

The University of Florida

History of the Holocaust

EUH 3033/JST 3931

Spring 2025

Instructor:

200 Walker Hall

Norman JW Goda

Office Hrs. W 1-3

Teaching Assistants:

James Knight -- Walker Hall 2020

Office Hours

This class provides an analysis of the greatest premeditated atrocity in Western history – the murder of nearly six million European Jews from 1939-1945. It will approach this event chronologically and geographically but also from a variety of perspectives -- from that of the killers, from that of the victims, and from that of the so-called bystanders. We will also examine major historical arguments concerning the Holocaust's most critical aspects. Students will attain a factual command of the major developments of the Holocaust within the context of Jewish, European, and World History and gain an introductory knowledge of differing historiographical explanations.

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). For eleven of them you will have to write a **300-word** (typed, double-spaced) response to a question based on the reading, the question given a week in advance under "Assignments" on Canvas.

Your grade will be determined by the quality of your papers: the degree to which they are polished (no misspellings, good grammar, etc.); the degree to which they **engage the readings with an example or two**; and the degree to which you **participate** meaningfully in discussion.

Response papers must be uploaded to Canvas by 10:00 am Friday. Late papers will not be accepted. An unexcused absence from discussion with or without a response paper will result in zero for that discussion. I will drop the lowest weekly Discussion/Response grade, so use it wisely.

Your Friday discussion sections are as follows.

Course Number	Time	Place	Discussion Leader
16476	Friday Period 4	Matherly 119	James Knight
16479	Friday Period 6	Matherly 115	James Knight
22752	Friday Period 4	Matherly 119	James Knight
22754	Friday Period 6	Matherly 115	James Knight

Midterm Examination -- 30%. The midterm examination is a closed-book, two-hour, in-class written exam taken on February 24 from 6-8 PM at a place to be determined. Possible essay questions will be distributed ten days in advance.

Final Examination -- 30%. The final examination is a closed-book, two-hour, in-class written exam taken on May 2 at 10am-12PM. Possible essay questions will be distributed ten days 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 for discussions, brief papers, and can be found under Rubrics, under "Files" in Canvas site:

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*. 2nd. ed. London: Routledge, 2022 – This is the weekly text.
- Gross, Jan T. *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*. New York: 2001.
- Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*. (any edition will do).
- Sereny, Gitta. *Into that Darkness: An Examination of Conscience*. New York: Vintage, 1983.
- There will also be additional posted readings from documentary sources for discussion. They will be in weekly folders in Canvas under “Files.”

Class Policies

Attendance:

I will not take attendance on lecture days, but if you skip class, believe me, it will be apparent in the examinations. Attendance will be taken in Friday discussions. You will receive a zero for a missed discussion whether or not you submit your weekly paper. You are to arrive to class on time. There are exceptions for documented illnesses, serious accidents, military service, and matters of that nature. Exceptions must be made clear to the instructor or teaching assistant in advance. Please see the UF attendance policies [here](#).

Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted unless in cases of documented illnesses, serious accidents, military service, and matters of that nature.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the [“Get Started With the DRC”](#) webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness: U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273- 4450.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.

Writing Studio: Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. More information [here](#).

Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.

Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to 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/> ([Links to an external site.](#))

Academic Honesty

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information.](#)

A word of advice on the use of artificial intelligence in writing papers. AI is a helpful tool with regard to the formulation of a clean paper. But I have read many papers written entirely with AI, and I find them to be of C quality. They tend not to engage with the assignments only superficially.

Student Evaluations of This Course

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>.

Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Electronics

Your cell phones must be silenced and cannot be used in class under any circumstances.

I do not allow the use of laptop computers for note taking. Sorry, but too many people shop online, look at social media, etc.,. It is a distraction to you and to anyone sitting near you. You are best off taking notes with a pen and pad.

Lecture, Discussion, and Assignment Schedule

Part 1:

The Jewish Question to 1933

Week 1: The Pre-Modern Legacy-- Jan. 13-17

M: The Devil and the Jews

W: Jewish Emancipation

F: **Discussion:** Ritual Murder and Emancipation

Reading: Text, xiii-xv, 1-9; Week 1 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)

No Reaction Paper Due

Week 2: Modern Antisemitism -- Jan. 20-24

M: No Class -- MLK Day

W: Modern Antisemitism

F: **Discussion:** To the Protocols

Reading: Text, 9-19, Week 2 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)

Reaction Paper Due on Friday 10:00 am

Week 3: Pogroms -- Jan. 27-31

M: The Pale

W: Pogroms

F: **Discussion:** Pogroms

Reading: Text, Chapter 2. Week 3 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)

Reaction Paper Due on Friday 10:00 am

Part 2:

Nazi Persecution 1933-41

Week 4: Hitler and the Jews – Feb. 3-7

M: Hitler and the Jews

W: Germany and its Jews, 1933-1938

F: **Discussion:** Hitler and the Nazis

Reading: Text, 42-76; Week 4 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)

Reaction Paper Due on Friday 10:00 am

Week 5: Too Many Jews – Feb. 10-14

M: The Tide of Persecution 1938-1939

W: The World and Jewish Refugees

F: **Discussion:** *The St. Louis.*

Reading: Text, Chapter 5; Week 5 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files)

Reaction Paper Due on Friday 10:00 am

Week 6: Ghettos in Poland – Feb. 17-21

M: Occupied Poland, 1939-1941

W: Ghettos in Poland

F: **Discussion:** The Warsaw Ghetto

Reading: Text, Chapter 6.

No Reaction Paper – Review for Midterm

(Midterm Exam Monday Feb 24 at 6:00-8:00 pm)

Part 3:

War and Mass Murder 1939-43

Week 7: Mass Killings Begin – Feb. 24-28

M: The Jews of the USSR

W: The Einsatzgruppen and their Helpers

F: **Discussion:** Collaborators in the East.

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

Reaction Paper Due on Friday 10:00 am

Week 8: Aktion Reinhard: Mass Murder in Poland – March 3-7

M: Toward the Wannsee Conference

W: *Aktion Reinhard: The Murder of Poland's Jews*

F: **Discussion:** Mentalities of Murder

Reading: Sereny, *Into That Darkness*, pages TBA.

Reaction Paper Due on Friday 10:00 am

Week 9: Auschwitz – March 10-14

M: Auschwitz: The Capital of the Holocaust

W: Film: Kitty: Return to Auschwitz

F: **Discussion:** Death and Life in the Camps

Reading: Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, all.

Reaction Paper Due on Friday 10:00 am

Part 4:

Stopping the Holocaust?

Resistors and Bystanders 1942-45

Week 10: Jewish Resistance – March 24-28

M: Resistance: Spontaneous and Partisan Resistance

W: Resistance: Ghetto and Camp Resistance

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

Reading: Text, Chapter 10, 219-21; Week 10 Reading Folder (on Canvas under Files).

Reaction Paper Due on Friday 10:00 am

Week 11: The Holocaust in Western Europe – March 31-April 4

M: The Netherlands: Complete Deportation

W: France: Partial Deportation

F: **Discussion:** *The Terrible Secret*

Reading: Text, 233-240, Chapter 13; Week 11 Folder (on Canvas under Files).

Reaction Paper Due on Friday 10:00 am

Week 12: Rescue and Non-Rescue – April 7-11

M: Sweden and Denmark: Halting Deportations

W: Vatican: The Silence of Pope Pius XII

F: **Discussion:** *In the Vatican's Shadow*

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

Reaction Paper Due on Friday 10:00 am

Part 5:

The End: 1944-1945

Week 13: The Hungarian Jewish Catastrophe. April 14-18

M: Hungary (I): Eichmann's Triumph

W: Hungary (II): The Global Reaction

F: **Discussion:** Bribery and Bombs

Reading: Text, Chapter 14; Week 13 Folder (on Canvas under Files)

Reaction Paper Due on Friday 10:00 am

Week 14: The Final Chapter. April 21-23

M: The Final Chapter

W: How We Remember (and How We Don't)

Thurs: REVIEW

Reading: Text, Chapter 15-17 (skim)

Final Examination May 2, 10:00am-12:00 pm