

University of Haifa

International MA-program in Holocaust Studies 2015-2016

Syllabus: Historiography of the Holocaust: An Introduction

Lecturer: Prof. Dan Michman (Bar-Ilan University and Yad Vashem)

Rationale: The aim of this three-day course is to introduce the field of Holocaust history through a variety of angles: (a) its course of development over the decades as a result of a variety of factors - political interests and pressures, judicial and restitution procedures, archival accessibility, scholarly methodologies, media representations and more; (b) major controversies that dominate(d) the field; (c) coping with the challenge of conceptualization; (d) the Holocaust historian's workshop: from raw documents to the shaping of historical interpretation.

January 20th 2016

Holocaust Research: History, Other Methodologies, Memory and Public Discourse

1. A General Introduction: The Historian's Craft, Social Scientific Methodologies, and Memory Shaping Processes [1 Hour]
2. Shoah, Holocaust and More: The Emergence and Distribution of Terms Designating the Holocaust [1]
3. Twelve Years of the Nazi regime, Eight Decades of Research: The History of Holocaust Research from a Bird's-Eye View, 1933-2015 [5]

Spring Semester, exact date to be announced.

Holocaust Historiography: Polemics and Conceptualizations

1. Major Debates in Holocaust Historiography: Perspectives and Methodologies (Intentionalism/Functionalism; Ordinary Men/Ordinary Germans; Germans/"Neighbors"; Unique/Universal; Documents/Testimonies) [3]
2. Conceptualization: Core, Periodization, Extent – Reading and Analyzing Some Comprehensive Histories (Poliakov, Hilberg, Dawidowicz, Yahil, Longerich, Friedlander, Snyder) [4]

Summer Semester, exact date to be announced.

Key Documents in the History of the Holocaust: The Archival Original, the (Hand or Typed) Copy, the Translation(s), the Interpretation, the Image – A Workshop

1. The Nuremberg Laws, September 15, 1935 [1]
2. The Meeting in Goering's Office After *Kristallnacht*, November 12, 1938 [1]
3. Heydrich's *Schnellbrief* after the invasion of Poland, September 21, 1939 [1]
4. The Wannsee Meeting Protocol, January 20, 1942 [1]
5. The Vilna Ghetto Underground Manifesto, January 1, 1942 [1]
6. The Allies Declaration on the Mass Murder of the Jews in the British Parliament, December 17, 1942 [1]

Holocaust Historiography: Summary and Discussion

Readings and Bibliography will be given at a later point in time