, Yad Vashem, 2005.


