# *Matthew Brittingham*

# [*m.h.brittingham@emory.edu*](mailto:m.h.brittingham@emory.edu)

*Spring 2018*

**REL 324/JS 324/HIST 385**:

**THE HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST**

**Description:**

This course will examine the history of the Holocaust. It covers the roots of European antisemitism; Nazism’s rise and Hitler’s seizure of power; the evolution of Nazi policy toward the Jews and the attempt to wipe out European Jewry. We will also look at Nazi policy towards the disabled, German homosexuals, mentally handicapped, carriers of genetic diseases, and the Roma and Sinti [Gypsies]; the response of the German Jewish community to Nazi persecution; global reactions to Nazi antisemitism; various ways that Jews resisted persecution; the experience of those in the concentration and death camps; and attempts to rescue Jews. Towards the end, we will consider Holocaust denial.

**Books:**

**The following books have been ordered by the Emory Bookstore but will also be set on reserve with the university library:**

* Dwork, Debórah and Van Pelt, Robert. *Holocaust: A History*
* Spiegelman, Art. *Maus I and II* [You can purchase as one volume or two separate volumes.]
* Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*
* Mahoney, Kevin. *In Pursuit of Justice*
* Kaplan, Marion. *Between Dignity and Despair*
* Hayes, Peter. *How Was it Possible?* [All the material from Hayes is available on Emory ebookcentral download]

**Blackboard:** Check Blackboard for your section/registration regularly. Notices and updates will be posted on Blackboard. Additional readings and documents will appear on Blackboard.

**Grading:**

Exams:

* Two in-class exams (35%)
* One take home exam (35%)
* Final exam during the assigned exam time (15%)

NO MAKE UP EXAMS. If you are ill you must provide the requisite form from Health Services. The take home exam should be submitted in electronic copy to my email.

**Class Participation:** (15%):

Class participation determines part of your final grade. You are expected to participate in classroom and online discussion in a way that reflects knowledge of the readings and assigned materials. Failure to attend regularly and/or to participate will count against your grade.

Within the first two weeks of class, you must tell me of any need for special allowances related to note taking, assignments, or tests (ex. extra time or formatting). Only *authorized documentation* from the office of student affairs will be accepted for special allowances.

**General Policies:**

**Honor Code:**

The university honor code is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, you affirm that it is a violation of the code to cheat on exams, to plagiarize, to deviate from the teacher’s instructions about collaboration on work that is submitted for grades, to give false information to a faculty member, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. You agree that the teacher is entitled to move you to another seat during examinations, without explanation. You also affirm that if you witness others violating the code you have a duty to report them to the honor council. **Note: cutting and pasting from the Internet constitutes plagiarism.**

**Prerequisites:**

There are **NO** official prerequisites for this course. Students from all backgrounds are invited to take this course. In relation to the discussion of Jews and Judaism, some of the concepts and traditions might be challenging from time to time, as new cultures and new material is often challenging. All difficult concepts and terms will be defined and discussed in full. Likewise, if you come to class having done the day’s readings/viewings, and you are ready to participate in class, you will already have the most important tools you need to succeed in the course, without any previous study or knowledge of Jews or Judaism. [If you are having any issues or if you have any questions please let me know ASAP and we can find a time to discuss and review the material.]

**On being prepared for class:**

You will be most successful in this class if you are prepared for this class. That means, do ALL the readings, think deeply about the material, come with thoughts or questions, and be ready to listen and take notes. Doing the required readings will not only help you participate in class and perform well, but it will also make the class much more engaging, lively, and fun. Actually doing the readings will also help you think deeper about what we are learning in class, as the class will not be a summary of the readings. Also remember, participation is part of your grade (seriously, and there is no curve)! If you do the readings and think about the material, you will come with *substantive* questions and comments, questions and comments that will get you the most participation points. One way to participate is to observe the classroom rule: no computers, no cell phone...unless you have a specially dispensation from the office of student affairs.

**Course Schedule:**

**Film Screenings**: ***We will screen a number of films will be shown in the evening from 5:00-8 p.m.* (most will not run that long). *Viewing is required.***

* **Wed. Jan. 24: *Triumph of the Will* (1935, 120 minutes)**
* **Wed. Jan. 31: *Jud Suss* (1940, 98 minutes)**
* **Wed. Feb. 7: *Into the Arms of Strangers* (2000, 122 minutes)**
* **Wed. Feb. 28: *Ghetto: A Film Unfinished* (2010, 88 minutes)**
* **Wed. Mar. 21: *Nazi Designers of Death* (1995, 60 minutes)**
* **Wed. Apr. 4: *Weapons of the Spirit* (1989, 91 minutes)**

*Jan. 18: Introduction and review of syllabus*

*Map:* <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/media_nm.php?ModuleId=10005143&MediaId=7827>

*Jan. 23: Film:* The Eternal Jew*, watch on your own time.*

*\*Jan. 24: Film: Leni Riefenstahl,* Triumph of the Will

Prior to viewing the film please read:

* + “Triumph of the Will,” (film notes) **prepared for the New York State Writers Institute by Kevin Jack Hagopian** <http://www.albany.edu/writers-inst/webpages4/filmnotes/fns07n6.html>
  + “Triumph of Hitler: Triumph of the Will,” *The History Place* <http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/triumph/tr-will.htm>

*Jan. 25: Selections from* The Wonderful Terrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl

*Jan. 30: The Legacy of Antisemitism*

* + Dwork/VP, *Introduction,* Chapter 1
  + Peter Hayes, “Introduction,” from Peter Hayes, *The Holocaust: How Was it Possible?* pp. 15-16, (hereafter referred to as Hayes)(All page numbers are from ebook)
  + Robert Wistrich, from *Antisemitism: The Longest Hatred* Hayes,pp. 23-35

*\*Jan. 31: Film:* Jud Suss(98 minutes)

*Feb. 1: Nazism in Power*

* Eckart Conze et al, *Elite Cooperation,* Hayes, pp. 130-137
  + Sebastian Haffner, *Street Level Coercion,* Hayes,pp. 138-149
  + Avraham Barkai, *Aryanization,* Hayes, pp. 165-187

*Feb. 6: Nazi Propaganda: Adults and Children* [bring your laptop to class]

* + <http://www.bytwerk.com/gpa/neuesvolk.htm>
  + <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/pre1933.htm>
  + Josef Goebbels, “We Demand” [1927]; “The Jew” [1929] <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/ww2era.htm#Antisem>
  + [A German Catechism](http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/catech.htm): 1934 anti-Semitic material for the schools.
  + [Ten Anti-Semitic Arguments](http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/responses.htm): Advice to propagandists in 1936.
  + <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/ww2era.htm>
  + [for the preceding link scroll down to the visual materials and look at the posters from 1933-39]
  + [*Trust No Fox*](http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/fuchs.htm): A Streicher antisemitic children's books.
  + [The Toadstool](http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/thumb.htm): A children’s book with an antisemitic theme.
  + [*Der Pudelmopsdackelpinscher:*](http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/pudel.htm) Selections from a 1940 children's book.
  + Selections from *Eternal Jew* (1940)

*\*Feb. 7: Film:* Into the Arms of Strangers *(2000, 122 minutes)*

*Feb. 8: The Initial Attacks on the German Jews*

* Mahoney, pp. 32-44
* Kaplan, 1, 2 (to page 62), 3-4

*Feb. 13: 1938: From the Anschluss to Kristalnacht:*

* + Dwork/VP 4,5
  + Kaplan, 5 (up to page p. 129)
  + Barkai, *Aryanization,* Hayes, pp. 187-191
  + <http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/holoprelude/kristallnacht.html>
* An Eyewitness: Johanna Gerechter Neumann <http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/media_oi.php?ModuleId=10005201&MediaId=1158>
  + First Person: Rabbi Jacob Wiener

<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/publicprograms/programs/firstperson/podcast/detail.php?EventId=B6250E4D-C26B-437F-B065-4714672E1E24>

* + First Person: Gerald Liebenau

<https://www.ushmm.org/information/visit-the-museum/programs-activities/first-person-program/first-person-podcast/gerald-liebenau-memories-of-kristallnacht>

*Feb. 15: Voices of the Excluded//Some Were Neighbors*

* <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/teachers/un2918>
* ttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ut5rE4dEwBY&index=3&list=PLE129969D102584DD
* <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/friends/un2965>
* <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/neighbors/un3015>
* <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/neighbors/un3020>
* <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/neighbors/un3022>
* <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/neighbors/un3021>
* <http://www.ushmm.org/propaganda/exhibit.html#/themes/defining-the-enemy/page2/voices_excluded/>
* <http://www.ushmm.org/information/museum-programs-and-calendar/first-person-program/first-person-podcast/frank-liebermann-changes-in-germany-after-nazi-rise-to-power>
* <http://www.ushmm.org/information/museum-programs-and-calendar/first-person-program/first-person-podcast/esther-starobin-fate-of-family-that-remained-in-germany>

*Feb. 20: “Life Unworthy of Life”: Disabled, Homosexuals, Roma (Gypsies), Jehovah’s Witnesses*

* + Mahoney, pp. 72-107
  + Robert N. Proctor, “Culling the German Volk,” *Racial Hygience* in Hayes, pp. 283-294
  + <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/religious-leaders/un2960>

*Feb. 22: Going or Staying? The Obstacles to Escape*

* Kaplan, pp. 62-73; 129-144
* Richard Breitman and Alan M. Kraut, “American Inhibitions,” *American Refugee Policy and European Jewry*, Hayes, p. 756-76

*Feb. 27: Life in the Ghettos*

* + Hayes, “Introduction,” *Jews in the Nazi Grip,* pp. 357-59
  + Chaim Kaplan *Isolation and Impoverishment,* Hayes, pp. 374-83
  + Gordon Horwitz, “Choiceless Choices,” *Ghettostadt:Lodz and the Making of a Nazi City,* Hayes, pp. 384-395

*\*Feb. 28: Film:* Ghetto: A Film Unfinished (2010, 88 minutes)

*Mar. 1: The First Assault–Deportations*

* Dwork/VP 6,7, 8, 9
* Mahoney 44-59, 60-71
* Kaplan, 7

*Mar. 6: First Stages of the Final Solution: The Killers Go to the Victims*

* Mahoney, pp. 142-163
  + Dwork/VP, 10
  + Richard Rhodes, “Bringing Death to the Jews,” (section on Babi Yar), *Masters of Death,* Hayes, pp. 484-491
  + <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/policemen/un2888>
  + <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/workers/un2991>
  + <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/neighbors/un1629>

Mar. 8: *Midterm I*

Mar. 13-15: SPRING BREAK

Mar. 20: *Genocide: The Decision Making Process* (BRING YOUR LAPTOP)

* + Mark Roseman, “Deciding to Kill,” *The Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution,*  Hayes, pp. 457-474
  + Map: <http://0.tqn.com/d/history1900s/1/0/D/6/EasternEurope3.JPG>
  + [http://www1.yadvashem.org/about\_holocaust/document /part2/doc73.html](http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_holocaust/document%20/part2/doc73.html) Instructions by Heydrich on Policy and Operations Concerning Jews in the Occupied Territories, September 21, 1939
  + <http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_holocaust/documents/part2/doc86.html> Himmler on the Treatment of Ethnic Groups and Jews in the East, in a Secret Memorandum to Hitler, May 25, 1940
  + <http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_holocaust/documents/part2/doc97.html> The Madagascar Plan, July 1940
  + <http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_holocaust/documents/part2/doc106.html> Goering Orders Heydrich to Prepare a Plan for the "Final Solution of the Jewish Problem," July 31, 1941
  + <http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_holocaust/documents/part3/doc177.html> Extracts from a report by Einsatzgruppe A in the Baltic Countries, 1941
  + <http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_holocaust/documents/part3/doc169.html> Special Duties for the SS In "Operation Barbarossa," March 13, 1941
  + <http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_holocaust/documents/part3/doc170.html> Extract from the Commissar's Order for "Operation Barbarossa," June 6, 1941
  + <http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_holocaust/documents/part3/doc170.html> Extract from Guidelines by Heydrich for Higher SS and Police Leaders in the Occupied Territories of the Soviet Union, July 2, 1941

*\*Mar. 21: Film:* Nazis Designers of Death

*Mar. 22: The Second Stage of the Final Solution: The Victims go to the Killers*

* Dwork/VP, 11, 14
  + Mahoney, pp. 108-141, 164-181, 186-212
  + Raul Hilberg, “Bringing Jews to Death,” *The Destruction of European Jews* in Hayes, pp. 492-510

*Mar. 27:* *Perpetrators: Ordinary Men or Ordinary Germans*?

* + Mahoney, pp. 88-108
  + Edward Westerman, “Political Soldiers,” *Hitler’s Police Battalions,* Hayes, pp. 516-524 (begin at “Ideology and Annihilation”)

*Mar. 29:* *In the Victims’ Voices: Part I*

* + Spiegelman, *Maus I & II*

*Apr. 3:* *In the Victims’ Voices: Part II*

* + Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz,* pp. 1-86

*\*Apr. 4 Film:* *Weapons of the Spirit* (1989, 91 minutes)

*Apr. 5: Resistance/ Rescue*

* + Dwork/VP, 13
  + Mahoney, p. 181-182
  + Kaplan, 8
  + Yisrael Gutman, *Nothing to Lose,* Hayes 413-428
  + Isaiah Trunk, *Indirect Rule,* Hayes, pp. 369-373 (begin at “The Attitudes of the Councils toward Physical Resistance”)
  + <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/workers/un3003>
  + <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/neighbors/un3016>

<http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/neighbors/un3018>

Apr. 10: *Collaboration:*

* + <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/workers/un2992>
  + <http://somewereneighbors.ushmm.org/#/exhibitions/workers/un3005>

Apr. 12: Midterm II

Apr. 17: *Bystanders: The Allies, the Vatican, Red Cross*

* + Michael Phayer, “Papal Priorities, “*Catholic Church and the Holocaust, 1930-1965,* Hayes, pp. 644-663
  + Dwork/VP, 12

Apr. 19: *The Nuremberg Tribunals/ Eichmann Trial*

* Mahoney, pp. 13-29, 184-85, 213-214

Apr. 24: *Evidence: How Do We Know What We Know?// Holocaust Denial* (bring your laptop

* [*www.hdot.org*](http://www.hdot.org)

Apr. 26: *Conclusion*