

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:

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 8-28/9-6-06

The Nazi rise to power, initial anti-Jewish and racist campaigns. Screening of The Blue Max, Twentieth Century Fox, available in DVD.

Readings:

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 9-11/9-13-06

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.

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.

Week between 9-18/9-20-06

Ditto

Readings:

Weinberg: 187-319.

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.

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

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.

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 10-11/10-16-06

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.

Friling, Tuvia, Arrows in the Dark, David Ben-Gurion, the Yishuv Leadership, and Rescue Attempts during the Holocaust, University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, WI, 2005, Vol. I, pp 125-239.

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.

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

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.

Aronson: 312-340.

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:

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 class – 12-6-2006: summing up.

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

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