

LIT/HBR/JST4930: Holocaust Novel

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<i>Meetings</i>	T 5-6 R 6
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Course Description

The course is Cross-Listed with the UF Center for Jewish Studies and is Part of the UF Holocaust Certificate.

The course first reviews the historical and political functions of the Novel as a genre, and then survey a number Holocaust Novels in English and in Translation from German, Yiddish, Hebrew and other languages. The novels in the course, such as Jurek Becker's *Jacob the Liar*, Jerzy Kosinski's *The Painted Bird*, Isaac Bashevis Singer's *Enemies, A Love Story*, and Alan Isler's *The Prince of West End Avenue*, address different facets of the Holocaust: Life in the Ghetto, survivors and refugees, the post-Holocaust experience, and the historical memories of Jews and non-Jews.

Grades

(1) Class participation, including short weekly assignments (20%); (2) Written assignments (15%); (3) Student Presentation (5%); (4) Midterm paper (30%); (5) Final paper (30%)

Grading Scale

100-93	A	A - 4.0
90- 92	A-	A- - 3.67
87- 89	B+	B+- 3.33
83- 86	B	B - 3.0
80-82	B-	B- - 2.67
77-79	C+	C+ -2.33
73-76	C	C - 2.0
70-72	C-	C- - 1.67
67-69	D+	D+ -1.33

63-66	D	D - 1.0
60-62	D-	D- -0.67
S-U	73%	E - 0, WF - 0, I - 0, NG - 0, SU - 0

Required Texts

Binyamin Tene, *In the Shade of the Chestnut Tree*
Christopher Isherwood, *Goodbye to Berlin*
Jurek Becker, *Jacob the Liar*
Jerzy Kosiński, *The Painted Bird*
Isaac Bashevis Singer, *Enemies, A Love Story*
Alan Isler, *The Prince of West End Avenue*
Dan Ben Amotz, *To Remember to Forget*
Philip Roth, *The Plot Against America*
Heinrich Böll, *The Clown*
Art Spiegelman, *Art, Maus*
Debra Dean, *The Madonnas of Leningrad*

Secondary materials will be posted on the course website (see a bibliography below).

Course Assignments

Participation and Attendance – Class discussion will more often consist of active discussion and various activities than class lecture. Students are therefore expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate.

Attendance is mandatory and will be monitored according to the rules of the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>). Each three unexcused absences will count for half a grade off the final grade in the course (e.g. from A to A-). Nine unexcused absences will result in a failing course grade.

For an excused absence: Please do not contact the instructor. Contact the office of the Dean of Students at umattter@ufl.edu. The office of the Dean of Students will alert your instructor (and your other instructors for the relevant dates).

Weekly assignments – Students will be asked to prepare weekly assignments, often creative and in groups. These assignments will address reading and/or class discussions.

Written Assignments – There will be three short individual written assignments. In these assignments students will usually be asked to respond to a short text or an article we will later discuss in class.

Presentation – There will be one short (5-10 minutes) presentation in which students will apply some of the material to texts of their own choice.

Midterm and Final Paper – Each student will choose, in consultation with the instructor, a paper topic that addresses some of the topics and texts that are discussed in class. The topics of the midterm and the final papers must be different.

Each of the two assignments (the midterm and final paper) represents 30% of the final grade in the course.

Academic Honesty.

Students are expected to follow University of Florida Academic Honesty Guidelines.

These can be found at <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4017.htm>

Students may also wish to consult The University of Florida Student Guide Standard of Ethical Conduct found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/>

Students are also expected to follow the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures *Academic Honesty Guidelines*:

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action.

Violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines include but are not limited to:

Cheating. The improper taking or tendering of any information or material which shall be used to determine academic credit. Taking of information includes copying graded homework assignments from another student; working with another individual(s) on graded assignments or homework; looking or attempting to look at notes, a text, or another student's paper during an exam.

Plagiarism. The attempt to represent the work of another as the product of one's own thought, whether the other's work is oral or written (including electronic), published or unpublished. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting oral or written materials without citation on written materials or in oral presentations; submitting work produced by an online translation service or the translation feature of an online dictionary as your own.

Misrepresentation. Any act or omission with intent to deceive a teacher for academic advantage. Misrepresentation includes lying to a teacher to increase your grade; lying or misrepresenting facts when confronted with an allegation of academic honesty.

Bribery, Conspiracy, Fabrication. For details see website below.

The UF Honor Code states: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.” On all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action according to the judicial process.

For more details go to: <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4017.htm>

Students with Disabilities.

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Reading Schedule:

Weeks I– Introduction

Weeks II & III – History, The Novel, and Holocaust Novel

Kindly Read: Anderson, Curthoys, Mitchell, Schneider and Trevor-Roper.

Week IV – Before the Holocaust

Kindly Read: Tene, Rudnicki.

Week V – The Roaring Thirties

Kindly Read: Isherwood, Thomas.

Week VI – In the Ghetto

Kindly Read: Becker, O'Dochartaigh.

Week VII – Outside of the Ghetto

Kindly Read: Kosiński (the novel and the introduction).

Week VIII – After the Holocaust

Kindly Read: Bashevis, Bilik.

Week IX – Survival and Recovery (?)

Kindly Read: Isler, Rovner.

Week X – Presentations

Week XI – The Holocaust and National Identity

Kindly Read: Ben Amotz, Ofer.

Week XII – The Legacy of the Holocaust

Kindly Read: Roth, Slivka.

Week XIII – A German Perspective

Kindly Read: Böll, Laurien.

Week XIV – Second Generation

Kindly Read: Spiegelman, Smith.

Week XV – Other Victims

Kindly Read: Dean.

Week XVI – Conclusion and Discussion

Bibliography

Primary Sources:

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Ben-Amotz, Dan. *To Remember, to Forget*. Trans. Eva Shapiro. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1980

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Böll, Heinrich. *The Clown*. Trans. Leila Vennewitz. New York: Penguin, 1994.

Isherwood, Christopher, *Goodbye to Berlin*. London: Vintage, 1998.

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Secondary Sources:

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- Schneider, Stephanie, "Representation of the Holocaust: Alternative Views." *Social Studies Research & Practice*. vol. 11, no. 2, Summer 2016, pp. 71-79.
- Slivka, Jennifer A. "History and the 'I' Trapped in the Middle: Negotiating the past in Roth's *The Ghost Writer* and the Plot against America." *Philip Roth Studies*, no. 2, 2012, pp. 127-144.
- Smith, Philip. "Spiegelman Studies Part 1 of 2: Maus." *Literature Compass*, vol. 12, no. 10, Oct. 2015, pp. 499-508.
- Thomas, David P. "'Goodbye to Berlin': Refocusing Isherwood's Camera." *Contemporary Literature*, vol. 13, no. 1, 1972, pp. 44-52.
- Trevor-Roper, Hug. *The Invention of Scotland, Myth and History*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 2008.

Spring 2018 Calendar – Holocaust Novel

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk I	01.08	01.09	01.10	01.11	01.12
Wk II	01.15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	01.16	01.17	01.18	01.19
Wk III	01.22	01.23 1st Written Assignment	01.24	01.25	01.26
Wk IV	01.29 Conference	01.30	01.31	02.01	02.02
Wk V	02.05	02.06 2nd Written Assignment	02.07	02.08	02.09
Wk VI	02.12	02.13	02.14	02.15	02.16
Wk VII	02.19	02.20 Midterm Abstracts	02.21	02.22	02.23
Wk VIII	02.25	02.27	02.28	03.01	03.02
Wk IX	03.05 Spring Break	03.06 Spring Break	03.07 Spring Break	03.08 Spring Break	03.09 Spring Break
Wk X	03.12	03.13 Midterm Paper	03.14	03.15 Conference	03.16 Conference
Wk XI	03.19	03.20 Presentations	03.21	03.22	03.23
Wk XII	03.26	03.27 3rd Written Assignment	03.28	03.29	03.30
Wk XIII	04.02	04.03	04.04	04.05	04.06
Wk XIV	04.09	04.10 Final Abstracts	04.11	04.12	04.13
Wk XV	04.16	04.17	04.18	04.19	04.20
Wk XVI	04.23	04.24 Final Paper	04.25		