

Bible, Holocaust, and Jewish and Christian Memory
Course Syllabus
Fall, 2004 Laurence H. Kant © 2004 All Rights Reserved

Professor: Dr. Laurence H. Kant Tuesday
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Please feel free to call me anytime at home up until 10:30 on evenings and on weekends

“If not now, when?” (Hillel and Primo Levi)

“Those of us who received the first Jews did what we thought had to be done-- nothing more complicated . . . How could we refuse them? . . . The issue was: Do you think we are all brothers or not? Do you think it unjust to turn in the Jews or not? Then let us try to help!” (Carl Rittner and Sophia Myers, *Le Chambon*, from Courage to Care)

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME: To familiarize students with the world’s most comprehensive genocide, including prior history of anti-Semitic prejudice and persecution, discussion of important events and death camps, experiences of perpetrators, victims, and survivors, the rescue of Jews by Christians and others, and the impact of the mass murder on historical memory and contemporary religion. In particular, we will examine the holocaust and responses to it as the central reference points for conceptualizing evil, moral courage, and even sanctity in the modern world. We will study the Christian portrayal of Jews throughout history from the New Testament on and its role in anti-Semitic discrimination and violence. At the conclusion of the course, we will investigate the portrayal of war and violence in the Bible to see whether interpretations of sacred scripture contribute to ongoing violence and genocide.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Yehuda Bauer, A History of the Holocaust (New York: Franklin Watts, 2001).
Dan Cohn-Sherbok (ed.), Holocaust Theology: A Reader (New York: New York University Press, 2002).
Viktor E. Frankl, Man’s Search for Meaning (Boston: Beacon Press, 1959).
Albert H. Friedlander (ed.), Out of the Whirlwind: A Reader of Holocaust Literature (2nd ed.; New York: UAHC Press, 1999)

Ka-Tzetnik 135633, Shivitti: A Vision (New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1989).
William Nicholls, Christian Antisemitism (Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, 1993).
Art Spiegelman, Maus: A Survivor's Tale, 1. My Father Bleeds History,
2. And Here My Troubles Began
Elie Wiesel, Night
Simon Wiesenthal, The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness
(New York: Schocken, 1969).

Depending on interest, we will also show some films, including Claude Lanzmann, "Shoah" (outside of class); Alain Resnais, "Night and Fog"; and films on the Wansee conference and the trial of Adolf Eichmann. We will also have some guest presenters. TBA.

REQUIREMENTS

1) Attendance and class participation: 25%; 2) Journal (at least three entries per week) that shows your reaction to readings and class discussion: 8-10 pages per week : 25%; 3) Final Paper of approximately 20-25 pages: 50%

August 24: Introduction

August 31

Show film, Alain Resnais, "Night and Fog"

Yehuda Bauer, A History of the Holocaust, Chapters 1-2

Albert Friedlander, Out of the Whirlwind, Section 1

Dan Cohn-Sherbok, Holocaust Theology, Chapter 1

Elie Wiesel, Night

September 7

Guest Presenter: Dr. Joseph Engelberg

Bauer, Chapter 3-4

Friedlander, Section 2, 1-4

Cohn-Sherbok, Chapter 2

Read remainder of Viktor Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning, 1-80

September 14
Bauer, Chapters 5-6
Friedlander, pp. 133-191
Cohn-Sherbok, Chapters 3-5
Read rest of Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning

September 21
Bauer, Chapter 7
Friedlander, pp. 191-258
Cohn-Sherbok, Chapter 6
Read Art Spiegelman, Maus: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History

September 28
Bauer, Chapters 8-9
Friedlander, pp. 259-308
Cohn-Sherbok, Chapter 7-10
Read Art Spiegelman, Maus: A Survivor's Tale: And Here My Troubles Began

October 5
Bauer, Chapter 10
Friedlander, 309-352
Cohn-Sherbok, Chapter 11
Ka-Tzetnik 135633, Shivitti

October 12: NO CLASS (Fall Break)

October 19
Bauer, Chapter 11
Friedlander, 353-399
Cohn-Sherbok, Chapter 12
Simon Wiesenthal, The Sunflower, pp. 1-98

October 26
Joint Class with Dr. William Meegan "Integrative Analysis of Forgiveness and Reconciliation"

Bauer, Chapter 12
Friedlander, 400-450
Cohn-Sherbok, Chapter 12
William Nicholls, Christian Antisemitism, Chapter 1

November 2

Guest Presenter: Professor Lisa Davison

Bauer, Chapter 13

Friedlander, 451-492

Cohn-Sherbok, Chapter 13

Nicholls, pp. 83-142

November 9

Guest Presenter, Rev. Steven Monhollen

Bauer, Chapter 14 and Appendix

Friedlander, 494-533

Cohn Sherbok, Chapter 14

Nicholls, pp. 142-187

November 16

Friedlander 537-578, 587-594

Cohn-Sherbok, Chapter 15

Nicholls, Chapters 6-7

November 23: NO CLASS (Reading Days/Thanksgiving Break)

November 30

The story of the rescue of Jews, including the entire nation of Denmark, Huguenot Christians at Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, Oskar Schindler, and Raoul Wallenberg: Readings TBA

Cohn-Sherbok, Chapter 16

Nicholls, Chapters 8, 11, 12

December 7

Hebrew Bible Selections

Other Readings TBA