

*The University of Florida*  
***History of the Holocaust***  
*EUH 3030/JST 3930*  
*Fall 2022*

Instructor:

Prof. Natalia Aleksion  
 Natalia.Aleksion@ufl.edu  
 Turlington Hall 1120B  
 Office Hrs. Thursday 1-3 PM

Teaching Assistants:

Danielle Barrientos ([dbarrientos13@ufl.edu](mailto:dbarrientos13@ufl.edu))  
 Walton, Darci E. Walton ([darci.walton@ufl.edu](mailto:darci.walton@ufl.edu))

The Holocaust remains the definitive event of the twentieth century and the turning point of Jewish, German, and European history. This course surveys the history of the Holocaust from the perspectives of perpetrators, victims and bystanders. It will detail the background and the gradual implementation and radicalization of the “Final Solution” with particular attention given to the role of ideology and the responses of individual Jews and Jewish communities to the Nazi onslaught. We will investigate the Holocaust within the larger context of the history of the Second World War and introduce some of the historians’ debates about the Nazi murderous aims and their implementation as well as the Jewish responses to the Nazi ideology and practice of destruction.

There is substantial reading, speaking and writing in this class. Commitment from you will be worth your while. Your grade will be determined as follows:

**Discussions and Response Papers -- 40% in aggregate.** There are thirteen discussion days in this course, all on Fridays (see below for your section). To most of them you are asked to write a short response paper (300-words, typed, double-spaced, polished) addressing a question based on the readings. Your question will be given in advance under “Assignments” on Canvas. Your grade will be determined by the quality of your papers and your participation in discussion. Response papers must be uploaded to Canvas by 9:30 am Friday.

**Your Friday discussion sections are as follows:**

Section	Period	Room	Leader
27357, 27790	4	MCCB 2102	Darcy Walton
27358, 27791	3	WEIM 1070	Darcy Walton
27359, 27793	3	ROL 0115	Danielle Barrientos
27360, 27792	4	TUR 2318	Danielle Barrientos

**Midterm Examination** -- 30%. The midterm examination is on October 4, take home and open book. It will consist of short identification questions and essays. You will need up to hours on the night of the midterm. Essay questions will be distributed one week in advance.

**Final Examination** -- 30%. The final examination is on December 12. It cannot be made up save for extreme circumstances. The exam will be made up of identification questions and essays. Essay questions will be distributed one week in advance.

**The Numerical Grading Scale is as follows:**

A	93-100	A-	90-92		
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	68-69	D	63-67	D-	60-62
F	<60				

Grading Criteria is as follows:

- A-range – 90s -- Excels – Full command and facility with material with the ability to place it within larger historical context and to make arguments based upon it.
- B-range – 80s – Good – Solid understanding of material but without complete facility or ability to make arguments based on it.
- C-range – 70s -- Fair – Some understanding of major themes, lack of command with detail, or some understanding of detail but lack of contextual understanding.
- D-range – 60s -- Poor – Enough factual understanding to pass, but little to no contextual clarity.
- F-range – Fails – Lack of university level quality.

For the grading policies of the University of Florida in general, follow this link:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

**Books You Will Need**

- Goda, Norman J.W. *The Holocaust: Europe, the World, and the Jews*. London: Routledge, 2022 – This is the weekly text.
- Gross, Jan T. *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*. New York: 2001.

- There will also be additional readings from documentary sources and oral testimonies for discussion. They will be posted in weekly folders in Canvas under “Files.”

### **Class Policies**

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken on discussion days and your grade will be affected if you miss. I will not take attendance on regular lecture days, but if you miss class, believe me, it will show in your written work. Be in class on time.

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit [one.ufl.edu](http://one.ufl.edu) for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

**Late Papers and Tests:** Exams and papers will not be accepted late without medical documentation.

#### **Academic Honesty:**

The University of Florida Student Honor Code is located at this link:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php> (Links to an external site.).

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

#### **Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **Course Evaluations:**

Students in this class are participating in the pilot evaluation of the new course evaluation system called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors so that teaching effectiveness is enhanced and to be more seamlessly linked to UF's CANVAS learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals.

### **Recordings:**

As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

### **Academic Resources:**

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [learningsupport@ufl.edu](mailto:learningsupport@ufl.edu). <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

## ***Schedule for Lectures and Discussions***

### ***Part 1:***

### ***The Jewish Question and Anti-Jewish Violence before 1933***

#### **Week 1: Defining the Holocaust (August 25-27)**

R: Who, where and when and why?

F: **Discussion: Does the terminology matter?**

Reading: *Week 1 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)*

No Reaction Paper Due

**Week 2: From the Medieval Legacy to Modern Antisemitism (August 30-September 2)**

T: The medieval legacy

R: The rise of modern antisemitism

F: **Discussion: Antisemitism: the longest hatred?***Reading: Chapter 1, Week 2 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)**Reaction Paper Due on Friday 9:30 am***Week 3: Anti-Jewish violence before the Holocaust (September 6-9)**

T: The Pale of Settlement

R: Pogroms during and after WWI

F: **Discussion: Patterns of anti-Jewish violence***Reading: Chapter 2, Week 3 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)**Reaction Paper Due on Friday 9:30 am***Part 2:*****Nazi Persecution and the War 1933-41*****Week 4: Hitler and the Jews (September 13-16)**

T: Hitler and the Jews

R: Germany and its Jews, 1933-1938

F: **Discussion:** Hitler and the Nazis*Reading: Chapter 3; 4, p. 58-65; Week 4 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)**Reaction Paper Due on Friday 9:30 am***Week 5: On the eve of the war (September 20-23)**

T: The tide of persecution 1938-1939

R: The world and Jewish refugees

F. **Discussion:** *The Kristallnacht as a turning point**Reading: Chapter 4, p. 65-79 and Chapter 5; Kristallnacht testimonies:**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bfjc1wEBIZo>; Week 5 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)**Reaction Paper Due on Friday 9:30 am***Week 6: Ghettos in Poland (September 27-30)**

T: NO CLASS (Rosh Hashana, Jewish New Year)

R: Occupation of Poland and the process of ghettoization, 1939-1941

F: **Discussion:** The Warsaw ghetto and the local history of the Holocaust*Reading: Chapter 6; Eric Bednarski, The Warsaw Ghetto (2021), a documentary film to be watched: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8QmqHfy-EI>; Week 6 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)**No Reaction Paper – Review for Midterm***(Midterm Paper Due on Tuesday October 4 at 8 PM)**

**Part 3:**  
**War and Mass Murder 1939-43**

**Week 7: Mass Killings Begin (October 4-7)**

T: From forced labor to the Holocaust by bullets

R: The Einsatzgruppen and their Helpers

F: **NO DISCUSSION, Homecoming**

*Reading: Text, Chapter 9, Gross, Neighbors, all.*

*Reaction Paper Due on Friday 9:30 am*

**Week 8: Aktion Reinhard: Mass Murder in Poland (October 11-14)**

T: NO CLASS (Sukkot)

R: *Aktion Reinhard*: the murder of Poland's Jews

F: **Discussion**: Ordinary people as perpetrators?

*Reading: Chapter 11, p. 204-219, 222-225, Week 8 Folder (on Canvas under Files)*

*Reaction Paper Due on Friday 9:30 am*

**Week 9: Jewish Responses (October 18-21)**

T: NO CLASS (Simchat Torah)

R: Communities, families and individuals responding to extermination

F: **Discussion**: Between agency and powerlessness

*Reading: 10, p. 185-196, Emanuel Ringelblum, The Oyneg Shabbes Underground*

*Archive in the Warsaw Ghetto: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GUXTJjzXqg>; Week 10 Folder (on Canvas under Files).*

*Reaction Paper Due on Friday 9:30 am*

**Part 4:**  
**Stopping the Holocaust?**  
**Resistors and Bystanders 1942-45**

**Week 10: Jewish Resistance (October 25-28)**

T: Cultural and spiritual resistance

R: Armed Resistance

F: **Discussion**: Problems of Jewish Resistance

*Reading: Chapter 10, p. 195-201; Chapter 11, p. 219-222; Week 10 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files).*

*Reaction Paper Due on Friday 9:30 am*

**Week 11: The Holocaust in Western Europe (November 1-4)**

T: The Netherlands: complete deportation

R: France: partial deportation

F: **Discussion:** *German policies and local responses in Western Europe*

*Reading: Ch. 7; 12; Week 11 Folder (on Canvas under Files).*

*Reaction Paper Due on Friday 9:30 am*

**Week 12: Rescue and Non-Rescue (November 8-11)**

T: The Final Solution in Northern Europe

R: Vatican: The silence of Pope Pius XII

F: **Discussion:** *What happened under the Pope's very windows?*

*Reading: Chapter 13; Week 12 Folder (on Canvas under Files).*

*Reaction Paper Due on Friday 9:30 am*

**Part 5:**

***The End: 1944-1945***

**Week 13: The Hungarian Jewish Catastrophe (November 15-18)**

T: Eichmann in in Budapest

R: Rescue efforts and reactions to the destruction of Hungarian Jewry

F: **Discussion:** *What made the destruction of the Hungarian Jewry possible?*

*Reading: Chapter 15; Week 13 Folder (on Canvas under Files)*

*Reaction Paper Due on Friday 9:30 am*

**Week 14: The Final Chapter (November 22-25)**

T: The Soviet Offensive and the Death Marches

R: NO CLASS, Thanksgiving

F: **Discussion:** *How does the end of WWII correspond with the end of the Holocaust?*

*Reading: Chapter 16; The testimony of Bernard Igielski,*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAXOR530Yg8>; *Week 14 Folder (on Canvas under Files)*

*Reaction Paper Due on Friday 9:30 am*

**Week 15: The Aftermath (November 29-December 2)**

T: Survivors and the quest for justice

R: Documentation and memorialization

*Reading: Chapter 17; The Last Survivors:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crkVNLgPPV0>; *Week 15 Folder (on Canvas under Files)*

*No Reaction Paper Due (review for the final)*

**Week 16: Conclusions (December 6)**

T: "Who can make sense of it?"  
Final Examination due December 12, 8:00 pm