

## **Aspects of Nazism: Race and Medicine**

EUH4930 2811s

Wednesdays, 1.55pm-4.55 pm

Keene-Flint, room 111

Professor Mitchell Hart

Department of History

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This research seminar offers senior history majors the opportunity to delve deeply into the place of racial medical thinking in the Third Reich. We will study the history of bio-racial eugenic thinking in Germany and ask what this particular history reveals about the ideology and structure of the Nazi state and system.

As a senior capstone seminar, the course requires students to use the various analytical and research skills developed over three years as a history major. The seminar is structured around weekly discussions of assigned material and time to research and then write the required essay.

### **Requirements:**

Attendance is mandatory. Since we only meet once a week, you will only be permitted to miss one weekly meeting without a valid excuse. After that your grade will be affected.

Participation is mandatory. Unlike a lecture course, in a seminar you must actively engage with the material and demonstrate this through discussion during class. Part of your final grade will depend on the level of participation.

Each week, at least one member of the seminar will assume responsibility for leading the discussion about that week's assigned material. In that role, you will have carefully read the material (and ideally, extra material such as reviews of the assigned book) and come prepared to answer questions and lead discussions.

Again, the success of a seminar depends almost entirely on your active involvement and engagement with the material and with each other during the class. This is not an undergraduate lecture class; you cannot sit passively while others do the intellectual work for you.

Seminar Paper: Each of you will produce a 15-20 page essay on a topic to be agreed upon by you and me. This paper is intended to give you the opportunity to explore in depth a more specific issue or theme related to the seminar that is of particular interest to you. I suggest you start thinking right away about such a topic, identify it, and come and speak with me. Note that meeting with me individually to discuss your research is a mandatory part of the assignment.

The last few weeks of the semester will be devoted to fifteen-minute oral presentations of your research. We will discuss this in greater detail during class.

The required essay must be based on research that engages with both primary and secondary source material.

The final essay must be between 15-20 pages, double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12 pt. font size. Grammar and other matters of style count, so please re-read your essay at least once before handing it in.

The final essay is due in my email no later than December 11 at noon. Early submissions are welcome. No late essays will be accepted and there are no exceptions. It must be submitted as a Word file, attached to the email to me at [hartm@ufl.edu](mailto:hartm@ufl.edu). No hard copies.

#### Required Books:

Sheila Faith Weiss, *The Nazi Symbiosis: Human Genetics and Politics in the Third Reich*  
Robert Proctor, *Racial Hygiene: Medicine under the Nazis*  
Johann Chapoutot, *The Law of Blood: Thinking and Acting as a Nazi*  
Stefan Kühl, *The Nazi Connection*

There will also be primary readings posted on Canvas for you to download.

#### **Seminar Schedule:**

**Week One**, August 28: Introduction, discussion of primary material on Canvas.

Section 12, "Marriage and the Family", pages 33-44;

and "section 13, "Eliminating 'Superfluous Life'", pages 45-51

**Week Two**, September 4: Robert Proctor, *Racial Hygiene*, pages 1-130

**Week Three**, September 11: Proctor, *Racial Hygiene*, pages 131-314

**Week Four**, 18: Sheila Faith Weiss, *The Nazi Symbiosis*, pages 1-183

**Week Five**, September 25: Weiss, *The Nazi Symbiosis*, pages 184-312

**Week Six**, October 2: No meeting. Research essays

**Week 7**, October 9: Johann Chapoutot, *The Law of Blood: Thinking and Acting as a Nazi*, pages 1-152

**Week 8**, October 16: Chapoutot, *The Law of Blood*, pages 155-273

**Week 9**, October 23: Chapoutot, *The Law of Blood*, pages 277-415

**Week 10**, October 30, Stefan Kühl, *The Nazi Connection* (entire book)

**Weeks 11-12**, November 6 and 13: No meetings. Research and writing time

**Week 13**, November 20: First set of oral presentations

**Week 14**, Thanksgiving Break

**Week 15**, December 4: Second set of oral presentations

**Final Essays due no later than December 11 by 12 pm (noon). No late essays will be accepted. No exceptions.**

#### **STATEMENT REGARDING ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code of the University of Florida. The Academic Honor Code is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and responsibility on the part of the University community. For a full explanation of visit: [www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html). An excellent website that discusses plagiarism, correct citing of references, and correct use of quotations is:

<http://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=adaa44500eaf460a84f238e6b9a558f9>.

**UNIVERSITY RESOURCES:**

**Disability Accommodations:** Students requesting accommodation should first register with the Dean of Students Office so that you have documentation for all your courses. For more information about services available to University of Florida students: Dean of Students Office Disability Resource Center, 202 Peabody Hall or 0020 Reid Hall Phone: (352) 392-1261/(352) 392-8570 or at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

**UF Counseling and Academic Resources:** On-campus services are available for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. They include:

1. U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or (352) 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
2. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, (352) 392-1575,
3. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, (352) 392-1171
4. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, (352) 392-1161
5. CareerResourceCenter,ReitzUnion,(352)392-1601<http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>
6. E-learning technical support: (352) 392-4357/ email: [Learningsupport@ufl.edu](mailto:Learningsupport@ufl.edu)

<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

7. LibrarySupport,<http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
8. WritingStudio,302TigertHall,(352)846-1138<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>