

Department of French Studies  
Academic year 2018-2019

French 2211F

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Visiting hour : on appointment  
Answering e-mail: from 8:00 to 18:00

Holocaust and literature: Understanding suffering

Description :

This course will offer a brief description of life during the Holocaust through the reading of a few essential testimonial texts. We first will briefly survey the events and questions and place them in their proper historical, religious, human and political frames. Through the eyes of the witnesses, we shall try to understand some facets of the human tragedy that the Holocaust constitutes and how it is lived on a daily basis. The course wishes to present individual experiences of this historical event, which remains the paradigm of genocides of the XXth century. We want to explore the ways people react to extraordinary circumstances and interact within a society where all rules have changed. We will listen to voices describing the cruelty of the executioners, the humanity of the rescuers, the passivity of the bystander and the fears of the victims. The course explores the specific experiences of several groups, including women, hidden children, freedom fighters, etc. and will try to offer a reading of the past that will facilitate the understanding of contemporary events. We shall not avoid delicate or horrific situations or sensitive ethical questions.

We will also call on some visual support quite difficult to see. No previous knowledge of the historical, religious or political background is required.

## Assignments

Reading review	4 pages or 1000 words
Film review	3 pages or 700 words
Research Paper	10 pages or 2500 words
Conversation	30 minutes of discussion on three questions submitted by the student
Two quiz	at the end of two classes

## Rating scale

Class participation	10%
Including two quiz	
Reading review	20%
Film review	15%
Conversation	15%
Final research work	40%

Reading review	4 pages or 1000 words
Film review	3 pages or 700 words
Research Paper	10 pages or 2500 words
Conversation	30 minutes of discussion on the research paper

The subject of the Research Paper is to be determined according to the interest of the student after a discussion with the professor.

For the review, we suggest that you find books linked to your personal interest. The title of the book has to be submitted at least two weeks before the due date of the review. Please, consult the Professor for guidance

September 19	No class		
September 26	The Holocaust		
October	Antisemitism	Research proposal	
October 10	No class	Reading week	Book selection
October 17			Research selection
October 24		Reading review	
October 31			Film selection
November 7			
November 14		Film review	
November 21			
		Research work	
December 5			

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**For Academic offenses, please consult :**

