

# **THE HOLOCAUST: A History of War and Genocide**

## **Course Syllabus**

**Instructor: Rich Gallerani**

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**Course web page: <http://holocausthistorysbp.weebly.com/>**

**Room: 23**

**Office Hours:** I am available for extra help **Mon 3:30-4:45 PM and Thur: 3:30-4:45 in the ACC.**

### **Course Description**

This course will introduce the student to an introductory study of the Holocaust. By examining four major historical preconditions leading up to the Nazi party's acquisition of power, namely anti-Semitism, Germany's reaction to defeat in the Napoleonic Wars and subsequent Enlightenment ideas, the Treaty of Versailles and Germany's post-WWI economy, and Eugenics and Social Darwinism, the student will discover and experience the causes, events, ideologies and processes as well as the major personalities that made the Holocaust possible. Emphasis will be given to the inter-relationships between the perpetrators, victims and those who stood by and did nothing. Further emphasis will be placed on European geography, the chronological order of events and important dates in history. Through the examination of these historical preconditions and the escalating power, hatred and violence that followed, the student will better understand the context in which the Holocaust must be understood as well as gain a clearer understanding as to how and why it could have happened at all.

### **Required Textbook (Textbook fee: \$75.00 for lost or damaged book)**

*War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition February 16, 2009), Doris L. Bergen: New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003 ISBN-13: 978-0742557154

### **Required Reading Text (Reading Text fee: \$75.00 for lost or damaged book)**

*Survival in Auschwitz*, Primo Levi: New York: A Touchstone Book, Simon & Schuster, 1996 ISBN-13: 978-0684826806

A classroom set of both books has been provided for this course. However, please understand that the student will be charged \$30.00 for a missing or severely damaged textbook and/or \$15.00 for a missing or severely damaged reading text at anytime during the course as well as upon completion of the course.

### **Required Supplies**

1. Single subject SPIRAL notebook
2. Pocket Folder
3. Non-Click style pens (If the student wishes to use a pencil, he must provide his own sharpener and have it with him at all times.
4. High liters

## Course Objectives

### Students will be able to:

- Understand and explain the history and development of anti-Semitism in Western Europe beginning with its biblical roots to the fall of Hitler's Third Reich in 1945.
- Describe and explain the cultural, political and economic developments that contributed to the atmosphere of hate that made the Holocaust possible.
- Understand and explain the rise of the National Socialist German Workers Party.
- Explain the Nazi party's use of anti-Semitic propaganda to espouse its gospel of violence and hate.
- Describe and explain the history and development of the Nazi system for the annihilation of European Jewry.
- Name and identify key figures and their roles in the Holocaust.
- Identify key locations on the map of Europe.
- Interpret maps, statistics, charts, diagrams, graphs, timelines, pictures, political cartoons, propaganda posters, audiovisual materials and written resources.

## Course Outline

1. Weeks 1-3: **Historical Preconditions**
  - a. Topics:
    - i. Introduction: Race and Space, definitions and terminology
    - ii. Historical overview of anti-Semitism in Western Europe
    - iii. Germany's reaction to defeat in the Napoleonic Wars and against the Enlightenment
    - iv. The Treaty of Versailles and Post WWI German economy
    - v. Eugenics and Social Darwinism
2. Weeks 4-7: **Hitler and the rise of the National Socialists German Workers Party**
  - a. Topics:
    - i. School Testing Day (Tuesday August 6)
    - ii. Hitler's early life and rise to political prominence
    - iii. Birth of the Nazi party
    - iv. Julius Streicher and the anti-Semitic newspaper "Der Stürmer"
    - v. Joseph Goebbels and the Nazi Propaganda Ministry
3. Weeks 8-10: **Beneath the Crooked Cross: War and Persecution**
  - a. Topics:
    - i. The Nuremberg Laws
    - ii. Kristallnacht and the beginning of mass deportations to concentration camps
    - iii. The German invasion of Poland and Germany's euthanasia program
    - iv. Hitler's Black Victims and Germany's forced sterilization program
    - v. The Einsatzgruppen (mobile killing units) and the Order Police

#### 4. Weeks 11-12: **The Final Solution**

##### a. Topics:

- i. The Lodz and Warsaw Ghettos
- ii. The Wannsee Conference
- iii. The early killing centers and the move from diesel exhaust to Zyklon B
- iv. The major killing centers: Chlemno, Belzeck, Sobibor, Treblinka and Majdanek
  1. Student Presentations on these major killing centers
- v. Auschwitz – Birkenau and memoirs of camp commandant Rudolf Höess

#### 5. Weeks 13-14: **In the Belly of the Beast: Man’s Inhumanity to Man**

##### a. Topics:

- i. The nature of the camps and personal accounts and memoirs
- ii. The film “The Grey Zone”
- iii. The Death Marches
- iv. Segments of documentary “Shoah” (Time and Technology permitting)
- v. End of WWII, Liberation and the enduring legacy

#### 6. In Class Reading Assignment: ***SURVIVAL IN AUSCHWITZ*, Primo Levi**

In Class Reading Schedule:

Weeks 1-3: (10-12 pages each class period)

Weeks 4-6: (10-12 pages each class period)

Weeks 7-9: (10-12 pages each class period)

Weeks 10-12: (10-12 pages each class period)

The true and harrowing account of Primo Levi’s experience at the German concentration camp of Auschwitz and his miraculous survival; hailed by *The Times Literary Supplement* as a “true work of art, this edition includes an exclusive conversation between the author and Philip Roth.

In 1943, Primo Levi, a twenty-five-year-old chemist and “Italian citizen of Jewish race,” was arrested by Italian fascists and deported from his native Turin to Auschwitz. *Survival in Auschwitz* is Levi’s classic account of his ten months in the German death camp, a harrowing story of systematic cruelty and miraculous endurance. Remarkable for its simplicity, restraint, compassion, and even wit, *Survival in Auschwitz* remains a lasting testament to the indestructibility of the human spirit. Included in this new edition is an illuminating conversation between Philip Roth and Primo Levi never before published in book form.

## Homework

Homework will be assigned every day and will consist of readings and questions from the textbook and handouts given in class. Homework will also consist of periodic writing assignments as well. **All written assignments must be typed using 12 point Times New Roman font.** Homework is expected on time! **NO CREDIT** will be given for late homework. If the student is going to be out for any reason or misses class due to illness, he must notify the teacher in advance to make arrangements for the work missed. In the case of illness, the student **WILL BE GIVEN ONE DAY FOR EVERY DAY HE IS OUT SICK to hand in missed work.** Absence due to illness requires a doctor's note. **IF THE STUDENT CANNOT PROVIDE A DOCTOR'S NOTE, HE WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT FOR LATE WORK.** Email the teacher immediately at [rgallera@sbp.org](mailto:rgallera@sbp.org) if you are going to miss class for any reason.

## Quizzes and Tests

A quiz will be given each week based on the information, homework, readings, class notes and discussions provided that week. A cumulative test will be given towards the end of the five weeks. The date will be announced.

## Writing Assignment

The students are required to hand in a 3 page typed paper on whether they view the Holocaust from an Intentionalist or Functionalist point of view. The paper must be typed, double spaced, using black ink only and be typed in 12 point font only. New Times Roman font is preferred. The paper is **due: TBD.** Late papers will NOT be accepted.

## Presentation

The students are required to make a presentation to the class on one of the major Nazi killing centers. Instructions and guidelines will be provided in the first week of the course in order to give students adequate time to research information. Presentations are scheduled during the fourth week of the course: **TBD.**

## Attendance and Late Policy

Students will arrive on time and be prepared for class every day. This means having all one's books, pens, paper and supplies for class. THE STUDENT MUST HAVE A PEN AND HIS BOOK AND NOTEBOOK FOR CLASS. IF HE DOES NOT, 5 POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM HIS FINAL GRADE FOR EVERY DAY HE ARRIVES TO CLASS UNPREPARED. FURTHERMORE, THE STUDENT'S GRAD DROPS 1/3 FOR EVERY THIRD TIME HE IS LATE TO CLASS.

**Grading Scale:**

Please keep in mind there are NO “Ds” a St. Benedict’s Prep School. All students are expected to achieve scores of 70 or better at all times. Any score below a 70 is considered failing.

<b>A</b>	<b>93-100</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90-92</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>87-89</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>83-86</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>80-82</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>77-79</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>70-76</b>
<b>D+</b>	<b>66-69</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>63-65</b>
<b>D-</b>	<b>60-62</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0-59</b>

**Grade Percentages and Assessment**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Class Participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Quizzes</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Tests &amp; Midterm</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Final Paper</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Homework</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Presentation</b>	<b>10%</b>

## Course Policies

1. Respect and consideration for the teacher, fellow students and school facilities will be demonstrated at all times.
2. Students will not make fun of, ridicule or intentionally embarrass another student for any reason.
3. **Students will arrive on time and be prepared for class every day. This means having all one's books, pens, paper and supplies for class. THE STUDENT MUST HAVE A PEN AND HIS BOOKS FOR CLASS. IF HE DOES NOT, POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM HIS GRADE.**
4. Students will do their work on time and be responsible for all homework assignments. If the student is absent for any reason, he is responsible for contacting other students and/or the teacher about any class work or homework missed. This missed work must be made up.
5. Students will not cheat. **Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. It is a violation of the Honor Code if a student claims that academic work is his, when in fact it is not. This includes copying homework and improperly using or citing sources. Any violation of the Honor Code will result in an F on the assignment and possibly an F for the course. Also, an Alert Slip will be submitted, which means a letter about the Honor Code infraction will be mailed home. If a student is unsure what constitutes cheating, he should consult the teacher right away.**
6. Students will pay attention in class.
7. Students will not talk while the teacher is speaking or another student is speaking.
8. Students will participate in class. Class participation is a must.
9. Students will ask any and all questions they may have. No questions are dumb or stupid. The only question that is dumb or stupid is the one you don't ask!
10. Students will bring any and all problems they may be experiencing to the teacher or to their parents or guardians.



## St. Benedict's Prep Covenant

## Community Commitment Code

“Benedict’s men are persons of integrity. Whatever helps my brother helps me. Trust is the virtue by which we build our community; violation of the community’s trust is grounds for dismissal.”

We respect the property of others and of the community. It is our responsibility to ensure that we care for our own belongings, the possessions of others, and the shared property of the community. Benedict’s men do not steal.

We are truthful with ourselves and with our brothers. Benedict’s men do not lie.

We take pride in each other’s talents and our ability to learn from one another. Benedict’s men live in community.

## Academic Honor Code

Lying, cheating, and stealing are considered unacceptable violations of the Academic Honor Code and are subject to disciplinary action.

Lie: a false statement made with deliberate intent to deceive; an intentional untruth; a falsehood.

Cheat: to take an examination or test in a dishonest way, as by improper access to answers; to violate rules or regulations.

Steal: to take (the academic property or work of another or others) without permission or right, especially secretly or by force.

“I will not cheat. I will not lie. I will not steal. I will report anyone who does.”

### A Note to Parents/Guardians:

Your signature indicates that your son/student has shown you this course syllabus and that you have discussed the policies and expectations with him. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

**Please sign and return. Thank you.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student's Name