

ITT 3700

The Demolition of Man: Italian Perspectives on the Holocaust

<i>Instructor</i>	Deborah Amberson
<i>Section Number</i>	03H5 (Cross-listed: JST3930 #0143)
<i>Meetings</i>	T 7 (1:55-2:45); R 7-8 (1:55-2:45; 3:00-3:50)
<i>Room</i>	T LIT 0221; R MAT 105
<i>Office</i>	Dauer 355
<i>Office Hours</i>	T: 3:00-3:45; R: 11:20-12:35
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will guide us through a sampling of Italy's texts on the experience of the Jewish Holocaust. Centered on the writings of Primo Levi, Italy's most well-known and internationally esteemed survivor, our itinerary will also take us through the historical realities of fascist Italy to a selection of Italian films (Pontecorvo, Cavani, Wertmüller, Benigni, & Sorrentino) that deal with, often in controversial ways, the experience of the concentration camp. We will address a series of questions including: intellectual death; brutal realities of the camps; the "musselman"; the "compromises" made in order to survive ("Grey Zone"); and the need to testify felt by many survivors.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz* (Touchstone, 1996)
2. Primo Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved* (Vintage, 1989)
3. Remaining reading materials available @ CANVAS E-LEARNING

ALL FILMS ARE ON RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

ATTENDANCE, CLASS PARTICIPATION & HOMEWORK PREPARATION (15%):

- **Attendance & Makeup Policy:** Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call. You will lose 1% from your final grade for each unexcused absence. Absences are excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable reasons include illness, religious holidays, & the 12-day rule: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Repeated tardiness will also impact your attendance record as 3 late arrivals count for 1 absence. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to what was covered. Moreover, I will not remind or nag you about your attendance as it is your responsibility to keep a record of your absences. Except in the case of a UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams or late assignments. In the case of a university excused absence, make-ups should be arranged by email or in person as early as possible.
- **Class Participation & Preparation:** If you are not ready to speak, listen, disagree, argue when you come to class, then you are not prepared for class. Therefore, you should complete the reading or viewing by the assigned class and be ready to discuss it. Reading or viewing passively is not enough, so be sure to mark your text and/or take notes. Each Tuesday class will begin with a series of basic questions on the assigned

readings or films. If you are unable to answer these questions, I will assume that you have not prepared the homework and will dock you 1% of the preparation grade. You will lose 1% on each occasion that you prove unable to answer these basic questions.

DROWNED AND THE SAVED CHAPTER DISCUSSION (5%): As part of a group of 2-3 students, you will take responsibility for one of the chapters from Levi's *The Drowned and the Saved*. This work will entail presenting the key concepts of your selected chapter, considering its connections with Levi's other work or ideas, and taking a leading role in class discussion during the analysis of that particular chapter.

IN-CLASS EXAMS (25%): Over the course of the semester, you will take 2 in-class exams. These exams will consist of multiple-choice format and/or short essay answers.

Exams are scheduled for January 26 and March 8.

MINI-PAPER (20%): You will be expected to write a paper of 3-4 pages in length (double-spaced; 12 pt font; 1 inch margins) exploring a single concept or area addressed by Primo Levi. This is not a research paper: you are not expected to include sources beyond Levi's texts and the assigned readings. Specific topics will be discussed during the semester.

The mini-paper is due February 25.

FINAL PRESENTATION (10%): As part of a group of approximately 3 students, you will be expected to deliver a presentation of about 15 minutes in length. Together with your group, you will select a text or film not included on the syllabus. Though this film or text does need to address the experience of the concentration camps, it does not necessarily have to be the work of an Italian. Your presentation should introduce your classmates to the work and it should also consider the work in light of the texts and films studied during the semester.

Presentations are scheduled for April 12 & April 14.

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER (25%): You will be expected to write a research paper of at least 8 pages in length (double-spaced; 12 pt font; 1 inch margins) reflecting your thinking and research on a topic to be selected in consultation with me. Work on the final project will be divided into 3 parts: a proposal (due March 31, 2%), an outline & bibliography (due April 7, 3%), and the paper (due April 24, 20%). *Papers must be submitted on the due date unless you have received permission to extend the deadline or unless you have a signed medical excuse explaining your delay. Late papers are penalized and receive no comments. Papers will be graded with regard not only to content and organization, but also to grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Secondary sources, whether textual or web based, must be adequately acknowledged.* **UNATTRIBUTED USE OF SOURCES WILL EARN YOU AN E FOR THE COURSE. Papers must be emailed to dambers@ufl.edu by 5pm on Sunday April 24.**

FINAL GRADE AT A GLANCE:

- Attendance, Class Participation & Homework Preparation, 15%.
- *Drowned & Saved* Chapter Discussion, 5%
- In-class Exams, 25%
- Mini-paper, 20%
- Final Presentation, 10%
- Final Research Paper, 25%

Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-93 (4.0)	92-90 (3.67)	89-87 (3.33)	86-83 (3.0)	82-80 (2.67)	79-77 (2.33)	76-73 (2.0)	72-70 (1.67)	69-67 (1.33)	63-66 (1.0)	62-60 (0.67)	59- (0)

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>; <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

Academic Honesty: Students are required to be honest in their coursework, may not use notes during quizzes or exams, and must properly cite all sources that they have consulted for their projects. Any act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students, and may result in failure of assignment and/or course. For University of Florida's honor code, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.

Accommodations for 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 provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources.

Counseling & Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

Online Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. Evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

COURSE CALENDAR:
DEMOLITION OF MAN: ITALIAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE HOLOCAUST
(schedule subject to change over the course of the semester)

READING (R)/VIEWING (V)	Tuesday 7	Thursday 7/8
R: Pugliese, "Israel in Italy: Wrestling with the Lord in the Land of Divine Dew" (Thurs.)	1/5 Course Intro	1/7 Jewish-Italian History
R: Duggan, <i>Concise History of Italy</i> (Tues.)	1/12 Fascism Italy	1/14 Fascism Italy
R: 1. Calendrille, "Haven or Hell?: Italy's Refuge for Jews 1933-1945" (Tues.); 2. Levi, <i>Survival: Poem</i> (Shemà), "Preface," "Journey," "On the Bottom" (Thurs.)	1/19 Racial laws	1/21 <i>Survival</i>
R: Levi, <i>Survival: "Initiation," "Ka-Be," "Our Nights," "The Work," "A Good Day," "This Side of Good and Evil," "The Drowned and the Saved"</i> (Thurs.)	1/26 EXAM	1/28 <i>Survival</i>
R: Levi, <i>Survival: "Chemical Exam," "Canto of Ulysses,"</i> (Tues.); "Events of Summer," "October 1944," "Kraus," "Die drei Leute vom Labor," "The Last One," "Ten Days" (Thurs.)	2/2 <i>Survival</i>	2/4 <i>Survival</i>
R: Levi, <i>Drowned & Saved, "Memory of the Offense,"</i> (Tues.) "Gray Zone," "Shame" (Thurs.)	2/9 <i>Drowned</i>	2/11 <i>Drowned</i>
R: Levi, <i>Drowned & Saved, "Communicating,"</i> (Tues.) "Useless Violence," "Stereotypes" & "Conclusion" (Thurs.)	2/16 <i>Drowned</i>	2/18 <i>Drowned</i>
R: 1. Poems: "Reveille," "Partisans," "The Survivor" (Tues.); 2. Belpoliti & Gordon, "Levi's Holocaust Vocabularies" (Thurs)	2/23	2/25 PAPER 1
SPRING BREAK		
V: Pontecorvo, <i>Kapò</i> (1960) (Thurs.); R: Rivette, "On Abjection" (Thurs).	3/8 EXAM	3/10
V: Cavani, <i>Night Porter</i> (1974) (Tues.); R: Torlasco, "Night Porter: Metamorphosis of the Crime Scene" (Tues.)	3/15	3/17
V: Wertmüller, <i>Seven Beauties</i> (1975) (Tues.); R: Pfefferkorn, "Bettelheim, Wertmuller, and the Morality of Survival" (Tues.)	3/22	3/24
V: Benigni, <i>Life is Beautiful</i> (1997) (Tues.); R: Viano, "Life Is Beautiful, Reception, Allegory, and Holocaust Laughter" (Tues.)	3/29	3/31 Proposal
V: Sorrentino, <i>This Must Be the Place</i> (2011) (Tues.); R: Shiloh, "Paradox of Forgiveness: Forgiving Unforgivable" (Tues.)	4/5	4/7 Outline & Biblio
NO READING/NO VIEWING	4/12 Presentations	4/14 Presentations
NO READING/NO VIEWING	4/19	

REMINDER: FINAL PAPER TO BE SENT TO DAMBERS@UFL.EDU BY 5PM APRIL 24