

Syllabus French 2118B/2211G

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Visiting hour : on appointment

Description :

Holocaust and literature

This course will offer a brief description of life during the Holocaust through the reading of a few essential testimonial texts. We first will briefly survey the events and questions and place them in their historical, religious, human and political frames. Through the eyes of the witnesses, we shall try to understand some facets of the human tragedy that the Holocaust constitutes and how it is lived on a daily basis. The course wishes to present individual experiences of this historical event, which remains the paradigm of genocides of the XXth century. We want to explore the ways people react to extraordinary circumstances and interact within a society where all rules have changed. We will listen to voices describing the cruelty of the executioners, the humanity of the rescuers, the passivity of the bystander and the fears of the victims. The course explores the specific experiences of several groups, including women, hidden children, freedom fighters, etc. and will try to offer a reading of the past that will facilitate the understanding of contemporary events.

We will also call on some visual support. No previous knowledge of the historical, religious or political background is required.

Texts

- Kertész, Imre, *Fateless*
- Levi, Primo, *If This is a man* or *Survival in Auschwitz* (same text)
- Wiesel, Elie, *Night*

Assignments

Class participation	10%
2 book analysis (2x20%)	40%
Conversation	10%
Elaborated plan	5%
Final research work	35%

Analysis in class	one hour
Mid-term exam	one hour
Research Paper	8 pages or 2000 words
Conversation	15 minutes of discussion on the research paper

The subject of the Research Paper can be determined according to the interest of the student after a discussion with the professor or chosen out of a list that will be provided.

Schedule

January 6	Presentation		
January 13	The Holocaust		
January 20	The Holocaust		Choice of book 1
January 27	<i>Night</i>		Choice of research
February 3	<i>Night</i>	Reading analysis 1	
February 10	<i>Night</i>		
February 17	<i>If This is a man</i>		Choice of book 2
February 24	Reading week		
March 2	<i>If This is a man</i>		
March 9	<i>If This is a man</i>	Reading analysis 2	Elaborated plan for research work
March 16	<i>Fateless</i>		
March 23	<i>Fateless</i>		
March 30	<i>Fateless</i>	Research work	

April 6	Conclusion		
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I would greatly appreciate if you would not consult your telephone during the course and use your computer only for course purposes.

For Academic offenses, please consult :

<http://www.uwo.ca/french/academicinformation.html>.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Please note that in all courses offered by the Department of French Studies, this same requirement will also apply to assignments worth less than 10% of the final grade. Final examinations must be written at the scheduled time unless formal alternative arrangements for a Special Examination have been approved (by the instructor, the Department and the Home Faculty Dean's Office) based on valid documented grounds.

A downloadable Student Medical Certificate can be found here:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.

Support services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement on Plagiarism, Cheating and other Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence in the Academic Handbook available on the Academic Calendar website, here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg113.html>

Policy on Attendance

"Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will

communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of Registration.” (Academic Handbook)

Important Academic Information for Students Taking Courses in the Department of French Studies

http://www.uwo.ca/french/undergraduate/counselling/academic_information/index.html