

## Syllabus for course 396H/496H – Professor Shlomo Aronson, Fall Term 2007

### Course Description

The course will describe and analyze the origins, the phases and the last stages of The Holocaust as unique case of genocide, plus efforts made to bring the perpetrators to justice and lessons learned. The analysis would not concentrate on the Nazis alone, nor on the Allies and their behavior at the time including rescue efforts alone, and nor on the fate of the victims alone but combine them all to one – within the framework of the development of WWII - multidimensional discussion with the help of Holocaust survivors.

### Class Format

This course uses a lecture format plus screening of documentaries and affidavits offered by Holocaust survivors, whose participation requires their consent and coordination in due course.

You are expected to complete the required reading ahead of the class, and talking points to be circulated ahead of the class, to be downloaded from the course website if offered. Under circumstances, addenda to each class will be circulated following classes among you, and the instructor will be available for further questions in class or during office hours, to be announced.

### Examinations:

A mid-term exam based on a questionnaire related to the course readings is to be submitted as a take home paper on October 12 – 30% of the final grade.

Final, take home paper based on the readings specified below, the lectures and the circulated downloads, about 5-10 pages long - 70% of the final grade is to be submitted on December 14, 2007.

Topics will be announced toward last week of term. Grading expectations: knowledge of readings and combination thereof with the lectures as related to the chosen topic. The use of clear-cut style. Use of sources as to be instructed. Proper citations and proper use of notes and bibliography.

Final paper due: 12-14-07.

### Grading

90.0 – 100.% A and A+  
80.0-89.99 % - B and B+  
70.0-79.99% - C and C+  
60.0-69.99% – D and D+  
59.99 and below - E

## Lecture topics and reading assignments

Week between 8-20/8-27-07

Introduction, course methodology, terminology, requirements.  
Required readings ahead and during the week:

Mosse, George L., The Crisis of German Ideology, Intellectual Origins of the Third Reich, New York, 1964 or a new edition, 1-100.

Week between 8-27/9-6-07

The Nazi rise to power, initial anti-Jewish and racist campaigns.

Readings:

Shlomo Aronson: Hitler, the Allies and the Jews, Cambridge University Press, New York, paperback edition, June 2006, 3-17.

Robert S. Wistrich (Ed.) Demonizing the other, Antisemitism, Racism, and Xenophobia, Harwood Academic Publishers, Amsterdam, 1999, 108-130, 210-223.

Henry Friedlander, The Origins of Nazi Genocide, from Euthanasia to the Final Solution, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill and London, 1995, 1-38.

Week between 9-6/9-10-07

From the end of the Nazi "forced emigration" policy to the Wannsee Conference of January 1942. Screening of The Wannsee Conference, a co-production of Infafilm, Munich, Austrian Television ORF and Bavarian Television Corporation.

Readings:

Aronson: 36-49.

Gerhard L. Weinberg: A World at Arms, A Global History of World War II, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, paperback edition, 2005, chapters 1-3.

Yale Encyclopedia of the Holocaust, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, Entry "Final Solution: Preparation and Implementation, pp. 184-193.

September 13 - Rosh Hashana – Jewish New Year, no classes

Week between 9-10/9-17-07

Holocaust survivors from Germany and Poland, to be coordinated with Mr. Gerd Strauss, Ms. Jane Lipski or Mr. Sid and Mrs. Jean Finkle

Readings:

As above.

Week between 9-17/9-24-07

The Nazi hammer and Allied anvils: Allied reactions and various responses to the "Final Solution" 1940-1942.

Readings:

Yale Holocaust Encyclopedia: 193-197.

Aronson: 54-78.

Dinnerstein, Leonard, Antisemitism in America, Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford, paperback 1994, pp. 35-149.

Recommended: Weinberg: 5-6-8

Week between 9-24/10-1-07

Holocaust survivors from the Ukraine Ms. Yuliya Genina and from Greece, Mr. Irving Senior.

Readings: Ditto.

Week between 10-1/10-8-07

The Palestine question from the British "White Paper" of May, 1939, the Mufti's alliance with Hitler, to the Bermuda Refugee Conference of 1943.

Readings:

Aronson: 50-54, 79-143.

Recommended reading: Kushner, Tony, The persistence of prejudice, Anti-Semitism in British society during the Second World War, Manchester University Press, Manchester and New York, 1989 or new edition, chapters 3-4-5. Alternatively, the relevant chapters in the new edition of Wasserstein, Bernard, Britain and the Jews of Europe 1939-1945, first published by Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1979.

Week between 10-8/10-15-07

Allied priorities and worries 1943-1944. The bombing campaign.

Readings:

Budyansky, Stephen, Air Power, Penguin Books, London, 2005, 420-450.

Aronson, 290-298

10-12-07 – Midterm Exam.

Week between 10-15/10-22-07

The self defeating mechanism of rescue efforts. Slovakia, Hungary, and the establishment of the American war Refugee Board.

The special cases of Romanian and Danish Jewry. Screening of documentary on the rescue of Danish Jews.

Readings:

Aronson: 159-196.

Daid M. Glantz, Red Storm over the Balkans: Soviet Failure in Offensive to occupy Romania, Spring 1944, University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, Kansas, 2007, chapter 1 and summary.

Week between 10-22/10-29-07

Continued from previous week.

Hungary invaded and occupied.

Holocaust survivors Mrs. Rosa Friend and Mrs. Klara Swimmer.

Readings as above.

Week between 10-29/11-5-07

The failure of a rescue mission, the "rescue controversy."

Readings: Aronson 196-280.

Week between 11-5/11-15-07

The last year of the war – an unexpected German recovery and Soviet setbacks. The Bombing of Auschwitz, which never took place. Screening of Aronson's interview with Albert Speer, Hitler's architect and Minister of War Production. The Yishuv's home front.

Readings:

Aronson: 281-321.

Recommended reading: Hastings, Max, Armageddon, the battle for Germany, 1944-1945, Knopf, New York, 2005, pp. 3-237.

Week between 11-15/11-26-07

Ditto

Week between 11-26/12-3-07

The "end" of the "Final Solution." Screening of BBC 4 documentary Hitler and Himmler, 2001. The "rescue controversy" and its ongoing shadow.

Readings:

Yale Holocaust Encyclopedia, 197-198.

Aronson: 312-340.

Recommended reading: Hastings: 238-446.

Week between 12-3/12-10-07

The road to Nuremberg, its legacy and its contribution to history and international law.

Readings:

Kochavi Arieh J., Prelude to Nuremberg, Allied War Crimes Policy and the Question of Punishment, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill and London, 1998, pp. 138-230.

George Ginsburgs, "Principles of Nuremberg as a Blueprint for a New World," in New Records – New Perspectives, Shlomo Aronson, (Ed.) Ben-Gurion research Institute, Ben-Gurion University Press, 2002, pp. 129-132.

Marrus, Michael M., "The Holocaust at Nuremberg," above, pp. 137-142.

Final exam: topics for the take home essays will be announced two weeks ahead of time. Papers are to be submitted to the department's office by December 14, 2007.

