Course Title: The Holocaust and Contemporary Antisemitism

Instructor: Jason O’Connor, Ph.D. Candidate in Comparative Studies (FAU),

**Course Overview:**

The following course will explore the history of the Holocaust and Contemporary Antisemitism and its legacy today. From the end of the First World War, students will explore the Weimar Republic and Hitler's rise to and consolidation of power, and how Germany was transformed into a Nazi state.  In addition, students will critically examine the development of the Holocaust from anti-Jewish policies by the Nazis in Germany to the establishment of concentration camps, ghettos, the implementation of the Final Solution in Europe to forms of resistance and liberation. The class will also address other forms of genocide that have occurred during the twentieth century, as well as contemporary genocidal ideology related to contemporary manifestations of Antisemitism.

**Course Objectives**

* Students will learn about Weimar Germany and Hitler’s rise to power
* Students will learn about Nazi ideology
* Students will learn about the transformation of Germany into a Nazi state
* Students will learn about the persecution and isolation of German Jews 1933-1939
* Students will learn about the various stages of The Final Solution 1939-1945, including ghettos, camps, resistance
* Students will explore the role of victims, perpetrators, bystanders and rescuers
* Students will study the legacy of the Holocaust and memory war
* Students will study the evolution of contemporary Antisemitism

**Required Text Books:**

The Holocaust: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation edited by Donald Niewyk, 4th edition. Wadsworth, 2011

Final Solution: The Fate of the Jews 1933-1949 by David Cesarani. St. Martin’s Press. 2016

How Was It Possible: A Holocaust Reader edited by Peter Hayes. University of Nebraska Press. 2015.

\* additional articles will be assigned for respective topics.

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|  |  | **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING** |
| 15% | Class participation/ | Attend class; exam content is based as much on class lectures and discussion as on the assigned  readings and films being discussed. Attendance will be taken at each session.  Contribute to class discussions based on completion of required reading and film viewing; provide  evidence of thoughtful integration of ideas from other coursework and from personal experiences when  applicable. |
| 25% | Exam #1 - | 1 hour in-class exam. Two essay questions. (Students may suggest possible exam questions.) |
| 25% | Presentations | Presentation on a topic related to the subject |
| 35% | Final - | Final Paper |

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| **WEEK** | **DATE** | **DUE DATES** | **CLASS TOPIC(S)** | **REQUIRED PREPARATION** |
| 1 | 1/5 |  | **Introduction –**  **First World War** |  |
| 2 | 1/12 |  | **The Rise and Fall of the Weimar Republic -Part I** |  |
| 3 | 1/19 |  | The Rise and Fall of the Weimar Republic -Part II |  |
| 4 | 1/26 |  | **Hitler and Nazi Ideology - Nazi Antisemitism** |  |
| 5 | 2/2 |  | Gleichschaltung – Forced Coordination of German Society 1933-1939 |  |
| 6 | 2/9 |  | Road to World War II |  |
| 7 | 2/16 |  | 1939-1942 Ghettos, Nazi decrees, Operation Barbarossa, Holocaust by Bullets to the Wannsee Conference part I |  |
| 8 | 2/23 |  | 1939-1942 Ghettos, Nazi decrees, Operation Barbarossa, Holocaust by Bullets to the Wannsee Conference part II |  |
| 9 | 3/2 |  | Resistance during the Holocaust the early stages |  |
| 10 | 3/9 |  | **March 5-11 Spring Break** |  |
| 11 | 3/16 |  | 1942-1945 ‘Final Solution’ part I |  |
| 12 | 3/23 |  | 1942-1945 ‘Final Solution’ part II |  |
| 13 | 3/30 |  | Holocaust Memory and Commemoration – Comparative Perspectives |  |
| 14 | 4/6 |  | **Contemporary Antisemitism – Far Left** |  |
| 15 | 4/13 |  | **Contemporary Antisemitism – Far Right** |  |
| 16 | 4/20 |  | **Contemporary Antisemitism – Radical Islam** |  |
| 17 | 4/27 |  |  |  |
| 18 | 5/4 |  | **Final** |  |

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1. WWI – overview, impact of the war
2. The rise and fall of the Weimar Republic part I
3. The rise and fall of the Weimar Republic part II –
4. Hitler and Nazi ideology -The nature of Antisemitism
5. Germany in the 1930s up to 1939
6. Outbreak of WWII –
7. 1939-1942 Ghettos, Nazi decrees, Operation Barbarossa, Holocaust by Bullets to the Wannsee Conference part I
8. 1939-1942 Ghetto, Nazi decrees, Operation Barbarossa, Holocaust by Bullets to the Wannsee Conference part II
9. Resistance during the Holocaust the early stages
10. 1942-1945 ‘Final Solution’ part I
11. 1942-1945 ‘Final Solution’ part II
12. 1942-1945 ‘Final Solution’ part III
13. Legacy of the Holocaust in Israel
14. Contemporary Antisemtism – Holocaust Memory
15. Contemporary Antisemitism - Far Left
16. Contemporary Antisemtism -Far Right
17. Eschatology