

Holocaust and Memory

Budapest Semester in Mathematics

Cross listed with McDaniel College

3 credit (4 for the McDaniel students)

Lecturer: Andrea Pető (petoand@t-online.hu) Central European University

Course Description:

The course aims to explain how the Holocaust happened, how "ordinary men" became ruthless killers and how everybody else let it go on, remains one of the most perplexing issues of the twentieth century, if not all of history. The frame of the discussion will be an overview of history of Nazism in Europe and consideration of such issues as the problems of doing Holocaust history, representations of the Holocaust, and Holocaust memory. The course also aims to interrogate the emerging field created by the intersection of Jewish Studies and memory to study the literary and artistic representation of the Holocaust. The course covers the topics of how Memory of Holocaust is inscribed, framed, mediated and performed. The course also consists of field trips to the Jewish monuments of Hungary and to the major memorial sites.

Required texts:

Reader available at the administration

Imre Kertesz, *Fateless*. Northwestern University Press, 1992.

Available at the CEU Bookshop 5th district. Zrinyi 18, Tel: 327 3096, E-mail: bookshop@ceu.hu, Metro: M1 Deák tér/M2 Kossuth tér, Open: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm.

COURSE REQUIREMENT:

Classes will consist of lectures and discussions. You are expected to read the readings and check the required websites before the class. The discussions are an integral part of the course and your participation in them and engagement with the material *will* be factored into final grades. Familiarity with readings and films is crucial for success in the course. Course requirements are midterm (40%) and one paper from the list of papers submitted on the last class (40%) and an active participation in class discussions and in the field trips. (20%).

Course expectations:

The papers should follow clear structure (introduction, statement, discussion, conclusion, bibliography) and should demonstrate your ability to master the required readings (3 references to concepts discussed in the readings).

Attendance and Absences

The College believes that regular attendance in all classes is important because it is a necessary part of the learning process, and it is a sign of respect for professors and fellow students. Professors keep attendance records and maintain course policies that adhere to the College policy, namely:

- The student's grade begins to drop **after three absences**, a letter grade per absence over the three-absence limit. Students are advised not to 'use up' their absences early in the semester.
- Attendance is expected from the moment a student is enrolled in a course; if, for example, a student has registered for a given course but is not present during the first week of the semester, then those missed classes will count as absences.
- Appeals for excused absences can only be made to the Director of Academic Affairs. For such an appeal, medical certificates, stamped doctor's notes, and other documents are expected.
- Students are responsible for making arrangements to make up missed work.

Papers (1500 words total, use MLA style)

Choose ONE from the following topics! You can also suggest topics to the instructor!

1. Read the novel by Kertesz and choose one topic for analysing it! For help see the e version of Tottosy, Vasvari volume.
2. After the visit of the Holocaust Memorial Center analyze the representation of different experiences of the Holocaust?
3. Compare your own experiences with the textbook: how to teach the Holocaust!

Guidelines for reading:

1. Compare the information in the articles with the novel you have read, would the same argument apply? Why? Why not? What are the differences?
2. How does the reading of these articles change your view of the Holocaust?
3. Whose problems are being addressed in these articles, who is asking questions, who provides the answers and who may profit from the knowledge and insights provided by these historians?
4. How do the historical scholarship and mainstream academia address the issue of experiences?

For basic history and links see

<http://www2.dsu.nodak.edu/users/dmeier/Holocaust/holocau.html>

Timeline

<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/holocaust/timeline.html>

Reading schedule (all text are in the Reader or available in an e version)

	Topic	Reading	Film
1	Introduction	Palosuo, Laura, Yellow Stars and Trousers Inspections. Jewish Testimonies from Hungary 1920-1945. <i>Studia Historica Upsaliensa</i> 231. Mason, Jason, "Hungary's Battle for Memory" in <i>History Today</i> , March 2000, pp. 28-34. Kansteiner, Wulf, "From Exception to Exemplum: The New Approach to Nazism and the 'Final Solution'" in <i>History and Theory</i> 1994. 33. pp. 145-171.	Eyes of the Holocaust (János Szász)
2	Memory and Remembrance Hungary	Cole, Tim, Commemorating 'pariah landscapes, <i>International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education</i> . Vol. 2002. 4. pp. 368-371. Cole, Tim, Smith, Graham, Ghettoization and the Holocaust? Budapest 1944. <i>Journal of Historical Geography</i> 1995. 1. pp. 300-316.'	The House on Augusts street (Ayelet Bargur)
3	Making histories, stories remembered	Primo Levi, "The Grey Zone" (from <i>The Drowned and Saved</i> Abacus.) 22-51. Omer Bartov, <i>Murder in Our Midst. The Holocaust, Industrial Killing, and Representation</i> , Oxford University Press, 1996. chapter 3. pp. 53-70. George Steiner, The Long Life of Metaphore. An Approach to "the Shoah", <i>Encounter</i> 1987. 67. 55-61.	Passing on. A Grandmother's Story (Kathy Leichter)
4	Imre Kertész	<i>Fateless</i> Imre Kertész and Holocaust Literature ed. Louise O. Vasvári and Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek, Purdue UP. Sent electronically	Fateless (Koltai)
5	Diaries and egodocuments	Andrea Peto, "When the Germans came in, we were having a party'. Preface to the <i>Diary of Eva Weinmann-Éva Weinmann's Diary</i> , ed. by Lajos Oláh. Lauder Javne Könyvek. Eszter Könyvek, Magyar Zsidó Levéltár, 2004. pp. 3-5. and the Diary	Anna Frank's Diary
6	Museum and Commemoration	Stier, Oren Baruch, <i>Committed to Memory: Cultural Mediations of the Holocaust</i> , University of Massachusetts Press, 2003, pp. 110-150. Reading, Anna, The Social Inheritance of the Holocaust: Gender, Culture and Memory. Palgrave 2002. pp. 102-142.	
7	Emblems, Monuments and Statues	Andreas Huyssen, "Monuments and Holocaust Memory in a Media Age" in <i>A Holocaust Reader. Responses to the Nazi Extermination</i> . eds. Michael Morgan. Oxford UP, 2001. pp. 359-363.	

8	Photographs, Memory	Hirsch, Marianne, <i>Family Frames. Photography, Narrative and Postmemory</i> . Harvard UP. 2002, pp. 241-268. Photo exercise: Bring a one photo print out of to the class with references that you think has got the most meaning for you about Holocaust and connect it with key concept(s) from the readings!	The Photographer (Dariusz Jablonski)
9	Internet representations	http://motlc.wiesenthal.org/pages/nz.html http://www.chgs.umn.edu/Visual_Artistic_Resources/Women_of_Ravensbruck/women_of_ravensbruck.html www.centropa.org Bring in your laptop to the class	
10	Films and Moving Images	Báron Gyögy, The Rooster is Crowling, "Jewish themes" in the films of Miklós Jancsó at http://www.kinoeye.org/03/03/baron03.php Avisar, Ilan. "Holocaust Movies and the Politics of Collective Memory". In Rosenfeld, Alvin, ed. <i>Thinking About the Holocaust: After Half a Century</i> . Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1997. Rapaport, Lynn, Hollywood's Holocaust. <i>Film and History</i> 2002.1. pp. 55-65.	Vom leben und ueberleben. 2003. videoarchive ravensbrueck
11		Field Trip to the Holocaust Memorial Center www.hdke.hu	14 February
12		Field Trip House of Terror Kim, Lucian, "Budapest revisits its recent horrors". <i>Boston Globe</i> 2003. 8 .4. Otto, Lene, Post Communist Museums: Terrorspace and Traumaspace. In <i>The Power of the Object. Museums and World War II</i> . ed. Esben Kjedbaek. Museumsetc. Edinburgh. 2009 pp. 324-360 www.terrorhaza.hu	
13	Summary		

Class schedule (draft)

February 9 Introduction

Field trip 14 February 11 at M3 Ferenc krt Princess shop

16 no class

23 1 and 2

March 2 3

9 4

16 midterm

23 5
30 **break**
April 6 6
13 **no class**
20 7
27 8 Photo exercise
May 4 9
11 10 Final paper due in hard copy, no e-mail submission

Date of the field trip TBA