

The Holocaust in Western Europe
Fall Semester 2026-2027

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This course will explore the specifics of the Holocaust in Western Europe with a particular focus on France. The course will examine the events of the Holocaust as they unfolded in France between 1940-1944, in course of World War Two. The study of France will highlight the complex relationship between the German occupying forces and the French State, the complex attitude of the Vichy government towards the French Jewry, the relations between Jews of foreign nationality who had found refuge in France in the interwar period, and the long standing French Jewish communities. The specificities of the Holocaust in other Western countries including Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Italy will serve us as a point of comparison, with a focus on the number of victims and rescue attempts, as well as mechanisms of persecution.

In addition to use of central studies written on different aspects of the Holocaust in Western Europe, in the course we will also rely widely and utilize relevant firsthand accounts and archival documentation, and we will engage with digital tools that connect with the course topics.

Course requirements:

Students will write two analytical response papers on readings. Students who opt for a term paper will write one paper of 10-15 pages, or those who choose to write a seminar paper will present a 25-30 page paper. A proposal for the paper (both term paper or seminar paper) will be presented and the topic chosen must first be approved.

Those choosing not to write a Seminar or Research paper will submit a third response paper.

Students who wish to present one response as an oral presentation may do by coordinating details in advance.

Grading:

Students writing a Seminar Paper:

Seminar paper: 70% of the final grade
Two response papers: 10% each (20% of the final grade)
Class participation: 10%

Students writing a research paper:

Research Paper: 60%
Two response papers: 15% each (30% of final grade)
Class participation: 10%

Students not writing Research or Seminar paper:

Three Response papers: 25% each (75% of final grade)

Class participation: 25% of final grade

Response Paper submissions:

First Response Paper: November 15

Second Response Paper: December 20

Third Response Paper: January 10

Please note:

- A late submission without informing the lecturer in advance or without requesting an extension in an orderly manner will be accompanied by a reduction of points.
- All papers should follow standard academic writing rules.
- Under certain circumstances the use of AI is permissible for translation, correction or editing purposes. However, your writing should be original, the fruit of your independent work. You are solely responsible for examination of the products obtained through AI. Note that when using AI tools for translation, correction or editing purposes they should in no way displace your writing. Use your own words and ideas. Uncontrolled use of AI can lead to the disqualification of the work and the enforcement of disciplinary measures.

1) 11.10 (zoom) : Introduction to the Course: The Holocaust in Western Europe and France (1) The French Jewish Community on the Eve of the Second World War

Marrus, Michael R. "Reflections on the Historiography of the Holocaust." (1994): 92-116

Michman, Dan, "Comparative Research on the Holocaust in Western Europe, its limits, and a plea for a more integrated approach," MORESHET Journal for the Study of the Holocaust and Antisemitism, special issue: Historiography of the Holocaust, 2020.
https://www.academia.edu/43506701/Comparative_Research_on_the_Holocaust_in_Western_Europe_Its_Achievements_its_Limits_and_a_Plea_for_a_More_Integrative_Approach

Maga, Timothy P. "Closing the Door: The French Government and Refugee Policy, 1933-1939." *French Historical Studies* 12.3 (1982): 424-442.

Caron, Vicki. "The politics of frustration: French Jewry and the refugee crisis in the 1930s." *The Journal of Modern History* 65.2 (1993): 311-356.

Additional optional reading:

Caron, Vicki. *Uneasy asylum: France and the Jewish refugee Crisis, 1933-1942*. Stanford University Press, 1999, Chapter 8: The Deluge, 171-186.

Corber, Erin. "Men of thought, men of action: the Great War, masculinity, and the modernization of the French rabbinate." *Jewish Culture and History* 14.1 (2013): 33-51.

2) 18.10 France (2): Occupation and Collaboration: The occupied and 'free' zones, and first anti-Jewish measures

Marrus, Michael Robert, and Robert O. Paxton. *Vichy France and the Jews*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1981, 73-121.

Ryan, Donna F. *The Holocaust & the Jews of Marseille: the enforcement of anti-Semitic policies in Vichy France*. University of Illinois Press, 1996, 1-23.

Carroll, David. "What It Meant to Be" A Jew" in Vichy France: Xavier Vallat, State Anti-Semitism, and the Question of Assimilation." *SubStance* 27.3 (1998): 36-54.

Happe, Katja, Mayer, Michael and Peers, Maja. Western and Northern Europe 1940–June 1942, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2021, Introduction 22-29, in *The Persecution and Murder of European Jews by Nazi Germany 1939-1945*.

3) 25.10 France (3): Internment Camps, Daily Life, and Humanitarian Crisis

Poznanski, Renée. *Jews in France during World War II*. UPNE, 2001, 424-427, 185-190.

Rosenberg, Pnina. "Mickey Mouse in Gurs—humour, irony and criticism in works of art produced in the Gurs internment camp." *Rethinking History* 6.3 (2002): 273-292.

Guțerman, Belah, No‘omi Morgenshtern, and Aryeh Ludvig Tsuķerman, eds. *The Gurs Haggadah: passover in perdition*. Devora Publishing, 2003, 7-47.

Happe, Katja, Lambauer, Barbara and Maier-Wolthausen, Clemens. Western and Northern Europe June 1942–1945, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 65-87, in *The Persecution and Murder of European Jews by Nazi Germany 1939-1945*.

4) 11.1 France (4): Deportations from France and First Official Protests on Anti-Jewish Measures

Yad Vashem Transports to Extinction Project: <https://deportation.yadvashem.org/>

Griffioen, Pim, and Ron Zeller. "Anti-Jewish Policy and Organization of the Deportations in France and the Netherlands, 1940–1944: A Comparative Study." *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 20.3 (2006): 437-473.

Seibel, Wolfgang. *Persecution and Rescue: The Politics of the "Final Solution" in France, 1940-1944*. University of Michigan Press, 2016.

Adler, Jacques. "The French Churches and the Jewish Question: July 1940—March 1941." *Australian Journal of Politics & History* 46.3 (2000): 357-377.

Wellers, Georges, Testimony at the Eichmann trial - conditions in France and deportations from France, Holocaust education research project:

<http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/trials/wellers.html>

5) 8.11 France (5): Jewish Responses to the Holocaust in France

Moore, Bob. *Survivors: Jewish Self-Help and Rescue in Nazi-Occupied Western Europe*. Oxford University Press on Demand, 2010, rescue and hiding in France, 99-124 .

Yerachmiel (Richard) Cohen, and Zosa Szajkowski. "A Jewish Leader in Vichy France, 1940-1943: The Diary of Raymond-Raoul Lambert." *Jewish Social Studies* (1981): 291-310.

Zuccotti, Susan, "Jewish Rescue Organizations" in *The Holocaust, the French, and the Jews*. New York: New York: Basic Books, 1993, 220-227.

Hobson Faure Laura, "Who will rescue us? The Story of Jewish Children who Fled to France and America During the Holocaust", Yale University Press: 2024, pp.1-13, 20-33.

6) 15.11 The Holocaust in North Africa

Laskier, Michael M. "Between Vichy Antisemitism and German harassment: the Jews of North Africa during the early 1940s." *Modern Judaism* (1991): 343-369.

Kenbib, Mohammed. "Moroccan Jews and the Vichy regime, 1940–42." *The Journal of North African Studies* 19.4 (2014): 540-553.

Peterson, Terrence. "The 'Jewish Question' and the 'Italian Peril': Vichy, Italy, and the Jews of Tunisia, 1940–2." *Journal of Contemporary History* 50.2 (2015): 234-258.

Michman, Dan. "Were the Jews of North Africa Included in the Practical Planning for the 'Final Solution of the Jewish Question'?" *Mass Violence in Nazi-Occupied Europe* (2018): 59-78.

Optional reading:

פעמים: רבעון לחקר קהילות ישראל "אביטבול, מיכאל. "הפעילות הציונית בצפון-אפריקה עד סוף מלחמת-העולם השנייה במזרח (1979): 65-91.

7) 22.11 Belgium (1): Occupation, Persecution and Jewish Responses

Happe, Katja, Mayer, Michael and Peers, Maja. Western and Northern Europe 1940–June 1942, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2021, Introduction 19-21, in *The Persecution and Murder of European Jews by Nazi Germany 1939-1945*.

Happe, Katja, Lambauer, Barbara and Maier-Wolthausen, Clemens. Western and Northern Europe June 1942–1945, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 47-61, in *The Persecution and Murder of European Jews by Nazi Germany 1939-1945*.

Michman Dan, "Research on the Holocaust in Belgium and in General: History and Context," 3-43, in *Belgium and the Holocaust: Jews, Belgians, Germans*. Berghahn Books, 1998, Ed Michman Dan.

Steinberg Maxime, The Judenpolitik in Belgium within the West European Context : Comparative Observations, 199- 225. in *Belgium and the Holocaust: Jews, Belgians, Germans*. Berghahn Books, 1998, Ed Michman Dan.

Steinberg, Maxime. "The trap of legality: the Association of the Jews of Belgium," In Gutman, Yisrael and Cynthia J. Haft (eds.), *Patterns of Jewish leadership in Nazi Europe*. Jerusalem: Yad Vashem, 1979) : 353-376.

Yad Vashem Transports to Extinction online database:

<https://deportation.yadvashem.org/index.html?language=en&search=belgium>

8) 29.11 Belgium (2) and the Case of Luxembourg

Steinberg, Lucien. "Jewish Rescue Activities in Belgium and France." *Rescue Attempts during the Holocaust* (1974): 603-615.

Happe, Katja, Lambauer, Barbara and Maier-Wolthausen, Clemens. Western and Northern Europe June 1942–1945, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 61-65, in *The Persecution and Murder of European Jews by Nazi Germany 1939-1945*.

Marc Schoentgen in Wolf Gruner and Joerg Osterloh (eds), *The Greater German Reich and the Jews* (New York: Berghahn, 2010), pp.289-315.

Yad Vashem Transport to Extinction online Database:

<https://deportation.yadvashem.org/index.html?language=en&search=Luxembourg>

9) 13.12 Netherlands (1): Occupation, Persecution, Jewish Responses

Happe, Katja, Mayer, Michael and Peers, Maja. Western and Northern Europe 1940–June 1942, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2021, Introduction 15-19, in *The Persecution and Murder of European Jews by Nazi Germany 1939-1945*.

Happe, Katja, Lambauer, Barbara and Maier-Wolthausen, Clemens. Western and Northern Europe June 1942–1945, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 31-47, in *The Persecution and Murder of European Jews by Nazi Germany 1939-1945*.

de Haan, Ido. "The Holocaust in the Netherlands: National Differences in a Western European Context." *Ab Imperio* 2019.2 (2019): 83-93.

Tammes, Peter. "Jewish immigrants in the Netherlands during the Nazi occupation." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 37.4 (2007): 543-562.

https://deportation.yadvashem.org/index.html?language=en&search=Netherlands&filter_origin_id={%22field%22:%22origin_parent_id%22,%22Operator%22:%22eq%22,%22val%22:%225706021%22,%22idVal%22:%225706021%22}

10) 20.12 Netherlands (2)

Foray, Jennifer L. "The nation behind the diary: Anne Frank and the Holocaust of the Dutch Jews." *The History Teacher* 44.3 (2011): 329-352.

Bob, Moore. "Jewish Self-Help and Rescue in the Netherlands during the Holocaust in Comparative Perspective." *Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis* 124.4 (2011): 492-505.

Griffioen, Pim, and Ron Zeller. "The Netherlands: the greatest number of Jewish victims in Western Europe." *Anne Frank House* (2018). 1-21.

Croes, Marnix. "The Holocaust in the Netherlands and the rate of Jewish survival." *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 20.3 (2006): 474-499.

Suggested additional reading:

von Fransecky, Tanja. *Escapees: the history of Jews who fled Nazi deportation trains in France, Belgium, and the Netherlands*. Berghahn Books, 2019.

11) 27.12 Italy, Anti-Jewish measures, Persecution, Jewish responses

Zuccotti, Susan. *The Italians and the Holocaust: Persecution, Rescue, and Survival*. U of Nebraska Press, 1996, 3-28

Dell'Era, Tommaso. "'Because of the Jewish race': The application of the 1938 anti-Semitic racist legislation at the University of Rome." *Trauma and Memory* 7.2 (2019): 71-83.

Zimmerman, Joshua D., ed. *Jews in Italy under Fascist and Nazi rule, 1922-1945*. Cambridge University Press, 2005. Chapter 1, 19-35

Gordon, Hirsch Loeb. "Development of the Anti-Jewish Policy in Italy." *Commentary* 1.2 (1938): 37.

Levis Sullam, Simon. "The Italian executioners: revisiting the role of Italians in the Holocaust." *Journal of Genocide Research* 19.1 (2017): 22-38.

Additional optional reading:

Herr, Alexis. *The Holocaust and compensated compliance in Italy: Fossoli di Carpi, 1942-1952*. Springer, 2017, 31-69.

12) 3.1 Italy (2) and The Vatican

Wistrich, Robert S. "The Vatican and the Shoah." *Modern Judaism* 21.2 (2001): 83-107.

Suzanne Brown Fleming, Pollard, John F., et al. *The Vatican and Permanent Neutrality*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2022, chapter 6, Pope Pius XII, Vatican Neutrality and the Holocaust.

Kertzer, David I. *The pope at war: the secret history of Pius XII, Mussolini, and Hitler*. Oxford University Press, 2022, 41-51, 472-481.

Rozett, Robert, and Iael Nidam-Orvieto, eds. *After So Much Pain and Anguish: First Letters after Liberation*. Yad Vashem, The International Institute for Holocaust Research, 2016.

13) 10.1: Post-War Memory of the Holocaust in Western Europe

The Sorrow and the Pity: film excerpts

Gordon, Robert SC. "Which Holocaust? Primo Levi and the field of Holocaust memory in post-war Italy." *Italian Studies* 61.1 (2006): 85-113.

Clifford, Rebecca. *Commemorating the Holocaust: The dilemmas of remembrance in France and Italy*. Oxford University Press, 2013.

Lagrou, Pieter. "Victims of genocide and national memory: Belgium, France and the Netherlands 1945-1965." *Past & present* 154 (1997): 181-222.

Golsan, Richard Joseph. *Vichy's afterlife: History and counterhistory in postwar France*. U of Nebraska Press, 2000., Chapter 4, Revisiting the Sorrow and the Pity, 73-88.