

Literature of the Holocaust

Course Information Page

Welcome to your course in Holocaust Literature. In this course you will learn how to analyze and interpret Holocaust literature as well as understand the ways in which this literature connects with literature written about or during other histories of oppression. You will acquire skills in literary analysis that will carry over into every other literature course you will take as a university student. You will also be empowered by this course to take a stand against every form of prejudice and discrimination.



Instructor: Robert Sternberg

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On line office hours: T-Th 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Course Title: Literature of the Holocaust

Course Description: This course will orient students to major writers of literature of the Holocaust. Works to be studied include diaries, short stories, memoirs, poetry and one novel. Students will be exposed to primary source works written between 1933 and 1945 as well as works written by persons who lived through the Holocaust and persons who did not. Students will learn how to identify primary source material as well as acquire skills of literary analysis that can be transferred to other literature courses. Students who are planning to become teachers will acquire knowledge and skills that

are immediately applicable to the work they do in the classroom. All works will be read in English translation although the majority is written in Hebrew, Yiddish, German or Polish.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and categorize each of the primary classifications of Holocaust literature
- Analyze and interpret each genre of Holocaust literature
- List and describe historic events that serve as the backdrop for each of the examples of literature examined in the course and understand them within the overall context of the history of the Holocaust
- Understand and explain the relationship between Holocaust literature and other works that have been created in response to incidents of oppression in human history

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: English Composition 101

Required Textbooks: Art From the Ashes edited by Lawrence Langer; Story of a Life by Aharon Appelfeld; The Shawl/Rosa by Cynthia Ozick

Asynchronous

Communication Plan: Communication will take place through several different venues including:

- On line posting of Assignments week by week and regular check-ins with the professor
- One-on-one communication with the professor in his Virtual Office during office hours or by pre-arranged appointment
- On line discussion forums with the professor and other students
- Phone conversations or face-to-face meetings with the professor as needed

Interaction Plan: Students will interact with professor as well as with fellow students using the discussion forums, virtual office of the professor, and by submitting and receiving timely feedback on all assignments.

Attendance Policy: Students are required to attend virtual class weekly by submitting assignments to the professor every week and by participating in all discussion forums, which will be scheduled weekly. Students are required to be present and participate in a minimum of five discussion forums. Student participating in all discussion forums will receive extra credit for their participation. Students will be permitted to miss two weekly discussion forums without penalty provided that all assignments are received on time at

the end of each week. Students will be allowed to submit two assignments one week late without penalty. Failure to attend virtual class will result in a lowered grade.

Taking a Course On Line: Student Tips:

- Make sure that you schedule yourself to do your class work at least one day every week. Do not let a week go by without doing some class work.
- Make sure that you submit an assignment every week on the day it is due. All weekly assignments will be due on Friday at the end of the week
- Make sure that you schedule yourself to be available for the on line discussion forums every week, if possible. The forums will be scheduled at a time convenient for the majority of students in the class. If you have a conflict with the time for discussion forums, be sure to communicate directly with the professor.
- Make sure that you participate in the group discussion by posting comments during the discussion
- Try to make yourself available to communicate with your professor during virtual office hours
- All questions are good questions. Please do not hesitate to e-mail your professor whenever you have a question regarding course content.
- Your professor is not your technical support system. All technical support issues should be directed to the Center for Instructional Technology (C.I.T.)
- Your professor is there to support your learning and your growth and wants you to succeed in the course. Please do not hesitate to communicate with your professor if you need extra help or if there is a problem that you need to address
- Your classmates are your colleagues and you can help each other succeed in your course work. Your professor will schedule some collaborative activities in the course to assist you in communicating regularly with your classmates, but please take the initiative and consult with your classmates about all course material.

Participation: The key to succeeding in your on line course is your active participation in all learning activities, including submitting assignments and participating in on line group discussions.

Working Together/Group Work: You will have opportunities in your course to work collaboratively with your classmates on some assignments. Cooperative learning is productive learning. Be an active participant in your group work assignments.

Course Calendar: Your course lasts 15 weeks. Each week you will have a different set of assignments. Please view your assignments as they are made available to you and prepare a checklist at the beginning of the week to help you complete your assignments in a timely fashion.

Quizzes: There will be four graded quizzes in this course. In order to help you succeed, you will be given the questions that will appear on the quizzes in advance.

Projects: You will be required to write one literary analysis of a short story, one literary analysis of a poem, one major literary analysis paper on a novella and one final research paper on a novel of your choice. Written guidelines will be provided to you for all written assignments and you will be given a list of books from which to choose for your final research paper.

Methods of Instruction: You will engage in a variety of learning activities in this course. These include:

- Reading and answering questions on a number of stories, poems, and on line readings that will be posted
- Participating in on line discussions about some of the readings
- Writing literary analysis papers
- Writing one research paper
- Viewing one film and answering questions about the film

Schedules and Deadlines: All assignments are due at the end of each week on Friday. You may be given an extension if you need one by communicating with the professor. One week extensions will be given without penalty. No extensions will be given for more than one week. Assignments turned in after the time for a one week extension has passed will receive a failing grade.

Grading: All papers, including answers to questions on quizzes, will be graded based on a rubric of 1 through 9. Papers will be assigned grades based on three different criteria:

- Organization
- Content and Substance
- Correct Use of Standard English

The following guidelines must be used for all written work:

- All written work must be submitted in 12-point font, Arial or Times New Roman, paginated and double spaced.
- Errors in English will result in a lower grade. It is important that you proofread everything you write and make sure that you correct all errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and other mechanics of English.
- Do not use abbreviations unless they are introduced in the correct manner.
- Do not use any slang. Words such as “kids” are considered slang.

- Do not submit any papers in first person. All written work must be in third person.
- Do not use text language, even during discussion forums. All work containing text language receives a failing grade.
- Plagiarists fail.

You will also be graded on your participation in group discussions. This will be a pass/fail grade. Each time you participate in a group discussion, you will receive a “pass”. In order to receive a “pass” you will need to make a posting during the on line discussion. Being present in the room during a discussion does not count as a “pass”. When you are present during a discussion but do not make a posting, your grade will be “p” for “present” and will prevent you from receiving a “fail” for that group discussion.

Students with Disabilities: All effort will be made to help and support students with disabilities. Please do not hesitate to let your professor know that you have a disability and tell him what you need to help you succeed in the class.

Academic Integrity: Students are required to submit original work and when including research, students are expected to quote sources in-text as well as provide a reference list at the end of the paper. You may use MLA, APA or Chicago for citing and listing sources.

Evaluation of Student Progress: You will receive a midterm evaluation as well as a final evaluation and final grade for the course.