

# German 3252

## Representations of the Holocaust in German Literature and Film • Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Kevin A. Richards  
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Office Hrs.: TBA  
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Call. #: 8214  
Type: Lecture • 3 Cr. Hrs.  
Room: Hagerty Hall 180  
Time: TuTh 3:55pm-5:15pm

### GE Information (Literature)

**Goals:** Students evaluate significant texts in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgement; interpretation and evaluation; and critical listening, reading, viewing, thinking and writing.

#### Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students analyze, interpret and critique significant literary works.
2. Through reading, discussing and writing about literature, students appraise and evaluate the personal and social values of their own and other cultures.

### GE Information (Diversity, Global Studies)

**Goals:** Students understand the pluralistic nature of institutions, society, and culture in the United States and across the world in order to become educated, productive, and principled citizens.

#### Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.
2. Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

### Course Description

The content of this course will focus on two related sets of questions. First, it will provide an overview of the historical events we call the Holocaust, including their pre-history and their aftermath. In doing so, it will address some questions commonly asked about these events: What happened? How could such a thing occur? What was the experience of those who lived and died during its course?

This factual information will provide the necessary background for discussing some of the questions that have occupied the fields of philosophy, literature, aesthetics, and ethics over the last sixty years: What capacity do humans have for evil, and for good? Who should be held accountable for such crimes against humanity? Is it possible to represent and share experiences that push the limits of being human? If so, are there limits to the kinds of representations people should create? What are they? What responsibilities do descendants of both victims and perpetrators have? How have members of different societies or cultures (e.g. Germans, Americans, and Israelis) answered these questions?

We will approach these questions by reading, discussing, interpreting and writing about literary and cinematic representations of the Holocaust and its historical causes and consequences.

### Required Texts

The five required books are available for purchase at SBX Book Exchange, 1806 N. High St and Barnes and Noble. Most of the films and books are also available on reserve in Thompson Library course reserves, or the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library. A few additional readings will be made available in the content section of Carmen.

Klüger, Ruth. *Still Alive*. (ISBN: 1558614362)  
Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*. (ISBN: 0684826801)  
Schlink, Bernhard. *The Reader*. (ISBN: 9780375707971)  
Spiegelman, Art. *Maus I & II*. (ISBN: 0394747232)(0679729771)

## Evaluation

Student evaluation will be based on the completion of attendance/reading quizzes (In-Class), 5 one-page discussion/response papers (Canvas), two essays (Canvas) and a final exam (Online). See below for details on each category and grading scale.

### Attendance/Reading Quizzes (20%)

These quizzes are administered in class through the Carmen/Canvas grade system and are designed to assist students in their preparation of materials at the beginning of class and facilitate their understanding of key concepts at the end of class. The quizzes will cover reading content and function as a means of tracking attendance. The four lowest quiz grades (two absences) will be dropped and if necessary, requests for make-up quizzes will require documentation.

### Response Papers: (25%)

Response papers are designed to assist students in their review of lecture and reading/viewing materials and encourage their critical exploration and contemplation of the social and historical impact of individuals, events, and the development of concepts concerning their contemporary world. Students will be responsible for writing a one-page response (Times New Roman, 12 pt., double-spaced) every two weeks (except when Essays are assigned) as well as review/evaluate the work of two of their peers on Carmen (Canvas).

### Essays (25%)

Two short writing assignments provide students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, develop an argument and elucidate their opinion on select topics. Papers are due electronically in the Carmen (Canvas) drop box.

### Final Exam: (30%)

The final exam will be an online exam requiring the Respondus Lockdown browser and will include multiple choice questions, a matching section or timeline on the varying periods discussed in class, scene recognition and analysis and an essay on a broader topic concerning the texts read/viewed and the course in its entirety (essay topic given). A study guide will be provided and the final class period will be used as a review session.

### Extra Credit: (1-2%)

Extra-credit work is available to encourage students to seek out material not readily available or assigned in class. This includes visits to museums and guest lectures, conducting interviews, and viewing panels related to the Holocaust, or going to the theater, cinema, or other events appropriate for the class, as well as seeking out monuments, reading a book or article related to the course topic. Student extra-credit must be approved and each student may submit up to 2 extra-credit papers, each worth a 1% bonus of the total grade. To receive full credit, students must write a half-page summary and a half-page reflection (Times New Roman, 12pt. double-spaced). Extra-Credit can be submitted at any time in the appropriate Carmen (Canvas) drop box, but will no longer be accepted after the last day of class (12/5).

## Distribution

Att./Reading Quizzes	(20%)
Essays	(25%)
Response Papers	(25%)
Final Exam	(30%)
Extra-Credit	(1-2%)

## Grading Scale

A	93-100%	C+	78-79%
A-	90-92%	C	73-77%
B+	88-89%	C-	70-72%
B	83-87%	D	63-69%
B-	80-82%	E	0-62%

## Important Dates

<b>Journal Due</b>	<b>(9/9)</b>	<b>(9/23)</b>	<b>(10/7)</b>	<b>(11/4)</b>	<b>(11/18)</b>
<b>Essays Due</b>	<b>(10/21)</b>	<b>(12/2)</b>			
<b>Extra-Credit Due</b>	<b>(12/5)</b>				
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>(12/12 : 4pm-5:45pm)</b>				

## Semester Plan

### Week 1

- Lecture 1 (Aug. 21): Introduction to Holocaust Studies
  - Syllabus (PDF)
- Lecture 2 (Aug. 23): The Holocaust as Symbol
  - *Bloodlands* (PDF)
- Film: *Night and Fog* (1955) - In-Class

### Week 2

- Lecture 3 (Aug. 28): *Bilderverbot*: The Problem of Depicting the Holocaust
  - "One Year in Treblinka" (PDF)
- Lecture 4 (Aug. 30): State Terror: Precursors to the Holocaust
  - Klemperer's Diaries (PDF); Topography of Terror (PDF)
- Film: *Shoah* (1985)

### Week 3

- Lecture 5 (Sept. 4): Arrival - Questioning Morality and Humanity
  - Levi (Preface, Ch.1-2)
- Lecture 6 (Sept. 6): Life and Death in Auschwitz
  - Levi (Ch. 3-6)
- Film: *Son of Saul* (2015)

## Journal 1 Due (9/9)

### Week 4

- Lecture 7 (Sept. 11): Bearing Witness to the Camps
  - Levi (Ch. 7-9)
- Lecture 8 (Sept. 13): SS Economics and Prison Labor
  - Levi (Ch. 10-14)
- Film: *Schindler's List* (1993)

### Week 5

- Lecture 9 (Sept. 18): The Cost of Survival
  - Levi (Ch. 15-17)
- Lecture 10 (Sept. 20): A Shift in Perspective
  - Klueger (Ch. 1-4)
- Film: *The Last Days* (1998)

## Journal 2 Due (9/23)

### Week 6

- Lecture 11 (Sept. 25): Mistaken Memory
  - Klueger (Ch. 5-15)
- Lecture 12 (Sept. 27): Issues of Identity
  - Klueger (Part 2, Ghetto)
- Film: *Europa Europa* (1990)

### Week 7

- Lecture 13 (Oct. 2): Rituals of Remembrance
  - Klueger (Part 2, Death Camp and Forced Labor Camp)

- Lecture 14 (Oct. 4): A Precarious Freedom  
- Klueger (Forced Labor Camp II, Part 3 - Germany; Escape)

### Journal 3 Due (10/7)

#### Week 8

- Lecture 15 (Oct. 9): Sense and Being  
- Klueger (Part 3: A Defeated Country, Part 4: New York I)  
--- No Class Oct. 11 - Fall Break ---  
Film: *The Pianist* (2002)

#### Week 9

- Lecture 16 (Oct. 16): Forms of Resistance  
- Klueger (Part 4: New York II, Epilogue)  
Lecture 17 (Oct. 18): Poetry After Auschwitz  
- Sachs and Celan (PDF)  
Film: *The Zookeeper's Wife* (2017)

### Essay 1 Due (10/21)

#### Week 10

- Lecture 18 (Oct. 23): Guest Lecture by Hershel Greenblat  
Lecture 19 (Oct. 25): The Past is Present  
- Spiegelman (I: 5-69)  
Film: *No Place on Earth* (2012)

#### Week 11

- Lecture 20 (Oct. 30): Zionism – Palestine and Politics  
- Spiegelman (I: 71-End of Maus I)  
Lecture 21 (Nov. 1): Inheriting Trauma  
- Spiegelman (II: Beg.-100)  
Film: *The Flat* (2011)

### Journal 4 Due (11/4)

#### Week 12

- Lecture 22 (Nov. 6): Art and the Happy End  
- Spiegelman (II, complete)  
Lecture 23 (Nov. 8): Avoidance and Confrontation  
- Schlink (Part I, Ch. 1-10)  
Film: *The Woman in Gold* (2015)

#### Week 13

- Lecture 24 (Nov. 13): Seduction and Power  
- Schlink (Part I, Ch. 11-17)  
Lecture 25 (Nov. 15): Generational Conflict  
- Schlink (Part II, Ch. 1-9)  
Film: *Hannah Arendt* (2012)

### Journal 5 Due (11/18)

#### Week 14

- Lecture 26 (Nov. 20): German Guilt  
- Schlink (Part II, Ch. 10-17)  
--- Thanksgiving Break (11/22) ----  
Film: *The Reader* (2009)

## Week 15

Lecture 27 (Nov 27): Passing Judgment

- Schlink (Part III, Ch. 1-12)

Lecture 28 (Nov 29): Memorialization and Symbol

- "Yolocaust", "Frontline - Positions of the Third Generation", "Proudly Bearing Elder's Scars - Their Skin Says Never Forget", "Auschwitz Revises Its Exhibit" (PDFs)

Film: *Denial* (2016)

## Essay 2 Due (12/2)

## Week 16

Lecture 29 (Dec. 4): Empathy and Action

- "Our Generation Should Do What the Former Generation Failed to Do", "Survivors of the | Holocaust Write the Captions to Their Own Portraits", "Their Families Survived the Holocaust and World War II", "How to Make Fun of Nazis" (PDF)

## Extra-Credit Due (12/5)

## Final Exam

Monday December 12 4pm-5:45pm

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# Academic Misconduct:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/> ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#) info\_for\_students/csc.asp).

# Disability Services:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue, telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/> ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#)