FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
REL 3194: The Holocaust
Fall 2016, Hybrid/Flipped course (2/3 online via Blackboard, 1/3 in-person)
In-person class meetings on Fridays, 10:00-10:50am in Chem & Physics 111
Dr. Oren B. Stier
Office: DM305A
Office Hours: Fridays 11-11:45am, and by appointment
Phone: 305-348-6729 (office/voicemail) or 348-2186/2120 (dept.)
Email: stiero@fiu.edu
This course was created with the support of a Mellon Infusion Grant offered by The Wolfsonian–FIU
This syllabus is subject to change; it is current as of August 8, 2016

Course Orientation:

Description: This hybrid, “flipped-classroom” course is a survey of historical, ethical, and theological issues relating to the Holocaust, the systematic destruction of Jews and Jewish life by the Nazi regime during World War II. A specific focus of the course is on relations between Jews and Christians before, during, and after the Nazi era. This is not a class on the history of the Holocaust itself, though a basic familiarity with the facts of the Nazi assault on Jewry will be necessary. Students without such a background may wish to read any one of a number of works on Holocaust history on their own to supplement their knowledge (extra credit may be available). This course is also infused with material from the Wolfsonian-FIU collection, which will provide critical visual and material cultural background to and context for the rise of Nazism. The subject of the class is engaging, disturbing, and taxing: sensitivity and thoughtfulness are essential throughout! Since this is a flipped-classroom format course, the bulk of the coursework will be done outside of the lecture hall at the student’s own pace; we meet only once a week for a class discussion and review of the course materials.

Objectives:

• Students will learn to see the Holocaust in greater historical, religious, and cultural context.
• Students will gain an understanding of classical antisemitism and its implications.
• Students will consider the roles religion plays in situations of extremity, as well as the ethical choices people make in such situations.
• Students will examine material and visual culture objects relating to the Nazi period and understand them in context.
• Students will develop critical thinking skills in close reading, reflection, and response.

The course is divided into four parts.

• Introduction: We discuss the general background of the Holocaust as well as key questions and theories central to the course.
• Before the Nazi Era: We discuss the historical and religious issues and events that led up to the Holocaust.
• During the Nazi era: We discuss life under the Nazi regime and in the ghettos and camps, Jewish and Christian responses, ethics, resistance, and survival.
• After the Nazi era: We discuss liberation, survivor “guilt” and silence, life in the aftermath, Christian and Jewish theological responses, the moral legacy of the Holocaust, and contemporary remembrance issues and activities.
Texts:

Required Books:


Required Reserves and Handouts:

- Steven Katz, typology of religious responses to the Holocaust. *PDF posted on Blackboard.*
- Selection of online readings/links. *DOC posted on Blackboard.*

Assignments and grading: All students will complete the following (Students must fulfill all categories to receive a grade for the course):

1. **Seven** quizzes (through FIU Online/Blackboard): each is designed to apply to the week that precedes it and is meant to be taken at the end of each week; however, quizzes close on Sundays at 11:59 pm to allow sufficient time to learn the material and for multiple attempts. (Quiz #1 will be open an extra week to accommodate late registrations.) **There will be no extensions on the quizzes.** It is recommended you attempt the quiz for the first time soon after completing the week’s readings and lectures; if you are not satisfied with your grade, review the material and take it again over the weekend. You may attempt each quiz up to three times, but the questions will vary with each attempt. The *lowest grade* will be discarded, leaving 6 quizzes remaining; each remaining quiz is worth 4% of your final grade; totaling **24% of your final grade.** *Respondus Lockdown Browser is required for the quizzes.*

2. An in-class midterm exam on 9/16, worth **10% of your final grade.**

3. An essay assignment, to be submitted to turnitin.com via Blackboard (no separate turnitin registration required) of about 1500 words, worth **15% of your final grade.** Additional instructions will be provided.
4. **Blog Posts and Replies**: The course includes three special lectures dealing with Visual Culture and the Holocaust: students are required to view these lectures and then post to the appropriate Blog category in response to a prompt, as well as post replies to colleagues’ blogs, all by the appropriate deadlines. Each of the three blogs is worth 5%, totaling **15% of your final grade. There will be no extensions on the Blog Posting deadlines.**

5. **A Final Examination** from **9:45-11:45 on 12/9** consisting of a series of paragraph-long term identifications. **The Final Exam is worth 21% of your final grade.** Additional instructions will be provided.

6. **Class attendance and participation** (including periodic submission of weekly discussion questions to the Question Blog, details TBA): **15% of your final grade.**

**Grading Criteria:**

All student work will be assigned numerical grades, corresponding to the following letter grades, according to the criteria below. Final grades will be calculated according to the percentages outlined above and converted to final letter grades for the course.

- **98-100 A+** “As” are awarded for excellent to exceptional work, free of technical and stylistic errors, showing sustained thought and engagement with the material on an appropriate but impressive academic level.
- **93-97 A** “Bs” are awarded for good to very good work, with some occasional errors, but nonetheless clearly indicating a good grasp of the material and assigned task.
- **90-92 A-** “Cs” are awarded for average to above average work, meeting minimal standards but marked with errors, and exposing gaps in student performance and/or fulfillment of the assignment.
- **88-89 B+** “Ds” are awarded for barely passing to below average work, usually riddled with errors and seriously deficient in fulfilling the assignment.
- **83-87 B** “Fs” are awarded for unacceptable work.
- **80-82 B-**
- **78-79 C+**
- **73-77 C**
- **70-72 C-**
- **68-69 D+**
- **63-67 D**
- **60-62 D-**
- **< 60 F**

**Course Regulations and Expectations:**

- **READINGS** must be completed and ONLINE LECTURES viewed during the week they are assigned, prior to class discussions. Careful preparation of readings and attention to lectures are essential for comprehension, participation, and overall performance!

- **POLICIES ON DUE DATES:**
  - Online quizzes are designed to be attempted on each Friday of the week indicated in the class schedule but remain open through the weekend to accommodate students who may have missed material during the preceding week; all quizzes close at 11:59 pm on Sundays unless otherwise noted and **will not be re-opened** for any reason; quizzes can always be attempted early if the student will not have Internet access over the weekend the quiz is due. Students not completing quizzes by closing time will receive a zero for that quiz.
  - **Blogs** have firm deadlines and will not be re-opened for any reason.
• The Essay Assignment will remain open past the due date but will be penalized **one half letter grade** (five points) for each day late, or part thereof, up to a **maximum** 30 point deduction. Students failing to submit the Essay by the last day of classes (12/2) will receive a grade of 0 for that assignment.

• **PLAGIARISM and any and all forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.** Plagiarism is stealing someone else’s words or original ideas. Plagiarism occurs in two forms: (1) uncredited quotations (including words copied from elsewhere but not bracketed by quotation marks and quotations without proper citations and documentation) and (2) uncredited paraphrases. In both cases, to avoid plagiarizing, students must properly cite the source material. Only commonly known facts and concepts, general material learned in the course of research and study, and students’ original ideas do not require citation. Students found violating standards will fail the course and will be reported directly to the Office of Academic Affairs. For useful guidelines, go to the **Plagiarism Prevention** section on the FIU Library’s website: [http://libguides.fiu.edu/plagiarism](http://libguides.fiu.edu/plagiarism).

• **ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY in Friday class meetings are required and expected.** Tardiness is disruptive and will be noted, and repeated tardiness will negatively impact the student’s attendance grade; the professor reserves the right to refuse entry to students arriving late. The CLASS PARTICIPATION grade will be scored as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance (# of Fridays marked present)</th>
<th>Questions submitted in advance to the Question Blog</th>
<th>Grade (out of 15)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11+</td>
<td>3+</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>10+</td>
<td>2+</td>
<td>13-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>9+</td>
<td>1+</td>
<td>11-12</td>
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<td>8+</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;8</td>
<td>0+</td>
<td>0</td>
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• FIU’s CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN WRITING offers free services. Take advantage of them! See [http://writingcenter.fiu.edu/](http://writingcenter.fiu.edu/)

• EXTRA CREDIT is always available for the diligent student. For this course, there are two options for extra credit: (1) You may attend and write (2-3 pages) about a pre-approved (see me for pre-approval) Holocaust-related event scheduled during the semester or (2) you may view one of the videotaped testimonies of Holocaust survivors available at the BBC library, take notes, and write up a summary (2-3 pages). See me for further guidelines and suggestions. **Due no later than 12/2. No exceptions to this deadline will be permitted.**
Schedule of Lecture/Discussion Topics and Readings (subject to change):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part I</th>
<th>Introduction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Orientation; What is the Holocaust? What’s in a name?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Read:</strong></td>
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<td>- Browse the textbooks</td>
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<td>- Review the syllabus</td>
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<td>- Rubenstein &amp; Roth, pp. ix-22</td>
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<td>- Hochstadt, pp. 1-6</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>View:</strong></td>
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<td>- <em>Online Lecture 1:</em> What is the Holocaust?</td>
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<td>- Available for streaming on Amazon or at GL 5th floor reserve desk</td>
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<td>- (call # BM645.H6 C76 1992 or NVS 567)</td>
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<td>- NOTE: 2nd of two features—make sure to watch the correct film!</td>
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<td><strong>Activity:</strong></td>
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<td>- <em>Discussion Topic on 8/26:</em> Class orientation</td>
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<td>- <em>Online quiz #1:</em> The Cross and the Star (remains open until end of week 2)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Part II</th>
<th>Before the Nazi Era</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Judaism and Early Christianity</td>
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<td><strong>Read:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Rubenstein &amp; Roth, pp. 25-47</td>
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<td>- Hochstadt, pp. 7-21</td>
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<td>- Gospel excerpts (handout).</td>
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<td><strong>View:</strong></td>
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<td>- <em>Online Lecture 2:</em> The Jew as Outsider</td>
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<td><strong>Activity:</strong></td>
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<td>- <em>Discussion Topic on 9/2:</em> Why Study the Holocaust?</td>
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<td>- <em>Online quiz #2:</em> Introductory Readings (R&amp;R, pp. ix-47; Hochstadt, 1-21)</td>
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<p>| Week 3         | Antisemitism                                                                                            |
|                | <strong>Read:</strong>                                                                                              |
|                |   - Rubenstein &amp; Roth, pp. 49-70                                                                       |
|                |   - Littell, pp. 24-43 (.pdf on Blackboard)                                                            |
|                |   - Hochstadt, pp. 22-35                                                                              |
|                | <strong>View:</strong>                                                                                              |
|                |   - <em>Online Lecture 3:</em> Christian Antisemitism from the Gospels to the Enlightenment                   |
|                | <strong>Activity:</strong>                                                                                          |
|                |   - <em>Discussion Topic on 9/9:</em> The Jew in the Gospels                                                 |
|                |   - <em>Online quiz #3:</em> Littell .pdf and Hochstadt, pp. 22-35                                           |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>View</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Failure of Emancipation and the Rise of Nazism</td>
<td>Rubenstein &amp; Roth, pp. 71-117</td>
<td>Online Lecture 4: The Jewish Question</td>
<td>Midterm on 9/16, Visual Culture Blog #1 due by 9/21</td>
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<td>Visual Culture Lecture #1: Antisemitism in Europe, Dr. Francis. X. Luca, Senior Librarian, Wolfsonian-FIU</td>
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<td>Part III</td>
<td>During the Nazi Era</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Towards The Final Solution</td>
<td>Rubenstein &amp; Roth, pp. 121-142</td>
<td>Online Lecture 5: Towards the “Final Solution”</td>
<td>Discussion Topic on 9/23: The Ghost of the St. Louis, Online quiz #4: Hochstadt, pp. 36-84</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>The Final Solution</td>
<td>Rubenstein &amp; Roth, pp. 143-166</td>
<td>Online Lecture 7: War and the “Final Solution” to the Jewish Question</td>
<td>Discussion Topic on 9/30: Genocide as State Policy, Online quiz #5: Hochstadt, pp. 85-178</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Industrialized Murder</td>
<td>Rubenstein &amp; Roth, pp. 167-213</td>
<td>Online Lecture 8: The Mechanics of Murder</td>
<td>Discussion Topic on 10/7: 1942 as a Turning Point</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Propaganda</td>
<td>Online Exhibition, “Race and Visual Culture under National Socialism”</td>
<td>Visual Culture Lecture #2: Race and Visual Culture under National Socialism</td>
<td>Discussion Topic on 10/14: Branding the Holocaust, Visual Culture Blog #2 due by 10/19</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Week 9  The End of World War II  
Read:  
• Rubenstein & Roth, pp. 217-247  
View:  
• Online Lecture 9: Victims, Resistors, Survivors  
Activity:  
• Discussion Topic on 10/21: Resistance vs. Complicity: Revisiting Hannah Arendt  

Week 10  “Life” During the Holocaust  
Read:  
• Wiesel  
View:  
• Online Lecture 10: The Jewish Experience: Elie Wiesel (part I)  
• Online Lecture 11: The Jewish Experience: Elie Wiesel (part II)  
Activity:  
• Discussion Topic on 10/28: Why is This Night Different?  
• Work on Essay Assignment  

Week 11  Survival in Auschwitz  
Read:  
• Levi  
View:  
• Online Lecture 12: The Jewish Experience: Primo Levi  
Activity:  
• Discussion on 11/4: Ethics during the Holocaust  
• Essay Assignment due by 11:59 pm, Monday, 11/7  

Part IV  After the Nazi Era  

Week 12  Testimony  
Reading:  
• Hochstadt, pp. 222-54  
View:  
• Video: “Witness: Voices from the Holocaust,” a production of Stories To Remember in association with the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, Yale University (NY: Joshua M. Greene Productions, 1999)  
  o Available for streaming on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leqkGOqyWMI) or at GL 5th floor reserve desk (call # RESAV 170.2)  
Activity:  
• Online quiz #6: “Witness” and Hochstadt, pp. 222-254.  
• NO CLASS Discussion on 11/11 due to Veterans’ Day
Week 13  Commemoration and Branding

Read:
- Magilow
- Heller

View:
- Video: “Paper Clips,” directed by Elliot Berlin and Joe Fab (NY: Hart Sharp Video, 2006)
  - Available for streaming via FIU Libraries:
- Visual Culture Lecture #3: Branding the Nazis, Steve Heller, School of Visual Arts

Activity:
- Discussion Topic on 11/18: Trivializing the Holocaust?
- Visual Culture Blog #3 due by 11/23

Week 14  Theology

Read:
- Rubenstein & Roth, pp. 249-290; 327-354
- Katz typology

View:
- Online Lecture 13: A Broken Covenant?
- Online Lecture 14: God after Auschwitz

NO CLASS Discussion on 11/25 due to Thanksgiving

Week 15  Ethics after the Holocaust

Read:
- Rubenstein & Roth, pp. 355-377.
- Hochstadt, pp. 255-99
- Online readings (.doc with links posted in Blackboard)

View:
- Online Lecture 15: Ending Auschwitz

Activity:
- Discussion Topic on 12/2: Then and Now: Remembering the Holocaust
- Online quiz #7: Online (see above) and Final Readings (R&R, pp. 249-90 and 327-77; Hochstadt, pp. 255-99)

Week 16  Final Exam: 9:45-11:45 on 12/9, during assigned final exam time block

- THIS syllabus outlines everything you need to know for this course. Please make sure you have read it through carefully.