

Quest 1: IDS 2935
Post-Holocaust US Jews
Fall 2021

Instructor

Prof. Rachel Gordan

rgordan@ufl.edu

Anderson Hall 107f (my office is within the large main Religion office, near the faculty mailboxes ☺)

Office hours: Thursdays 2:15—3:30 (in-person) and by appointment (I will frequently be available for evening zoom office hours, as well as the occasional Sunday evening zoom office hours).

TA: Harrison Rosenberg hrosenberg1@ufl.edu



Course Details:

Time: Tues & Thurs, period 10 (5:10-6:00 pm) and Friday sections

Location: TUR 2319

(Note that a minimum grade of 'C' is required for General Education credit.) Class resources, announcements, updates, and assignments will be made available through the class Canvas site (www.elearning.ufl.edu).

****To accommodate students who need to quarantine, remote access will be an option in this class, at the Professor's discretion, so that students who cannot be with us in the classroom, can still participate. Please let Professor Gordan know if/when you plan to access this class remotely. The logistics of this will be discussed during the first week of classes. If you have questions at any point, please do not hesitate to be in touch with Professor Gordan.**

Course description: Although we are accustomed the thinking about the importance of the Holocaust, itself, as a specific event in time, the Holocaust was also a historical event that had enduring consequences for American culture and society. In this class, we'll look at some of the aspects of culture that the Holocaust affected, such as attitudes toward antisemitism; the Cold War; the Civil Rights Movement; views of "survivors"; and feminism.

Course objectives:

- To think critically about how historical events influence subsequent eras.
- To understand some of the specific effects of the Holocaust on American culture.
- To write about how American culture has changed over time.
- To understand how American understandings of Jews and other minorities changed over the course of the latter half of the twentieth century
- Understanding the changing relationship between Jews and the majority culture in 20th century America
- Use literary and popular culture sources to make a historical argument
- Think about Jews in relation to broader trends in American history and culture

COURSE POLICIES AND STUDENT RESOURCES

Attendance policy: Our TA (Harrison Rosenberg) will be keeping track of attendance. Students are allowed two absences for the semester that do not require the professor's approval. Beyond those two, absences that

are not excused by the professor (for medical or religious reasons, for instance) will adversely affect your grade. Absences will be excused in situations beyond the student's control (illness, family emergency, etc.). Please let me know as soon as possible if you must miss class. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies specified at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to arrive on time. Absences will be excused in situations beyond the student's control (illness, family emergency, etc.). Please let me know as soon as possible if you must miss class. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies specified at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

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 Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) 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.

Plagiarism on any assignment will automatically result in a grade of "E" for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows: "A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): (a) quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution, and (b) submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student." Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy.

Making Up Work

Work is due as specified in the syllabus. Late work is subject to a 1/3 grade penalty for each 24 hour period it is late (e.g., a paper that would've earned an A if turned in in class on Monday becomes an A- if received Tuesday, a B+ if received Wednesday, etc, with the weekend counting as two days). To be excused from submitting work at the assigned time, you must give 24 hours advance notice and/or meet the UF standards for an excused absence.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). 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.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing UF's standard online evaluations (summary results will be available to students here) as well as a course-specific evaluation that focuses on course content and the experience of the Quest curriculum. Class

time will be allocated for the completion of both evaluations.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time, stay the full class period, and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police

Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 302 Tigert Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

****This syllabus is subject to change, and the professor will alert students to changes.**

Texts for our class: many of our readings will be made available to students for free on Course Reserves (which you'll find on the left side of our Canvas page), either as a scan of the chapter or an e-book. Books that you may want to purchase if you prefer reading a physical book:

- Marc Dollinger, *Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s*
- Deborah Lipstadt, *The Eichmann Trial*
- Edward Linenthal, *Preserving Memory: The Struggle to Create America's Holocaust Museum*
- Ralph Melnick, *The Stolen Legacy of Anne Frank: Meyer Levin, Lillian Hellman, and the Staging of the Diary*

Assignments

Two short papers	30%
Pop quizzes	15%
Post Holocaust Museum project	20%
Participation	10%
Attendance	10%
Weekly Section assignment	10%
Section participation	5%

A	94 – 100% of possible points		C	74 – 76%
A-	90 – 93%		C-	70 – 73%
B+	87 – 89%		D+	67 – 69%
B	84 – 86%		D	64 – 66%
B-	80 – 83%		D-	60 – 63%
C+	77 – 79%		E	<60

- 1) **Short papers (30%):** you will be provided with prompts for two short papers, during the semester. Details appear on the “assignment” section of our Canvas page
- 2) There will be at least 4 **pop quizzes**, and a maximum of 10, **(15%)** during the semester.

- 3) The “**Post-Holocaust Museum**” (20%) end of semester project includes 3 separate parts that are detailed on the assignments page
- 4) **Participation (10%)**: Professor Gordan and Harrison Rosenberg will be keeping notes on your participation throughout the semester
- 5) **Attendance (10%)**: Harrison Rosenberg will be keeping track of attendance
- 6) The **weekly section assignment** (10%) can be submitted by **Thursday at 9 pm** on Canvas
- 7) Your **section participation (5%)** will be graded by Harrison Rosenberg.

Part I: The tumultuous 1940s: antisemitism and good Americanism

1. Tues August 24 Introduction What is Post Holocaust?
 - a. For Thurs, please read Charles Lindbergh speech and listen to clip that precedes the transcript of the speech: <http://www.charleslindbergh.com/americanfirst/speech.asp>
 - b. About our end of semester assignment:
 - c. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/08/books/review/-childrens-books-holocaust-jewish-experience.html>
2. Thurs August 26 Charles Lindbergh and America’s response
For Tuesday: Jeffrey Alexander article, please read p. 5-9 (middle of page 9) and 10-26
3. Tues August 31 *The House that I Live In* and anti-antisemitism
For Thurs: read chapter one and two of Gentleman’s Agreement on CR
4. Thurs September 2 Gentleman’s Agreement
Watch clips
5. Tues: Sept 7th Rosh Hashanah no class
6. Thurs September 9 For Tuesday read, “The 1940s as the Decade of the Anti-antisemitism Novel” on CR (this is a long, dense reading, so give yourself time to read it twice and take notes.)
***Prof **Bryan Cheyette** event begins at 4 pm
7. Tues, September 14 Gentleman’s Agreement
8. Thurs: September 16th Yom Kippur no class
For Tues, Sept 21, read the excerpt of the novel, *Wasteland*, by Jo Sinclair on CR
9. Tues Sept 21: Jo Sinclair’s *Wasteland*
For Thurs, Sept 23 read: Fermaglich reading, chapter 3 on CR
10. Thurs Sept 23 name-changing and Jewish identity
For Thursday, read Jonathan Krasner reading on CR
11. Tues Sept 28 antisemitism and Jewish identity
For Thurs, read the rest of Krasner and Israel <https://www.jta.org/2018/04/02/united-states/israel-70-1948-changed-american-jews>
12. Thurs Sept 30 American Jewish Identity and Israel
For Tues, Oct 5, read the opening of the novel, *The Bell Jar*, by Sylvia Plath, on CR

Part II: The American Jewish 1950s and 1960s: Golden Age? Postwar affluence, gender and assimilation

13. Tues Oct 5: Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and Sylvia Plath Anne Frank
Read: *The Stolen legacy of Anne Frank*, chapters 1-2
14. Thurs Oct 7 Anne Frank
Read: Marjorie Morningstar excerpt on CR
15. Tues Oct 12 Marjorie and Cold War Judaism
For Thurs, read: Fermaglich excerpt on Holocaust imagery in *The Feminine Mystique* CR

16. Thurs Oct 14: Holocaust imagery in Second Wave feminism
For Tues, read Deborah Lipstadt, Eichmann trial excerpt on CR
17. Tues Oct 19 Eichmann Trial
18. Thurs Oct 21 Eichmann Trial
For Tues, read Marc Dollinger, *Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s*

Part III Ethnic Pride and Holocaust Pride Ethnicity, roots, black power, diversity, anti-assimilationist

1. Tues Oct 26 Special guest: Professor Marc Dollinger, author of *Black Power, Jewish Politics*
Read: Abraham Joshua Heschel excerpt on CR
2. Thurs Oct 28 Post-Holocaust and Civil Rights Movement
For Tues, work on paragraphs and read Ed Linenthal, *The Struggle to Create America's Holocaust Museum*, introduction and chapter one
3. Tues Nov 2 US Holocaust
For Thurs, read: Linenthal reading
4. Thurs Nov 4 US Holocaust
For Tues, read Dara Horn, "Auschwitz Is Not a Metaphor," *Atlantic Monthly* reading
5. Thurs Nov 11 Auschwitz
Read Shaul Magid, Kahane excerpt on CR
6. Tues Nov 16 Meir Kahane
Read: Shaul Magid, Kahane excerpt, on CR
7. Thurs Nov 18 Shaul Magid event
For Nov 30th, Read: Dara Horn excerpt from *People Love Dead Jews*, on CR
8. Tues Nov 23 American Academy of Religion No class
9. Thurs Nov 25: Thanksgiving
10. Tues Nov 30 special guest, award-winning novelist and essayist, Dara Horn
11. Thurs Dec 2 Presentations
12. Tues Dec 7 Presentations