התכנית הבינלאומית ע"ש ויס לבנת לתואר שני בלימודי שואה
The Weiss Livnat International MA Program in Holocaust Studies
برنامج فايس-لبنات لدراسات الهولوكوست الدولية
UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA אוניברסיטת חיפה

Nazi Germany:
Multimedia Sources, Multiperspective Approaches, Interdisciplinary Methods

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Course Overview:

The emergence of National Socialism in Germany was influenced by a variety of historical factors, ranging from 19th century German nationalism, the growing strength of far-right and antisemitic movements, the impact of WW1 and post-war crises as well as international developments beyond Germany. In our course, the history of the Nazi regime will be analyzed in its historical context and discussed based on a variety of source types including written documents, photographs, films, and artworks. Each class is devoted to a chronological phase: General introductions to German history and the origins of National Socialism, the interwar period, the consolidation of power after 1933, the expansion of Germany via annexations and occupations and the downfall of the National Socialist movement in Germany in 1945. The interconnection of political, social, and cultural factors is essential to reflect the specifics of the regime. Consequently, these aspects form red threads throughout the chronological design of the course. The final units focus on the aftermath of National Socialism, post-war rightwing extremism in Germany and Austria and memory culture. The diversity of the group composition and an integrative learning setting are reflected in the content of the course: The students' interest of the topic and types of sources established at the beginning are taken into account and the content of each class is dynamically adjusted.

The objective of the course is to provide an overview of crucial aspects of Nazi history and to teach basic interdisciplinary approaches to scientific working methods and critical reading skills. The central working techniques that students learn interactively are the historical analysis of written documents, as well as the analysis of photo, film and audio sources using interdisciplinary methods. Furthermore, the critical handling of secondary literature and the presentation of research results in talks and texts are essential. The didactic focus is on an interactive setting in which students work together to determine the source value of different source types, referring to the required reading. Interdisciplinary approaches to source criticism, a didactic workshop setting and peer feedback are further foci. The aim is to create a collective learning environment to be able to analyze the respective sources as deeply and multi-layered as possible together as a group and to promote the students' critical analysis skills. In addition to historical approaches, methods from a variety of other disciplinary fields like media, art and cultural studies are introduced.

Course requirements:
Active participation, response papers (5 pages) on selected texts from the compulsory reading and/or a final paper (referat or seminar paper, must be approved by instructor) form the basis of the performance control. The texts must be uploaded to Moodle on time.

Assessment criteria:
Course without final paper: participation (10%), 3 response papers (90%, 30% per paper)

Course with referat paper: participation (10%), 2 response papers (40%, 20% per paper), referat paper (50%)

Course with seminar paper: participation (10%), 2 response papers (30%, 15% per paper), seminar paper (60%)

Deadlines:

response paper 1: **01.05.2026**

response paper 2: **01.06.2026**

response paper 3: **26.06.2026**

referat paper: **01.08.2026**

seminar paper: **31.10.2026**

Course outline:

Students may choose texts from the mandatory literature list for their response paper. Additional literature, sources, and digital material (podcasts, online lectures) are being introduced throughout the semester for the specific topics of each class.

1. **11.03.2026: What is German history? What is National Socialism?**

2. **18.03.2026: Studying Nazi Germany: sources, methods, approaches**

European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI): https://www.ehri-project.eu/

Ghetto Fighters House Archives: https://infocenters.co.il/gfh/search.asp?lang=ENG

USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive: https://vha.usc.edu/home

Wiener Digital Collections by The Wiener Holocaust Library: https://www.whlcollections.org/index/

Yad Vashem Digital Collections: https://www.yadvashem.org/collections.html

3. **25.03.2026: World War I and the dawn of fascism in Germany and Austria**

Jill Lewis, "Conservatives and fascists in Austria, 1918-34", in: Martin Blinkhorn (ed.), *Fascists and Conservatives. The radical right and the establishment in twentieth-century Europe* (London: Routledge, 1990), pp. 98-117.

Michael Mann, "Explaining the Rise of Interwar Authoritarianism and Fascism", in: Michael Mann, *Fascists* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 31-91.

4. **15.04.2026: After 1933: networks of persecution and the origins of *KLs***

Christopher Dillon, "'We'll Meet Again in Dachau': The Early Dachau SS", in: Christopher Dillon, *Dachau and the SS. A School in Violence* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015), pp. 10-48.

Claudia Koonz, "Prologue" and "Chapters 1-2", in: Claudia Koonz, *The Nazi Conscience* (Cambridge/London: Belknap Press/Harvard University Press, 2003), pp. 1-45.

Nikolaus Wachsmann, "The dynamics of destruction: the development of the concentration camps, 1933–1945", in: Jane Caplan, Nikolaus Wachsmann, *Concentration Camps in Nazi Germany. The New Histories* (London: Routledge, 2009), pp. 17-43.

5. **29.04.2026: *Volksgemeinschaft* – inclusion, exclusion, expulsion, murder**

Ofer Ashkenazi, "Exile at Home: Jewish Amateur Photography under National Socialism, 1933–1939", in: *The Leo Baeck Institute Year Book*, Volume 64, Issue 1, 2019, pp. 115–140

Mary-Elizabeth O'Brien, "Introduction", in: Mary-Elizabeth O'Brien, *Nazi Cinema as Enchantment. The Politics of Entertainment in the Third Reich* (Rochester/Woodbridge: Camden House, 2004), pp. 1-16.

Michael Wildt, "Volksgemeinschaft. A modern perspective on National Socialist society", in: Martina Steber, Bernhard Gotto (ed.), *Visions of Community in Nazi Germany. Social Engineering and Private Lives* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), pp. 43-59.

6. **06.05.2026: The Greater German Reich: Austria and the Sudetenland**

Bertrand Perz, "The Austrian Connection: SS and Police Leader Odilo Globocnik and His Staff in the Lublin District", in: *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, 29/2015 (3), pp. 400-430.

Hans Safrian, “Expediting Expropriation and Expulsion: The Impact of the ‘Vienna Model’ on Anti-Jewish Policies in Nazi Germany 1938”, in: *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, 14/2000 (3), pp. 390-414.

7. **13.05.2026 National socialism at war: occupation, genocides and “euthanasia”**

Christoph Dieckmann, “The War and the Killing of the Lithuanian Jews”, in: Ulrich Herbert (ed.), *National Socialist Extermination Policies. Contemporary German Perspectives and Controversies* (New York/Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2000), pp. 240-275.

Academic event recording: “Discussion ‘*Facing Our Past: Lithuanians, Germans, and Jews*’ by Christoph Dieckmann at the Dingęs Štetlas / Lost Shtetl Museum, 06.10.2021”, online: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xF3Yrp1Agds (accessed 04.02.2025).

8. **20.05.2026: Careers of violence: genocide perpetrators and their helpers**

Martin Cüppers, “Realizing the Unthinkable. Operation T4, Operation Reinhard, and their Actors”, in: Martin Cüppers, Anne Lepper, Jürgen Matthäus (ed.), *From Euthanasia to Sobibor: An SS Officer’s Photo Collection* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2022), pp. 75-92.

Michael Wildt, “The Spirit of the Reich Security Main Office (RSHA)”, in: *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions*, 6:3, 2005, pp. 333-349.

9. **27.05.2026: The war of annihilation at home: looting, forced labor, “Lebensraum”**

Peter Fritzsche, “Babi Yar, but not Auschwitz. What Did Germans Know about the Final Solution?”, in: Susanne Schrafstetter, Alan E. Steinweis (ed.), *The Germans and the Holocaust. Popular Responses to the Persecution and Murder of the Jews* (New York/Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2016), pp. 85-104.

Sybille Steinbacher, “Auschwitz as a Model of ‘Germanization’ and Annihilation”, in: Daniele Menozzi, Andrea Mariuzzo (ed.), *A settant' anni dalle leggi razziali. Profili culturali, giuridici e istituzionali dell' antisemitismo* (Rome: Carocci 2010), pp. 351-367.

10. 31.05.2026 (not a Wednesday!): Not enough resistance: anti-Nazi activities in Germany and beyond

Wolfgang Neugebauer, "The Machinery of Repression and NS Measures against the Resistance", in: Wolfgang Neugebauer, *The Austrian Resistance 1938-1945* (Vienna: Edition Steinbauer, 2014), pp. 26-51.

Marion Kaplan, "Changing Roles in Jewish Families", in: Francis R. Nicosia, David Scrase (ed.), *Jewish Life in Nazi Germany. Dilemmas and Responses* (New York/Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2010), pp. 15-46.

11. 03.06.2026: Downfall and liberation: from Stalingrad to Mauthausen

Daniel Blatman, "Conclusion", in: Daniel Blatman, *The Death Marches. The Final Phase of Nazi Genocide* (Cambridge/London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2011), pp. 407-432.

Bernd Boll, Hans Safrian, "On the Way to Stalingrad: The 6th Army in 1941-42", in: Hannes Heer, Klaus Naumann (ed.), *War of Extermination. The German Military in World War II, 1941-1944* (New York/Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2000), pp. 237-271.

12. 10.06.2026: "Amnesia through amnesty": post-war periods and memory culture

Heidemarie Uhl, "From Victim Myth to Coresponsibility Thesis", in: Richard Ned Lebow, Wulf Kansteiner, Claudio Fogu (ed.), *The Politics of Memory in Postwar Europe* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006), pp. 40-72.

The Nuremberg Trials Collection: The Avalon Project by Yale Law School Lillian Goldman Law Library: https://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/imt.asp (accessed 04.02.2025).

13. 17.06.2026: Legacies of Nazism in Culture and Politics

The Act of Killing, directed by Joshua Oppenheimer (Final Cut for Real/DK Film, 2012).

The Zone of Interest, directed by Jonathan Glazer (JW Films/Extreme Emotions/Film4/Access Entertainment, 2023).

14. 24.06.2026: Concluding discussion: Studying Nazi Germany in 2026