

History 320: The Holocaust

University of the Fraser Valley, Summer, 2010

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Course Content :

In this course we will study how a wide range of Europeans came to discriminate against, dehumanize, and murder en masse millions of Jews, and other “undesirables” in what is commonly referred to as the Holocaust. This course will centre on Nazi Germany while paying close attention to collaboration throughout Europe. We will explore the ideas, decisions, and actions that culminated in the murder of millions of European Jews and massive numbers of people deemed handicapped, Gypsies, homosexuals, Soviet prisoners of war, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Afro-Germans, and others. We will consider the role of historical prejudices, the impact of National Socialist ideology and leadership, and the crucial factor of the war itself. We will address the experiences of those targeted for annihilation as well as the actions of perpetrators and the role of others: ordinary citizens, bystanders, witnesses, and rescuers. Toward the end of the course, we will examine the postwar legacy of the Holocaust.

Students will be encouraged to develop their own analytical skills through examining primary historical documents, evaluating secondary interpretations of the past, and producing their own interpretive work in a variety of assignments.

Course grade distribution:

Short Papers	15 %	A+ 100-95; A 94-90; A- 89-85;
Map Quiz	5%	B+ 84-80; B 79-75; B- 74-70;
Mid-term Exam	15 %	C+ 69-65; C 64-60; C- 59-55;
Major paper	25 %	P 54-50 NC 49-0
Final Exam	25 %	
Participation & Presentation	15 %	<u>Total</u> <u>100</u>

Required Texts:

Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*

Viktor Frankl, *Man’s Search for Meaning: An Introduction to Logotherapy*

Jan Gross, *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*

Art Spiegelman, *Maus: A Survivor’s Tale, Volume I: My Father Bleeds History*.

The majority of the assigned readings will be contained in a Course Pack, which will be available at the UFV Bookstore.