This course introduces some of the major questions and historical debates that continue to surround the origins, implementation, and aftermath of the Holocaust—the systematic, industrialized mass murder of an estimated six million European Jews, as well as homosexuals, communists, Roma and Sinti, handicapped, and other victims by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during WWII. The first part of the course will focus on the historical context, planning, and execution of the Holocaust. The second part of the course will introduce you to the major historiographical debates in the post-war period. The third part of the course will focus on memorialization and the politics of memory in contemporary Germany. Because this course takes place in Berlin—the former Nazi capital, where the political and logistical decisions for the Final Solution were made—special attention will be given to issues in Holocaust studies that are peculiar to Germany as the country of the perpetrators. In particular, the course will examine domestic German controversies about Holocaust memorialization, the place of the Holocaust in German national self-understanding, and more broadly the concept of "coming to terms with the past" (Vergangenheitsbewältigung).

**Learning Objectives**

By completing this course, students will:

- Assess the historical context preceding and during the Holocaust.
- Examine and distinguish the central events of the Holocaust, including its planning and execution.
- Compare and contrast different ways historians have approached their analyses of the Holocaust, beginning in the immediate postwar period and lasting until today.
- Evaluate major historical debates in Holocaust studies, including issues of Holocaust memorialization and the politics of memory.

**Course Prerequisites**

None

**Methods of Instruction**

This course is taught through lectures, discussion of the assigned readings, and the study of images. Visits to key sites in Berlin will be incorporated into the instruction.

**Assessment and Final Grade**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Course Requirements**
This will be a short, 750-word paper on the first excursion on Jewish Berlin and the Kaplan reading from Week 2. Students will write a reflection comparing the two and examine the problem of social life and social death of Jews in German history.

**Group Presentation**

Each student will be part of a group and responsible for making a 15-minute presentation on a specific aspect of a Berlin memorial and how it relates to Holocaust memory. The presentations will take place during the Memory Walk excursions in the final week of the course. The groups and the specific questions to be answered will be determined in class in Week 4.

**Paper 2**

A written version of the presentation (approximately 750 words) will also be submitted as the second writing assignment before the day of the presentation.

**Midterm Exam**

The midterm exam will consist of short ID and essay questions.

**Final Exam**

The midterm exam will consist of short ID and essay questions. It will be both cumulative and analytic.

**Participation**

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

**Attendance**

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.

Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:
N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, and local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Class: 1.1 Introduction

Overview of the course

Introduction to Modern anti-Semitism

In-class documents/sources:

- Herzl, The Jewish State, 85–97
- Kastan, “A General Assembly of German Israelites” (1893)
- Drumont, “Jewish France” in Perry, Sources of the Western Tradition

Class: 1.2 Introduction

Jewish Berlin

A walk along Oranienburger Straße, from Hackescher Markt to Tucholskystraße, including a visit to Grosse Hamburger Straße Cemetery

Reading:


Online Resource:


**Week 2**

Class: 2.1 Weimar Germany and the Third Reich

The Nazi Rise to Power and NS Ideology

In-class sources: NSDAP 25 Points; Nuremberg Racial Laws (The Reich Citizenship Law [September 15, 1935] and the First Regulation to the Reich Citizenship Law [November 14, 1935])

Reading:

- Kershaw, “The Hitler Myth”

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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</th>
<th>Minimum Penalty</th>
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<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 – 20%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements, 3% grade penalty &amp; <strong>written warning</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td><strong>Automatic course failure</strong>, and possible expulsion</td>
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</table>
Hitler, selections from “Nation and Race” from Mein Kampf in Gigliotti and Lang, The Holocaust: A Reader, 68–81

Class: 2.2 Weimar Germany and the Third Reich
 Victim Groups and Stages of Persecution
 The Jewish Question; concentration camps; death camps
 In-class sources: Hitler's Reichstag Speech (January 30, 1939)
 Reading:
 Friedländer, “Redemptive Anti-Semitism”, in Nazi Germany and the Jews, 73–112.
 Kaplan, Between Dignity and Despair, vii–xii, 3-49

Week 3
Class: 3.1 World War II and the Holocaust
 War, Perpetrators, and Genocide
 In-class documents/sources:
 Göring Order to Heydrich (31 July 1941)
 Himmler Address to SS at Posen (4 October 1943)
 Reading:
 Browning, Ordinary Men, 1–79

Due Date for Submission of Paper 1

Class: 3.2 World War II and the Holocaust
 Victims’ Voices
 Reading:
 Delbo, Days and Memory (excerpts)

Class: 3.3 World War II and the Holocaust
 Site Visit: Sachsenhausen Memorial
 Reading:
 Bergen, War and Genocide, 207–235
 Omer Bartov, "Defining Enemies, Making Victims: Germans, Jews, and the Holocaust"

Week 4
Class: 4.1 Memory and Remembrance
 Cultural Memory
 Reading:
 Spiegelman, Maus I (required); Maus II (recommended)

Midterm Exam Completed in Class

Class: 4.2 Memory and Remembrance
 Memorialization
Class: 4.3 Memory and Remembrance

Site Visit: Otto Weidt Museum

Reading:

Biographical overview of Inge Deutschkron, who found protection and received support from Otto Weidt.

Week 5
Class: 5.1 Memory and Remembrance

Memory Walk

Sites visited include Stolpersteine along Auguststraße, “The Empty Room,” “The Missing House,” The Former Jewish Girls’ School

Reading:

Theodor Adorno, “What does Coming to Terms with the Past Mean?” in Harman, Bitburg in Moral and Political Perspective, pp. 114-129.

Due date for Submission of Paper 2

Group Presentation

Class: 5.2 Memory and Remembrance

Memory Walk (Continued)

Sites include: The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, The Memorial to the Sinti and Roma Victims of National Socialism, The Memorial to Homosexuals Persecuted under Nazism

Reading:

Jonathan Ahr, “Memory and Mourning in Berlin: On Peter Eisenman’s Holocaust Mahnmal”

Group Presentation (Part 2)

Week 6
Class: 6.1 Genocide Studies

Reading:

Moses, “Raphael Lemkin, Culture, and the Concept of Genocide” in Bloxham and Moses, eds., The Oxford Handbook on Genocide Studies, 19–41


Class: 6.2 Conclusion

Final Exam Completed in Class

Course Materials
Readings


