

ITT 3700
The Demolition of Man: Italian Perspectives on the Holocaust



<i>Instructor</i>	Deborah Amberson
<i>Section Number</i>	29CB (Cross-listed: JST3930 #091G)
<i>Meetings</i>	T 7 (1:55-2:45); R 7-8 (1:55-2:45; 3:00-3:50)
<i>Room</i>	T RNK 0220; R LEIGH 0142
<i>Office</i>	Dauer 355
<i>Office Hours</i>	T 3:00-3:45; R 11:25-12:40
<i>Email</i>	dambers@ufl.edu
<i>Phone</i>	(352) 273 3763

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will guide us through a sampling of Italy's texts and films 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, and Benigni) that deal with, often in controversial ways, the experience of the **concentration camps**. We will address a series of questions including intellectual death; 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:

- Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz* (Touchstone, 1996)
- Primo Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved* (Vintage, 1989)
- All other reading materials are available on CANVAS

ALL FILMS ARE ON RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Unless otherwise indicated, written assignments should be emailed directly to dambers@ufl.edu

1. CLASS PARTICIPATION (10%): When you come to class, you should be ready to speak, ask questions, and engage with the opinions of your classmates. Class participation is not about having all the right answers. Instead, participation is a question of preparing the assigned readings/viewings and being alert and active in class. It is about expressing your doubts about our assignments as much as it is about sharing your opinion on this or that author or director. It is also a question of listening to your classmates' opinions and responding when and where you can. Your participation grade will therefore reflect your overall willingness to engage with the work. It will also reflect the degree to which you have prepared

your reading homework and the quality of your interventions in class. **See last page of syllabus for detailed participation rubric.**

2. WORKSHEETS (15%): You will be expected to complete a weekly worksheet providing your reactions to our readings, viewings, and in-class discussions of the week just finished. The worksheets will begin with **Primo Levi** (9/14) and end with **Benigni** (11/16), for a total of **9 worksheets**. The questions will not be complex but will cover issues such as events of text/film, characters, and main theoretical concepts. The worksheet will be the same each week. In grading the worksheets, I will focus on the effort you expend rather than on whether all your answers are “correct.” You will lose just under 2% every time you fail to submit your completed answer sheet. **Unless otherwise indicated, you should email your completed worksheets by midday on Saturdays.**

3. EXAM (15%): At the conclusion of our history introduction, you will take 1 short in-class exam, which will consist of multiple-choice format and/or short essay answers. **Exam is scheduled for Sept. 10.**

4. PRESENTATION: LEVI (10%): As part of a group of 3-4 students, you will prepare and deliver a presentation of about 15 minutes in length. Your group will select one of the topics explored in our readings of Levi and deliver a presentation that defines, supports, and assesses the topic as it is defined and developed by Levi. In the interests of clarity, your group should use visual support such as PPT. **Presentations are scheduled for October 15 and October 17.**

5. MINI PAPER (15%): You will write a paper of 2-3 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. Topics will be discussed during the semester. **Mini paper is due October 24.**

6. FINAL PRESENTATION (10%): As part of a group of 3-4 students, you will be expected to deliver a presentation of about 15 minutes in length. Together with your group, you will select a film not included on the syllabus. Though this film or text does need to address the experience of the camps, it does not have to be the work of an Italian director. Your presentation should introduce your classmates to the work, and it should also consider the work in the light of the texts and films studied during the semester. In the interests of clarity, your group should use visual support such as PPT. **Presentations are scheduled for November 21 and November 26.**

7. FINAL PAPER (25%): You will be expected to write a paper of at least 6 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 Nov. 14, 2%), an outline & bibliography (due Nov. 21, 3%), and the paper (due Dec. 8, 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 9pm on Sunday December 8.

FINAL GRADE AT A GLANCE:

- Class Participation, 10%.
- Worksheets, 15%
- Exam, 15%
- Presentation: Levi, 10%
- Mini-paper, 15%
- Final Presentation, 10%

- Final Paper, 25%

Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

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

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Attendance & Makeup: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call. Students will lose 1% from their 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 certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams/assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on return to classes.

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/>).

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

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

READING & VIEWING	Tuesday 7	Thursday 7/8
(R) Pugliese, "Israel in Italy: Wrestling with the Lord in the Land of Divine Dew"	8/20 Intro	8/22 Jewish-Italian History
(T) Finish Jewish-Italian History (T) Duggan, <i>Concise History of Italy</i> , 195-245	8/27 Fascism	8/29 Fascism
(T) Calendrille, "Haven or Hell?: Italy's Refuge for Jews 1933-45" (R) Levi, <i>Survival</i> : Poem (Shemà), "Preface," "Journey," "On the Bottom"	9/3 Racial laws	9/5 Finish history; start <i>Survival</i>
(T) No reading – EXAM (R) Levi, <i>Survival</i> : "Initiation," "Ka-Be," "Our Nights," "The Work," "A Good Day" • Worksheet #1 due by midday on Saturday	9/10 EXAM	9/12 <i>Survival</i>
(T) Levi, <i>Survival</i> : "This Side of Good & Evil," "Drowned & Saved" (R) Levi, <i>Survival</i> : "Chemical Exam," "Canto of Ulysses," "Events of Summer," "October 1944," "Kraus,"	9/17 <i>Survival</i>	9/19 <i>Survival</i>
(T) Levi, <i>Survival</i> : "Die drei Leute vom Labor," "The Last One" (R) Levi, <i>Survival</i> : "Ten Days"; Levi, <i>Drowned & Saved</i> : "Memory of the Offense"	9/24 <i>Survival</i>	9/26 <i>Survival</i> and <i>Drowned</i>
(T) Levi, <i>Drowned & Saved</i> , "Gray Zone" (R) Levi, <i>Drowned & Saved</i> , "Shame," "Communicating," "Useless Violence"	10/1 <i>Drowned</i>	10/3 <i>Drowned</i>
(T) Levi, <i>Drowned & Saved</i> , "Stereotypes" & "Conclusion" (R) Levi (Poems): "Reveille," "Partisans," "The Survivor"	10/8 <i>Drowned</i>	10/10
PRESENTATIONS: LEVI • No Worksheet Due	10/15 Presentation	10/17 Presentation
(T) <i>Watch</i> : Pontecorvo, <i>Kapò</i> (1960); <i>Read</i> : Rivette, "On Abjection"	10/22	10/24 Paper 1
(T) <i>Watch</i> : Cavani, <i>Night Porter</i> (1974) (R) Hills, "Creatureliness and Posthumanism in Cavani's <i>Night Porter</i> and Pasolini's <i>Salò</i> "	10/29	10/31
(T) <i>Watch</i> : Wertmüller, <i>Seven Beauties</i> (1975); (R) Pfefferkorn, "Bettelheim, Wertmuller, & Morality of Survival"	11/5	11/7
(T) <i>Watch</i> : Benigni, <i>Life is Beautiful</i> (1997) (R) Viano, "Life Is Beautiful, Reception, Allegory, & Holocaust Laughter" • Worksheet #9 due by midday on Saturday	11/12	11/14 Proposal
FINAL PRESENTATIONS	11/19	11/21 Presentations; Outline & Biblio
NO READING/NO VIEWING	11/26 Presentations	11/28 Thanksgiving
NO READING/NO VIEWING	12/3	

REMINDER: Final paper to be sent to dambers@ufl.edu by 9pm December 8.

PARTICIPATION RUBRIC

	A: 90%- 100%	B: 80%-89%	C: 70%-79%	D: 60%-69%	E: 0-59%
Participation	<p>Asks and answers questions in every class</p> <p>Participates enthusiastically in all class discussion</p> <p>Remains alert and focused on class discussion</p>	<p>Asks and answers questions in most class meetings.</p> <p>Participates enthusiastically in most class discussion</p> <p>Mostly alert and focused on class discussion</p>	<p>Ask and answers questions in at least half of the classes</p> <p>Occasionally participates in class discussion</p> <p>Frequently distracted, but alert more often than not</p>	<p>Speaks only when called upon by instructor</p> <p>Generally unenthusiastic about class</p> <p>Rarely focused on class activities; plays with phone; generally distracted</p>	Absent
Preparation	<p>Always comes to class having completed assigned readings or viewings</p>	<p>Completes assigned readings and viewings most of the time</p>	<p>Completes assigned readings and viewings at least half of the time</p>	<p>Only occasionally completes assigned readings and viewings</p>	Absent
Quality of Comments	<p>Comments always insightful & constructive</p> <p>Comments reflect content of assigned homework and show personal consideration or reflection on questions raised by homework</p>	<p>Comments mostly insightful & constructive</p> <p>Comments mostly reflect content of assigned homework but are occasionally too general or not entirely relevant to the discussion.</p>	<p>Comments sometimes constructive, with occasional signs of insight.</p> <p>Comments not always relevant to discussion and often show no evidence of homework preparation</p>	<p>Comments superficial, and mostly off topic.</p> <p>No real evidence of having prepared readings. Comments grounded only in personal opinion or preference.</p>	Absent
Engagement in Group Work	<p>Actively participates in group work.</p> <p>Listens attentively while others speak or present, as indicated by comments that reflect & build on remarks made</p>	<p>Mostly participates in group work</p> <p>Mostly attentive when others speak or present.</p>	<p>Sometimes inattentive during group work; needs to be reminded to focus</p> <p>Occasionally makes disruptive comments while others are speaking.</p>	<p>Only occasionally focused attention on topic of group work</p> <p>Does not listen to others; regularly talks while others speak; plays with computer; dozes off, etc.</p>	Absent