The Holocaust, and its Impact on the Israeli Society and Politics

Syllabus for course 496/596 – Professor Shlomo Aronson

Lecture topics and reading assignments

Week between 8-21/8-23-06
Introduction, course methodology, terminology, requirements
Required readings ahead and during the week:


Week between 8-28/9-6-06
The Nazi rise to power, initial anti-Jewish and racist campaigns. Screening of The Blue Max, Twentieth Century Fox, available in DVD.
Readings:

Week between 9-11/9-13-06
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.

Week between 9-18/9-20-06
Ditto
Readings:

Week between 9-25/9-27-06
The Nazi hammer and Allied anvils: Allied reactions and various responses to the "Final Solution" 1942-1943.
Readings:
Yale Holocaust Encyclopedia: 193-197.
Aronson: 54-78.
Recommended: Weinberg: 5-6-8
Week between 10-4/10-9-06
The Palestine question from the British "White Paper" of May, 1939, the Mufti's alliance with Hitler, to Bermuda.
Readings:
Aronson: 50-54, 79-143.

Week between 10-11/10-16-06
Allied priorities and worries 1943-1944. The bombing campaign.
Readings:
Weinberg: chapters 9-11.

Week between 10-18/10-23-06
The self defeating mechanism of rescue efforts. Slovakia, Hungary, and the establishment of the American war Refugee Board.
Readings:
Aronson: 159-196.

Week between 10-25/10-30-06
Hungary invaded, the failure of a rescue mission, the "rescue controversy."
Readings: Aronson 196-280.

Week between 11-6/11-8-06
The last year of the war – an unexpected agony. 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.

Week between 11-15/11-20-06
Ditto

Week between 11-22/11-27-06
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.
Recommended reading: Hastings: 238-446.
Week between 11-29/12-4-06
The road to Nuremberg, its legacy and its contribution to history and international law.

Reading:

Final class – 12-6-2006: summing up.

Final exam, or home exams upon arrangement with instructor: 15-6-06