

History of the Holocaust: Course Syllabus



History of the Holocaust

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Holocaust education requires a comprehensive study of not only times, dates, and places, but also the motivation and ideology that allowed these events. In this course, students will study the history of anti-Semitism; the rise of the Nazi party; and the Holocaust, from its beginnings through liberation and the aftermath of the tragedy. The study of the Holocaust is a multi-disciplinary one, integrating world history, geography, American history, and civics. Through this in-depth, semester-long study of the Holocaust, high school students will gain an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice and indifference, the potential for government-supported terror, and they will get glimpses of kindness and humanity in the worst of times.

Unit 1: The Rise of Anti-Semitism

Learning Objectives:

- 1. Understand the history of anti-Semitism in the Christian West.**
- 2. Recognize the role anti-Semitism played in the rise of the Nazi party.**
- 3. Use a timeline to develop a sequence of events in Nazi Germany.**
- 4. Learn how these events, including restrictive laws and Kristallnacht, contributed to the Holocaust.**
- 5. Consider the role of the general population in allowing or objecting to anti-Semitism.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

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| The Rise of Anti-Semitism: Unit Text Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| The Rise of Anti-Semitism: Online History of the Holocaust Lab Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 1 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 2 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 1 Quiz – The Rise of Anti-Semitism | <i>Quiz</i> | 15 points |

Unit 2: Preparing for the "Final Solution": The Ghettos and the Invasion of the Soviet Union

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe the geographical progression of the Holocaust into Eastern Europe.
2. Discuss the function of the Jewish ghetto for the Nazi party.
3. Discuss the suffering within the ghetto and the Jewish response.
4. Analyze the *Einsatzgruppen* and their role in the mass killing of the Jews.
5. Discuss local responses to Nazi actions, from heroic resistance to cooperation.

ASSIGNMENTS:

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| Preparing for the "Final Solution": The Ghettos and the Invasion of the Soviet Union: Unit Text Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| Preparing for the "Final Solution": The Ghettos and the Invasion of the Soviet | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |

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| Union: Online History of the Holocaust Lab Questions | | |
| Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 1 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 2 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 2 Quiz – Preparing for the “Final Solution”: The Ghettos and the Invasion of the Soviet Union | <i>Quiz</i> | 15 points |

Unit 3: Arbeit Macht Frei: Confinement in the Camps

Learning Objectives:

- 1. Discuss the early history of the concentration camps.**
- 2. Develop a thorough knowledge of the organization of the camps. Explain the roles of the SS guards and administrators within the concentration camp system.**
- 3. Recognize the variety of prisoners held within the camps and the groups persecuted by the Nazis. Discuss the conditions within the camps and the experiences of the prisoners within the camps.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

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|---|-------------------|-----------|
| Arbeit Macht Frei: Confinement in the Camps: Unit Text Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| Arbeit Macht Frei: Confinement in the Camps: Online History of the Holocaust Lab Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 1 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 2 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |

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| Unit 3 Quiz – Arbeit Macht Frei: Confinement in the Camps | <i>Quiz</i> | 15 points |

Unit 4: The Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution

Learning Objectives:

1. Explain the Madagascar Plan and the reasons for its failure.
2. Discuss the 1941 plans and preparations for the Final Solution.
3. Explain the importance of the Wannsee Conference, as well as the differences between the Final Solution as described at the Conference and the Final Solution as it was implemented throughout Europe.
4. Discuss the role of Operation Reinhard as part of the Final Solution.
5. Explain the arguments for and against both intentionalism and functionalism in the study of the Holocaust and Final Solution.

ASSIGNMENTS:

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|---|-------------------|-----------|
| The Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution: Unit Text Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| The Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution: Online History of the Holocaust Lab Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 1 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 2 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 4 Quiz – The Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution | <i>Quiz</i> | 15 points |

Unit 5: Life and Death: The Extermination Camps

Learning Objectives:

1. Discuss the function and workings of a Nazi death camp. Describe the living conditions and behavior of the SS and the SS auxiliary workers in the extermination camps. Describe the conditions for prisoners chosen to survive in the camp.
2. Explain the dehumanization of the prisoners, both as workers and subjects for medical experimentation.
3. Discuss the death marches across Europe in the last months of the war.

ASSIGNMENTS:

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| Life and Death: The Extermination Camps: Unit Text Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| Life and Death: The Extermination Camps: Online History of the Holocaust Lab Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 1 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 2 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 5 Quiz – Life and Death: The Extermination Camps | <i>Quiz</i> | 15 points |

History of the Holocaust Midterm Exam

Learning Objectives:

- * Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.

* Take a course exam based on material from the first five units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

ASSIGNMENT:

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| History of the Holocaust Midterm Exam | <i>Exam</i> | 50 points |
| Midterm Discussion Assignment | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |

Unit 6: Liberation and Recovery

Learning Objectives:

1. Discuss Nazi attempts to hide or cover up the genocide of the Jewish peoples of Europe. Explain the actions and reactions of Soviet troops and the Soviet government to the first liberated camps. Discuss the American response to the liberation of the Ohrdruf, Buchenwald, and Dachau concentration camps. Recognize and describe the conditions in Bergen-Belsen and explain the reasons for those conditions. Explain the importance of displaced persons camps and emigration in the aftermath of the Holocaust.

ASSIGNMENTS:

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|--|-------------------|-----------|
| Liberation and Recovery: Unit Text Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| Liberation and Recovery: Online History of the Holocaust Lab Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 1 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 2 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |

Unit 6 Quiz – Liberation and Recovery

Quiz

15 points

*Unit 7: The Forgotten: Non-Jewish Victims and the Holocaust***Learning Objectives:**

1. Describe the impact of the Holocaust on non-Jewish populations.
2. Discuss the importance of social, sexual, physical, and racial conformity within the Third Reich.
3. Define and describe Aktion T-4 and the reaction surrounding it.
4. Recognize the racial motivations behind the killings of Romani, Poles, and other Slavs.
5. Discuss the differing treatment and motivation for groups of prisoners under the Nazi administration.

ASSIGNMENTS:

The Forgotten: Non-Jewish Victims and the Holocaust: Unit Text Questions

Homework

10 points

The Forgotten: Non-Jewish Victims and the Holocaust: Online History of the Holocaust Lab Questions

Homework

10 points

Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 1

Discussion

5 points

Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 2

Discussion

5 points

Unit 7 Quiz –The Forgotten: Non-Jewish Victims and the Holocaust

Quiz

15 points

Unit 8: The Nuremberg Trials

Learning Objectives:

1. Discuss the planned war trials, including the creation of the International Military Tribunal.
2. Describe the timeline and chronology of the war crimes trials.
3. Describe the progression of the Nuremberg Trials.
4. Explain the role of Nazi hunters, including Simon Wiesenthal.
5. Discuss the importance of the Eichmann trial and how it varied from earlier trials.

ASSIGNMENTS:

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|---|-------------------|-----------|
| The Nuremberg Trials: Unit Text Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| The Nuremberg Trials: Online History of the Holocaust Lab Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| Unit 8 Discussion Assignment 1 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 8 Discussion Assignment 2 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 8 Quiz – The Nuremberg Trials | <i>Quiz</i> | 15 points |

Unit 9: Coping in the Aftermath of the Holocaust

Learning Objectives:

1. Discuss the long-term psychological implications of the Holocaust for child and adult

victims.

2. Describe the coping strategies many Holocaust victims used to rebuild their lives and move forward.
3. Describe the changes made to international law in the wake of the Holocaust.
4. Describe the changing ethical guidelines of the medical community following the involvement of doctors in the Holocaust and Nazi party.
5. Discuss and dispute the arguments of Holocaust deniers and recognize Holocaust denial.

ASSIGNMENTS:

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|---|-------------------|-----------|
| Coping in the Aftermath of the Holocaust: Unit Text Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| Coping in the Aftermath of the Holocaust: Online History of the Holocaust Lab Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| Unit 9 Discussion Assignment 1 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 9 Discussion Assignment 2 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 9 Quiz – Coping in the Aftermath of the Holocaust | <i>Quiz</i> | 15 points |

Unit 10: The Genocide Convention, War Crimes and Modern Genocides

Learning Objectives:

1. Recognize the legal definition of genocide, including the United Nations' Genocide Convention.
2. Understand the historical role of genocide outside of the Holocaust during the early 20th century.

3. Discuss the genocides in Cambodia, Bosnia, and Rwanda.
4. Recognize ongoing genocides in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan.
5. Consider taking action to help victims of genocide.

ASSIGNMENTS:

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|---|-------------------|-----------|
| The Genocide Convention, War Crimes and Modern Genocides: Unit Text Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| The Genocide Convention, War Crimes and Modern Genocides: Online History of the Holocaust Lab Questions | <i>Homework</i> | 10 points |
| Unit 10 Discussion Assignment 1 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 10 Discussion Assignment 2 | <i>Discussion</i> | 5 points |
| Unit 10 Quiz – The Genocide Convention, War Crimes and Modern Genocides | <i>Quiz</i> | 15 points |

History of the Holocaust Final Exam

Learning Objectives:

- * Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- * Take a course exam based on material from units six to ten in this course – the last five units. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

ASSIGNMENT:

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| History of the Holocaust Final Exam | <i>Exam</i> | 50 points |
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Class Reflection Discussion Assignment

Discussion

10 points

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