

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2015–2016 GERM 499 B1:  
Representations of the Holocaust in Literature, Drama, Performance and Film  
(Winter Term)**

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Time: T R 9:30-10:50am  
Place: HC 2 29  
Office Hours: T R 1:00-2:00,  
by appointment  
Course Website:  
X

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**Course Prerequisite:** none

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes       No, not needed, no such projects approved

**Community Service Learning** component

Required     Optional     None

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

Exam registry – Students' Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other (please specify)

NA

**Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)**

Yes       No

**Course Description and Objectives:**

The course will deal with presentations of the Holocaust as a topic in international dramas, documentaries, literature, images, and films. We will engage both with the depiction of victims and perpetrators. What is shown? What cannot and will not be shown? What are the limits of representation? To understand how these representations work, we will deal with theories of collective and cultural memory and the fictionalization of the 'unthinkable.'

By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to identify the most important modes and strategies of representation, and demonstrate an understanding of their

individual limits. They will be able to apply this knowledge to the analysis of a chosen text and engage critically with the special features of the text on the basis of theoretical background information. Eventually they will be able to evaluate the literary features of a text and develop their own (creative) response to the contemporary literary sphere. The course will be taught in English.

**Texts:**

Required:

Ruth Klüger: *Still Alive: A Holocaust Girlhood remembered*. New York: 2001.

Art Spiegelman *The Complete Maus*. London/New York 2003.

Alain Resnais: NIGHT AND FOG, France 1955.

Claude Lanzmann: SHOAH, France 1985.

Steven Spielberg: SCHINDLER'S LIST. USA 1993.

Bertolt Brecht: *Fear and Misery of the Third Reich*. 1943.

Peter Weiss: *The Investigation*. 1965.

Yoram Kanuiuk: *Adam's Purim / Adam, Son of a Dog* 1981/1993.

Hannah Arendt: *Eichmann in Jerusalem. A Report on the Banality of Evil*. New York 1963.

Dan Cohn-Sherbok: *Understanding the Holocaust. An Introduction*. London/New York 1999.

Claude Schumacher: *Staging the Holocaust. The Shoah in Drama and Performance*. New York 1998.

Poems by Primo Levi, Paul Celan, Wisława Szymborska et al.

Optional:

Marius von Mayenburg: *The Stone*. 2008

Charlie Chaplin: THE GREAT DICTATOR. USA 1940.

Fritz Lang: HANGMEN ALSO DIE, USA 1943.

Douglas Sirk: HITLER'S MADMAN, USA 1943.

Rimini Protokoll: *Mein Kampf*, 2015.

**Grade Distribution (see "Explanatory Notes"):**

Attendance, participation & preparation (throughout the semester)	10%
Roundtable debate, text intro	20%
2 essays (essay #1 due Feb 25: 15%; essay #2 due April 8: 25%)	40%
Class journal/reviews	20%
Research bibliography (due March 15)	10%

**Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): N.A.**

Please consult Section 23.5.6 of the University calendar:

<http://www.registraroffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2015-Winter-2016-Exam-Planner.aspx>

## **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

### ***Attendance, Participation, Preparation, and Homework***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in a course. Students are expected to participate fully in all aspects of class work and assignments. That means coming to class prepared, viewing the assigned films and reading all texts carefully in advance, doing written or oral homework diligently, participating in group work, and contributing meaningfully to class discussions.

### ***Roundtable Statement and Debate***

Each student is expected to give an introduction to one specific text during term. Students can either participate in a roundtable discussion on a specific topic or give an individual presentation. Participants in roundtables present a text, i.e. one book from the period discussed, by preparing a 5-7 minute statement and by actively engaging in the debate following the short presentations. The statement should give an introduction to and overview of the text including important facts and dates; it should then focus on a specific aspect and introduce an assumption or opinion, and finally articulate related questions that will be discussed during the debate. The individual presentations follow the same model, and focus on one main theme or topic, supporting the argument with background research and stylistic features found within the text.

### ***Essays***

Two essays are due during the term. The essays should reflect and elaborate on the objectives and materials learned and used in class. The first essay, of 600-800 words, should describe a specific research interest, formulate questions and develop strategies to pursue those questions. The second essay (1500 words) should follow up on the first and should display a structured argument with a compelling thesis and insightful conclusion. You are expected to use secondary sources, articles and books. To choose a topic, please contact the instructor in advance.

### ***Weekly Reviews***

Every week students write a 500 word entry into a class journal, documenting their reading and research, or reviewing one text (or film). The goal is to investigate one particular aspect of the text, demonstrate that they have understood the structure and the main arguments or (aesthetic) techniques.

### ***Annotated Research Bibliography***

Over the course of the term students will put together an annotated research bibliography geared towards the context of the final paper. The bibliography will cover the areas of genre, theory, historical and cultural/background. It will inform the students' understanding of the topic and enable them to apply it in the essay.

## **Required Notes:**

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University calendar.”

### ***Academic Integrity:***

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding

academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx> ) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

### ***Learning and Working Environment:***

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that directs discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110> .

### ***Academic Honesty:***

**All students** should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

**Students involved in language courses and translation courses** should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.”

**Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

### ***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written

consent from the content author(s).

***Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) ) <http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.3.html#23.3> ) and 23.5.6 (<http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.5.html#23.5>) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

**In this course, 10% of the grade is assigned to attendance, preparation and participation, i.e. students must view all assigned films and read and prepare texts for the assigned class period so that they can participate successfully in the group work and class discussions.**

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will not be accepted for any reason.

***Student Accessibility Services:***

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB [www.ssds.ualberta.ca](http://www.ssds.ualberta.ca) ).

***Grading:***

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

***“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”***

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4.0	<b>Excellent:</b> Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	<b>Excellent:</b> Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	<b>Excellent:</b> Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	<b>Good</b>
B	75-81%	3.0	<b>Good:</b> average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	<b>Good</b>
C+	66-69%	2.3	<b>Satisfactory:</b> Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	<b>Satisfactory</b>
C-	58-60%	1.7	<b>Satisfactory</b>
D+	55-57%	1.3	<b>Minimal Pass:</b> Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	<b>Minimal Pass:</b> Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	<b>Failure:</b> Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements