

Quest 1: IDS 2935
Post-Holocaust US Jews
Spring 2022

Instructor

Prof. Rachel Gordan

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Office hours: by appointment (I will frequently be available for evening zoom office hours, as well as the occasional Sunday evening zoom office hours).

TA: Katherine Usik (k.usik@ufl.edu)

Course Details:

Time: M&W 1:55-2:45 pm and Friday sections

(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).

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

Attendance policy: Our TA (Harrison Rosenberg) will be keeping track of attendance. Students are allowed two absences for the semester that do not require approval. Beyond those two, absences that are not excused by the professor (for medical or religious reasons, for instance) will affect your grade.

COURSE POLICIES AND STUDENT RESOURCES

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.

Assignments

Two short papers	30%
Pop quizzes	15%
Post Holocaust Museum Project	20%
Participation	10%
Attendance	15%
Section assignment	10%

***There will be extra credit opportunities during the semester (some appear on the schedule, below). Professor Gordan will alert you to these opportunities.*

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

1. Wed Jan 5 Introduction What is Post Holocaust?
- a. For Mon 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. Mon Jan 10 Charles Lindbergh and America's response
For Wed: Jeffrey Alexander article, please read p. 5-9 (middle of page 9) and 10-26
3. Wed Jan 12 *The House that I Live In* and anti-antisemitism
For Thurs: read chapter one and two of Gentleman's Agreement on CR
4. Wed Jan 19 *Gentleman's Agreement*
Watch clips
For Mon read, "The 1940s as the Decade of the Anti-antisemitism Novel" (this is a long, dense reading, so give yourself time to read it twice and take notes.)
5. Mon, Jan 24 *Gentleman's Agreement* and finish the 1940s anti-antisemitism
For Tues, Sept 21, read the excerpt of the novel, *Wasteland*, by Jo Sinclair on CR
6. Wed, Jan 26: Guest speaker, bestselling Holocaust resistance author Judy Batalion
Read *Wasteland* excerpt
7. Mon Jan 31 *Wasteland* (for Wed, read Kirsten Fermaglich reading, chapter three) For Wed, read
8. Wed Feb 2 Name-changing antisemitism and Jewish identity
For Mon read Jonathan Krasner 1st half
9. Mon Feb 7 Read Jonathan Krasner, 2nd half
10. Wed Feb 9 Krasner, part 2
For Mon Feb 14 read <https://www.jta.org/2018/04/02/united-states>
11. Mon Feb 14 Israel and Exodus
12. Wed Feb 16 Professor Naomi Seidman

*******Essay #1 due on Sunday Feb 20, 9 pm, on CANVAS**

For Mon, Feb 21, 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. Mon Feb 21: The Jewish Museum with guest Professor Ariel Cohen

For Wed, Read:

[*The Stolen legacy of Anne Frank, chapters 1-2*](#)

14. Wed Feb 23 Oct 7 Anne Frank

Read: Marjorie Morningstar excerpt on CR

15. Mon Feb 28 Marjorie and Cold War Judaism

For Wed, read:

[Fermaglich on "The Producers" up to the break in the page on 74](#)

16. Wed Mar 2: Holocaust humor & "The Producers"

Spring break

For Monday Mar 14, finish Fermaglich reading

17. Mon Mar 14 "The Producers" For Wed, read Deborah Lipstadt, Eichmann trial excerpt on CR

18. Wed Mar 16 Eichmann Trial

19. Mon Mar 21 Hannah Arendt Eichmann in Jerusalem For Wed, read Marc Dollinger, *Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s*

[*Dollinger chap 3 Amer Jews and the rise of Black power.pdf*](#)

Read: Introduction by Prof. Susannah Heschel:

[Susannah Heschel on AJH.pdf](#)

el about her father, Abraham Joshua Heschel excerpt:

2. Wed Mar 23 Post-Holocaust and Civil Rights Movement

For Mon, read Ed Linenthal, *The Struggle to Create America's Holocaust Museum*, introduction and chapter one

******Sunday March 27th: 300 words due about project***

3. Mon Mar 28 US Holocaust, for Wed, read chapter one

For Wed, read: Linenthal reading

4. Wed Workshop of museum ideas

For Mon,Dara Horn reading

5. Mon April 4, Dara Horn reading

5. Wed April 6 *People Love Dead Jews* reading

6. Mon April 11 Presentations

7. Wed April 13 Presentations

8. Mon April 18 Presentations