Course Title | German Jewry under the Nazi Regime
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Name of Instructor | Professor Hagit Lavsky
Number of Credit Points | 2
Instructor Email | hagit.lavsky@mail.huji.ac.il
Time Course is offered | Fall: Wednesdays 9:15-10:45

Course Description

The Nazi rise to power changed dramatically the situation of German Jewry, from being the most prosperous and integrated/assimilated community in Europe to become the first community to experience the Nazi persecution, violent terror, expulsion, robbery, ghettoization, and deportation over a long period before the war. How did they react? How did various groups perceive what was happening and what were the chances? How did the Jewish leadership cope with the crisis? What were their options to emigrate and how did they change along the time? How did they act to survive on a daily basis? How did the new situation shape their Jewish identity and solidarity? What happened to them during the war? How many and who were the survivors and how did they cope with the post-war situation? All these issues and more will be dealt with against the background of the developing Nazi anti-Jewish policy and on the basis of first-hand documentation, personal testimonies and correspondence, and by addressing a variety of studies with pluralistic approaches.

Course Requirements:

- **Weekly reading assignments:** Each week’s discussion will be based on a few articles, chapters, and sources. Reading will be guided by leading questions. All weekly requirements and assignments will appear on the course website. All reading materials will be available on the Reserve shelves in the library and the required materials are scanned and available on the course site.
- **Class participation:** Attendance in at least 10 classes of the course; occasional individual assignment and presentation.
- **Response papers:** Students will have to submit twice a short response paper of 2-5 pages, addressing an issue based on selected pieces of the course assigned reading.
- **Final short paper – for those who opt for:** Length - up to 10 pages, double-spaced, font 12. You should submit **proposal of 1-2 pages for final short papers through email or through the course website by the end of December 2016.** A proposal should include research question, a brief explanation about the literature on the topic, methodological considerations, table of contents and bibliography. Final papers should follow standard academic practice. Proposals may be submitted and discussed via the course website.
- **Submission deadline for final short papers:** One month after the end of the semester, on February 28th, 2017, via email + cc to Ilana Eshhar.
- **Seminar paper:** Students who opt for seminar paper (25-30 pages, double spaced, font 12) will have to set appointment with the teacher to discuss topic and get initial guidelines. Submission of proposal of up to 3 pages along the same lines as required for the short final paper, by the end of December 2016.
- **Submission deadline for seminar papers:** By the end of the spring semester, on June 20, 2017 Via email + cc Ilana Eshhar
• Communication: Make sure to check your emails and the course website every week for any update regarding the seminar. Each student must make sure to meet with me at least once in the semester.

**Final Grade for students who opt for short or seminar papers:**
Class participation and response papers 50%; Final paper or seminar paper 50%
Course Outline

1. Nov. 2, 2016: German Jewry on the Eve of the Nazi seizure of power

2. Nov. 9, 2016: Initial responses to the Nazi seizure of Power

Bibliography
Barkai, From boycott to annihilation, chap 1, 13-36.
Friedlander, Nazi Germany and the Jews, vol. 1 The years of persecution, 1933-1939, chap. 1, 9-40.

Primary sources:
Jewish Responses to Persecution, ed. Matthäus, Jürgen and Mark Roseman, (AltaMira Press 2010), vol. I:
2. Final Letter by Fritz Rosenfelder to his friends, April 1933, 30-31.
3. List of youth 1934; letter by Lea Folk, Nov. 1933, 71-74.

3. Nov. 16, 2016: Confronting the Nuremberg Laws 1935

Bibliography
Friedlander, Nazi Germany and the Jews, chap. 4-5.
Meyer and Brenner, German-Jewish History, Chap. 9, sec. 3, 210-216.

Primary Sources
Cohn, Willy, No Justice in Germany: The Breslau Diaries, 183-213.
Jewish Responses, vol.I:
Louise Solmitz diary entry, Nov. 15, 1935, 196.


Bibliography
Barkai, From Boycott to Annihilation, 110-138.
Meyer and Brenner, German Jewish History, Chap. 9, sec. 5, 220-224; chap. 13, sec. 2-4, 318-332.

Primary sources
Jewish Responses, vol. I:
Doc.12-5, Rudolf Bing, 351-52.
Doc.12-12, Mally Dienemann, 363-366.

5. Nov. 30, 2016: Institutional responses – Jewish leadership and Jewish parties

Bibliography
Lavsky, Before Catastrophe, chap. 12, 227-253.
Primary sources

Jewish Responses, vol. I:
1. Appeal at the Inauguration of the Reichsvertretung, 55-56.
2. Letter by Willy Rosenfeld to CV Head Office, Nov. 6, 1933, 81-82.

Submission of 1st response paper: Analysis of one of the primary sources assigned to Class 5.


Bibliography
Lavsky, “German Jewish Interwar Migration.”

Primary sources
Jewish Responses:
Vol. I: Doc. 3-3+3-4+3-5, 69-71; Doc. 11-1, 307-311.
Vol. II: Doc. 2-7 and 2-8, 45-47.

7. Dec. 14, 2016: The daily battle for survival in advancing deterioration

Bibliography
Barkai, “Jewish Self-Help in Nazi Germany.”
Or
Barkai, From Boycott to Annihilation, 37-53, 77-99, 106-109, 139-151.
Kaplan, Between Dignity and Despair, chap. 4, 94-118 (notes 250-253)
Or
Kaplan, “Changing Roles in Jewish Families.”

8. Dec. 21, 2016: The Jewish leadership – functioning under pressure

Bibliography
Meyer and Brenner, German-Jewish History, chap. 13, sec. 1, 314-318.
Kulka, “Jewish society in Germany as reflected in secret Nazi reports.”

Primary sources
Jewish Responses I, doc. 2-13, 54-56.

9. Dec. 28, 2016: Spiritual and cultural withstanding

Bibliography
Meyer and Brenner, German-Jewish History, chap. 12, 283-312.
Or
Brenner, “Jewish Culture in a Modern Ghetto.”
Hirsch “Ein Tanz auf dem Vulkan”: The legacy of the Jewish Culture League.”

Or
Nicosia, “German Zionism and Jewish Life in Nazi Berlin.”
**Primary sources**

*Jewish Responses*, doc. 8-13—8-20, 236-346.

**Submission of 2nd response paper:** On the meaning of spiritual and cultural withstanding based on the assigned readings.

**Dec. 31, 2016:** Deadline for submission of proposals for final short papers and for seminar papers

10. **Jan. 4, 2017:** The war years: Ghettoization, forced labor, and deportations

**Bibliography**

Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, chap. 6, 145-172 (notes 255-258), chap. 8, 201-228 (notes 261-263).

**Primary sources**

*Jews in Nazi Berlin*, Part 7: Deportations, sec. 10, 173-183
In Richarz, *Jewish Life*:
Michael Meyer, 406-412
Elisabeth Freund, 412-424

11. **Jan. 11, 2017:** The war years: Leadership, underground, and flight

**Bibliography (allocated)**

Meyer, Beate, “The inevitable dilemma”
Elkin, “The survival of the Jewish Hospital in Berlin, 1938-1945.”
Seligmann, “An illegal way of life in Nazi Germany.”
Zariz, “Officially approved emigration from Germany after 1941.”

**Primary sources**

*Jews in Nazi Berlin: From Kristallnacht to Liberation*, 52-59, 89-99
Richarz, *Jewish Life*:
Miriam Gerber, 424-429.
Bruno Blau, 460-474.

12. **Jan. 18, 2017:** German-Jewish survivors and Jewish DPs in Germany

**Bibliography**

Dinnerstein, *America and the Survivors of the Holocaust*, chap. 7.

Bibliography
Lavsky, New Beginnings, chap. 8, 124-140 + 256-260.

A balance-sheet: German Jewry in the Holocaust.

Bibliography: All reserved and scanned or electronic sources


German:


German:


Marrus, Michael M., The Unwanted: European Refugees from the First World War through the Cold War, Philadelphia: Tempel University Press, 2002


Primary Sources

עברית: וב保姆י הרייך השלישי: יומן של וייל כות 1933–1941, ירושלים תשע"ד 2014

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Jews in Nazi Berlin from Kristallnacht to Liberation (authors: Schütz, Chana et al.), Chicago : The University of Chicago Press, c2000. Online

