

University of Haifa-International School-Program for Graduate Students
The Weiss-Livnat International MA Program in Holocaust Studies
2017-18

German Jewry Under the Nazi Regime
Prof. Hagit Lavsky

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Seminar Details	Office Hours (by appointment)
Semester: Fall 2017-18	Wednesday 11:15-12:30
Course Number: 8041	Eshkol Tower 1301
Class Time: Wednesday,09:15 -10:45 a.m.	hagit.lavsky@mail.huji.ac.il
Class Location: Student House 225	Phone: 052-2879051

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:

Three options:

1. Grade given for semesters' on-going assignments, active participation in class, and response papers
2. in addition to ongoing assignments: Short final paper – 10 pages, using secondary sources (see details hereafter).
3. In addition to ongoing assignments: seminar paper – between 25-30 pages of research using primary sources (see details hereafter).

It is the student's responsibility to choose his/her assignments out of the three and update the professor by the end of December 2017.

Assignments for all students:

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 website.

- **Class participation:** Attendance in at least 10 classes of the course; occasional individual assignment and presentation.
- **Response Papers:** Students will have to submit three Response Papers of 2-3 pages in scheduled times and along dictated instructions.

Final short paper – for those who opt for:

Length - up to 10 pages, double-spaced, font 12.

Proposal: You should submit a proposal of 1-2 pages by the **end of December 2017** by personal appointment or through email. 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.

Submission deadline: One month after the end of the semester, on February 19th, 2018, 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 an 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 2017.

**Submission deadline for seminar papers: By the end of the spring semester, on June 8, 2018
Via email + cc Ilana Eshhar**

Communication: Make sure to check your emails and the course website every week for any updates regarding the seminar. Each student must make sure to meet with me at least once in the semester.

Final Grade for students with no final or seminar paper:

50% class active participation, 50% response papers.

Final grade for those who opt for short or seminar paper:

Class participation 25%, response papers 25%, Final paper or seminar paper 50% .

Course Outline

1. Oct. 25, 2017

Introduction: Weimar Republic and German Jewry on the Eve of the Nazi seizure of power

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2. Nov.1, 2017

1933: Initial Responses to the Nazi Seizure of Power and Boycott

Bibliography:

Friedlander, *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, vol. 1 *The Years of Persecution, 1933-1939*, chap. 1, 9-40.

Wildt, "The Boycott Campaign."

Primary sources:

Jewish Responses to Persecution vol. I:

1. "Inner Security", *Jüdische Rundschau*, Feb. 3, 1933, pp. 10-11.
2. Final Letter by Fritz Rosenfelder to his Friends, April 1933, pp. 30-31.
3. List of Youth 1934; Letter by Lea Folk, Nov. 1933, pp. 71-74.

3. Nov.8, 2017

The Significance of the Nuremberg Laws 1935

Bibliography:

Benz, "Exclusion as a Stage in Persecution."

Friedlander, *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, chap. 4-5.

Meyer and Brenner, *German-Jewish History*, Chap. 9, sec. 3, pp. 210-216.

Primary Sources:

Cohn, Willy, *No Justice in Germany: The Breslau Diaries*, pp. 183-213.

Jewish Responses, vol. I:

1. Letter by CV President, 16-9-1935, 193.
2. Louise Solmitz Diary Entry, Nov. 15, 1935, p.196.

4. Nov.15, 2017

The Turning Point: 1938

Bibliography:

Barkai, "The Fateful Year 1938."

Moser, "Depriving Jews of Their Legal Rights."

Wachsmann "The Policy of Exclusion."

Weinberg "Foreign Policy in Peace and War."

Primary sources:

Jewish Responses, vol. I:

Doc.12-5, Rudolf Bing, pp.351-52.

Doc.12-12, Mally Dienemann, pp. 363-366.

Jewish Responses, vol. II, doc. 2-1, pp. 29-30.

5. Nov. 22, 2017

Institutional Responses – Jewish Leadership and Jewish Parties

Bibliography:

Meyer and Brenner, *German-Jewish History*, Chap. 11, 258-282.

Lavsky, *Before Catastrophe*, chap. 12, pp. 227-253.

Primary sources:

Jewish Responses, vol. I:

1. Appeal at the Inauguration of the *Reichsvertretung*, pp. 55-56.

2. Letter by Willy Rosenfeld to CV Head Office, Nov. 6, 1933, pp. 81-82.

Submission of 1st response paper:

Critical Summary of: Nicosia, "German Zionism and Jewish Life in Nazi Berlin." Identity of the Author; Research Question; Main argument; basis of argumentation; evaluation.

6. Nov. 29. 2017

The Dynamics of Emigration: Emigrants and Refugees

Bibliography

Kaplan, "Jewish Women."

Lavsky, "German Jewish Interwar Migration."

Marrus, *The Unwanted*, chap. 3, pp.128-138, 145-183.

Primary sources

Jewish Responses:

Vol. I: Doc. 3-3+3-4+3-5, pp. 69-71; Doc. 11-1, pp. 307-311.

Vol. II: Doc. 2-7 and 2-8, pp. 45-47.

7. Dec. 6, 2017

The Daily Battle for Survival in Advancing Deterioration

Bibliography

Barkai, "Jewish Self-Help in Nazi Germany."

Kaplan, "Changing Roles in Jewish Families."

Meyer and Brenner, *German-Jewish History*, chap. 14, sec. 1-4, pp. 333-354.

8. Dec. 13, 2017

The Jewish Leadership – Functioning Under Pressure

Bibliography

Meyer and Brenner, *German-Jewish History*, chap. 13, sec. 1, pp. 314-318.

Kulka, "Jewish Society in Germany as Reflected in Secret Nazi Reports."

Primary sources

Jewish Responses I, doc. 2-13, pp. 54-56.

9. Dec. 20, 2017

Spiritual and Cultural Withstanding

Bibliography

Meyer and Brenner, *German-Jewish History*, chap. 12, pp. 283-312.

Primary sources

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

Kurt Baumann Memoirs, in: Richarz, *Jewish Life in Germany*, pp. 378-386.

Submission of 2nd Response Paper: On the Meaning of Spiritual and Cultural Withstanding: A Comparison Between: Brenner, “Jewish Culture in a Modern Ghetto” and Hirsch, “Ein Tanz auf dem Vulkan.”

Page | 6 **10. Dec. 27, 2017**

The War Years: Ghettoization and Forced Labor

Bibliography

Overy, “Mobilization for Total War.”

Kwiet, “Without Neighbors: Daily Living in Judenhäuser.”

Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, chap. 6, chap. 7.

Primary sources

Jews in Nazi Berlin, Part 7: Deportations, sec. 10, pp. 173-183

In Richarz, *Jewish Life*:

Michael Meyer, pp. 406-412.

Elisabeth Freund, pp. 412-424.

Dec. 31, 2017: Deadline for submission of proposals for final short papers and for seminar papers.

11. January 3, 2018

The War Years: Deportations, Underground, and Flight

Bibliography (allocated)

Meyer, Beate, “Between Self-Assertion and Forced Collaboration.”

Meyer, Beate, “The Inevitable Dilemma.”

Meyer and Brenner, *German-Jewish history*, chap. 14, sec. 4, pp. 346-354, sec. 6, pp. 356-360.

Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, chap. 8.

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, pp. 424-429.

Bruno Blau, pp. 460-474.

Submission of 3rd Response Paper: An Analysis of One of the Primary Sources Assigned for Class 11 (identification of the source, integration in context; contribution of the source to understanding of the subject).

Page | 7 **12. Jan.10, 2018**

German-Jewish Survivors

Bibliography

Elkin, "The survival of the Jewish Hospital in Berlin, 1938-1945."

Lavsky, *New Beginnings*, pp. 27-31, 78-87.

Strnad, "The Fortune of Survival."

Jan. 17, 2018: A Balance-Sheet: German Jewry and the Holocaust.