

Holocaust Historical Perspecti

REL 223-001 | Fall 2022 | 3 Credit Hours

Lecture

Dr. Steve Jacobs

Contact Information

UA Campus Directory:

- Dr. Steve Jacobs (<https://www.ua.edu/directory/?i=sjacobs#listing>)

Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites:

No prereqs found

Course Description

Course Description and Credit Hours

Examination of this event, and scholarship on it, from various historical and critical perspectives.

Required Texts

Required Texts from UA Supply Store:

- WIESENTHAL / SUNFLOWER (REV & EXPD) (Required)
- Schreiber, Mordecai / Explaining the Holocaust : How and Why It Happened (Required)
- Schreiber, Mordecai / (eBook) Explaining the Holocaust (E - Book)

Course Objectives

1. Students will be introduced to the historical realities of the Holocaust/Shoah, 1933/39-45 by:
2. First tracing the "journey of antisemitism" from its earliest beginnings to the unique Nazi "contribution", all of which provided a foundation for what was to follow.
3. Secondly, students will be acquainted with Jewish life and Judaism before, during, and after the Holocaust/Shoah.
4. Thirdly, students will be acquainted with post-Holocaust/Shoah Jewish and controversies and issues up to and including the present day.

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1. Students will examine the historical phenomenon known as the Holocaust/Shoah in an academically creditable and objective manner and reflected in both their Final Exams and their Research Papers of Creative Projects.
- 2. Students will examine the place and role of Judaism and the Jewish people historically in the Nazi exterminatory/annihilatory process.
- 3. Students will explore directly through both historical examples (e.g., video materials and readings) the effects of prejudice, hatred, and stereotyping.
- 4. Students will explore directly through both historical examples (e.g., video materials and readings) such issues as silence, indifference in the face of evil, moral dilemmas, abuse of state power, the role of education, religion, modernity, and the use of technology.
- 5. Students will provide an example of independent work and thought through either a Research Paper or Creative Project as well as two Response Papers.

Other Course Materials

Additional course materials will be either presented as handouts or shared via Blackboard.

Outline of Topics

1. Dynamics of Prejudice.
2. Origins of Antisemitism: Who are the Jews? What is Judaism?
3. History of Antisemitism up to the 17th century: Why the Jews?
4. Antisemitism up to 1914: Why the Jews?
5. German Racial Nationalism and Antisemitism up to 1914: Why Germany?
6. World War I and its Aftermath: The Weimar Republic, 1918-32
7. Rise of Hitler and Nazism
8. Nazi Fascism and the Modern Totalitarian State
9. Legal Dictatorship under the Third Reich
10. The War Against the Jews - The Legal Onslaught
11. The War Against Other "Undesirables" - Resisters, Jehovah's Witnesses, Responses
12. German Foreign Policy - The Road to War
13. WWII, Euthanasia, Poland - The Turn to Genocide
14. The War Against the Jews in Poland - Ghettoization
15. The War Against the Jews - Europe, Europe controlled North Africa & Libya
16. The War Against the Jews - Annihilation, the "Final Solution"
17. The War Against the Jews in Europe & North Africa & Camps
18. The War Against Other Undesirable "Enemies of the State"
19. Responses: Resisters
20. Responses: Bystanders - The "Sounds of Silence"
21. End of the Third Reich - The Last Years, 1943-45
22. Aftermath and Revival

Exams and Assignments

1. A 3–5–page Response Paper to "What Would You Do? /Could I Commit Genocide?" by writing a response to one or more of the questions posed in the handout.
2. A 3–5–page Response Paper to Simon Wiesenthal's *The Sunflower* by writing their own response and giving evidence by example of examining the responses of at least five (5) others included in the text.
3. A 7–10–page Research Paper or Creative Project associated with the Holocaust/Shoah (*in consultation with the instructor*).
4. A Final Exam of three (3) essay–questions chosen from the list of questions provided.

Grading Policy

20% = Response Paper #1

20% = Response Paper #2

30% = Research Paper or Creative Project

30% = Final Exam

Policy on Missed Exams and Coursework

Missed exams and coursework will be addressed in consultation with the instructor.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is *required* unless otherwise noted in the Calendar of Meetings.

Notification of Changes

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

Statement on Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/academic-regulations/student-expectations/academic-misconduct-policy/>) provided in the Online Catalog.

Statement On Disability Accommodations

Contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) (<https://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/disability-services/>) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

Severe Weather Protocol

Please see the latest Severe Weather Guidelines (<https://ready.ua.edu/severe-weather-guidelines/>) in the Online Catalog.

Pregnant Student Accommodations

Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University's FAQs on the UAct website (<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/information/pregnancy>).

Religious Observances

Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines (<https://provost.ua.edu/aaa-guidelines-for-religious-holidays-observance>).

UAct Statement

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (www.ua.edu/uact) (<https://www.ua.edu/uact>) provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination, harassment, hate or bias incidents, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.

Wellness Resources

College can be a stressful time

If you or someone you know is facing a challenging time or dealing with academic or personal stress, anxiety, depression, or other concerns, we strongly encourage and support you to seek assistance or to help friends find the care that they may need

(<https://alabama.box.com/s/nz3gs827kx538255typ9hm5owd7x0yj8>).

Also, If you are experiencing a personal crisis and need urgent assistance, you can also contact the following resources:

Counseling Center

- Monday-Friday during routine Center hours (205-348-3863).
- Weekends, holidays, after-hours (contact UAPD at 205-348-5454 and ask to speak with the on-call counselor).
- You may also text BAMA to 741-741 to text with a trained volunteer.

Women and Gender Resource Center

- Monday-Friday during routine Center hours (205-348-5040).
- Weekends, holidays, after-hours (contact UAPD at 205-348-5454 and ask to speak to the on-call advocate for the WGRC).