



Fall 2024 Course Offerings

MA in Holocaust & Genocide Studies

1. **HOL 6300: Survey of Modern/Contemporary Philosophy** – Dr. Daniel Rynhold (3 credits) Tuesdays, 4:50pm EST

A detailed analysis of the treatment of the problem of evil through the history of Jewish philosophy, addressing both pre- and post-Holocaust thought. Thinkers to be studied will be selected from among the following: Saadia Gaon, Moses Maimonides, Levi Gersonides, Baruch Spinoza, Hermann Cohen, Martin Buber, Franz Rosenzweig, Rav Kook, Richard Rubenstein, Emil Fackenheim, Eliezer Berkovits, and Rav Soloveitchik.

2. **HOL 6510: The Holocaust in Global Cinema** – Dr. Rachel Baum (3 credits) Wednesdays, 7pm EST

This course investigates how the Holocaust is represented in films from around the world and how a country's understanding of its relationship to the Holocaust can be seen in the films it produces. Students will need to purchase a monthly streaming subscription to view the films.

3. **HOL 6605: Genocide in the Modern Age** – Dr. Dan Haumschild (3 credits) Asynchronous

This course examines the pairing between two seemingly odd products of the modern age: progress and genocide. Throughout the course, we will explore this tension while surveying crimes against humanity that span four continents. Through comparative analysis we will build a greater understanding of the relationship between power and mass violence, the psychology of perpetration, and current trends in mass atrocity prevention.

4. **HOL 6630: Jews in Eastern Europe, 1914-45** – Dr. Joshua Zimmerman (3 credits) Wednesdays, 2:49pm EST

Survey of the political, social, and economic history of East European Jewry from the outbreak of the First World War to the end of Communist rule in 1989. Topics include the character of the Soviet Jewish experiment; the evolution of Jewish life in interwar Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Lithuania; the impact of Nazi genocidal policies on the Jewish communities of the area, and the attempts to reestablish Jewish communal life after the Holocaust.

5. **HOL 6689: The Holocaust in the Soviet Union, History & Memory** – Dr. Shay Pilnik (3 credits) Thursdays, 6pm EST

This course explores the early phase of the Final Solution plan as it crystallized in the Soviet Union, popularly known as the Holocaust by Bullets. Beginning with the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, signed by Nazi Germany and the USSR in August, 1938 and concluding with the allied victory over the Nazis in May, 1945, we will learn about the Holocaust within the boundaries of the Soviet Union (both the pre- and post-1939), on the impact that it had both on Soviet society and its Jewish minority, and on the enduring legacy it had throughout the Cold War era. We will conclude with the war in Ukraine and explore the extent to which the Holocaust -- in today's Russia, Ukraine and other former Soviet satellites -- still validates the words of Willaim Faulkner -- "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

6. **HOL 6698: Life in the Ghettos of Eastern Europe** – Dr. Joshua Karlip (3 credits) Tuesdays, 6:50pm EST

Explore lives in the “valley of the Shadow of Death,” in such places as the Warsaw, Vilna, and Kovno Ghettos. Regarding religious life, we will examine Rabbi Ephraim Oshry’s responsa in the Kovno Ghetto and Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira’s hasidic sermons in the Warsaw Ghetto. We also will look at the importance of Yiddish theater, literary clubs, and libraries in the Vilna Ghetto. In addition, we will learn the story of the Vilna Ghetto’s “paper brigade” and will discover Emanuel Ringleblum’s Oyneg Shabes archive in the Warsaw Ghetto. Methodologically, we will address the question of the extent to which pre-war local conditions determined Jewish religious, cultural, and physical responses to ghettoization and to what extent Nazi policies contributed to these responses.

7. **HOL 7000: Thesis/Capstone** – Dr. Shay Pilnik (6 credits)

8. **HOL 7100: Capstone** – Dr. Shay Pilnik (3 credits)

Advanced Certificate in Holocaust Education

1. **HOL 6405: Tragedy, Trauma, & Teaching: Educating about Genocide** – Dr. Dan Haumschild (1 credit)
Asynchronous

Trauma is a veil through which our understanding of the tragic past is always filtered. Whether it be by virtue of the survivor telling their story through the faulty yet heroic act of remembrance, or the historian piecing together elements of the never-ending puzzle, a full, complete, and objective history is essentially impossible. Yet as we teach about mass atrocity, however messy and difficult that may be, we can garner exceptional insights about the present, the future, and our place in it. These insights are accentuated when we lean into an examination of the interval between the event and our understanding of it. In this course, we will investigate how trauma theory, memory studies, and public history can inform our educational practice in the classroom. We will also encounter multiple examples of genocide and its representation in order to survey the landscape of this history.

2. **HOL 6425: Centropa Archives: Using Primary Source Interviews & Photographs to Teach about the Holocaust** – Dr. Lauren Granite (1 credit) Tuesdays, 6pm EST

Nothing speaks louder to today’s students than images. Between 2000 and 2009, Centropa, a historical institute based in Vienna, interviewed over 1200 elderly Jews in 15 Central and Eastern European countries. They did not videotape the interviews, nor focus on the Holocaust. Rather, they asked the Holocaust survivors to tell them their entire life stories spanning the 20th century as they shared their old family photographs. In this module, we will use Centropa’s archive of 23,000+ digitized family photographs and interviews to explore innovative methods of using primary sources to teach about the Holocaust. You will return to your students with lesson ideas that emphasize critical thinking, elicit curiosity, and analyze texts for teaching Holocaust history in social studies, English language arts, humanities, and history classes.

3. **HOL 6440: Teaching about the Holocaust: Who, What, Why, When, & How** – Dr. Karen Shawn (1 credit)
Tuesdays, 6pm EST

For the last several years, Claims Conference surveys have reported that Americans, especially Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, know virtually nothing about the Holocaust despite having sat through lessons on the subject in high school and often in middle and elementary school as well. It is clear that something is wrong with the current state of education about this subject. This module will attempt to offer solutions in the form of a suggested, fully redesigned curriculum for grades K-12.

4. **HOL 6620: Five Fundamental Chapters in the History of the Holocaust & How We Teach Them** – Dr. Robert Rozett (1 credit) Sundays, 11am EST

This online, synchronous course will raise and examine five crucial questions whose thoughtful consideration is fundamental for all students of the Holocaust. From Nazi ideology and antisemitism through the anguish of liberation, we will examine the dilemmas and choiceless choices confronted by the Jews throughout the 12 years of the Holocaust. Using Echoes and Reflections, text study, film, and discussion, four faculty members from Israel's Yad Vashem, including senior historian Dr. Robert Rozett, will guide you in using methodologies and materials designed to help your students understand this watershed.

5. **HOL 6640: Geographies of the Holocaust** – Dr. Carson Phillips (1 credit) Mondays, 7:30pm EST

What role did geography and terrain play in how Jews responded to the persecution carried out by the National Socialist regime and its collaborators from 1933-1945? We will examine the physicality of space including ghettos, hiding spaces and architectural structures, as well as physical landscapes and killing fields. At the core of these modules is how geography was integral not only to persecution in the Holocaust but also to Jewish responses and survival. The module takes an interdisciplinary approach and utilizes materials from a variety of disciplines including history, language arts, and the humanities. Each week we also examine excerpts from the recorded and written accounts of Holocaust survivors to discover how individuals, families and communities responded to Nazi persecution. Historical film footage, photographs, and documents are also used to contextualize how Jews demonstrated agency in midst of an unprecedented genocidal campaign that swept across Europe and extended into the former Soviet Union, Scandinavia, and North Africa.

6. **HOL 6642: Liberation & Its Aftermath** – Sheryl Ochayon (1 credit) Sundays, 11am EST

The end of the Holocaust was not simply the happy ending to a sad story for its survivors. They were beginning a new chapter of their lives and had to make many choices, including whether to expend the little energy they had left to "return to life," where to go, and how to move forward. The survivors faced immense physical and emotional challenges. This course will look at liberation and tell the story of the incredible resilience and strength of spirit of most of the survivors and the choices they made to put the pieces of their lives back together.

Please Note

1. Refer to your program's academic calendar for important add/drop dates.
2. Calendars are subject to change.
3. Courses may be cancelled if enrollment is below the requisite number of students.
4. Courses and faculty are subject to change.
5. Refer to the Academic Catalog for important program related requirements.
6. Academic Catalog, updated calendars, and registration information can be accessed at <https://www.yu.edu/fish-center/student-resources>