

**Department of French Studies**  
Academic year 2018-2019

**French 2211F**

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Visiting hour : on appointment  
Answering e-mail: from 8:00 to 18:00

**Holocaust and literature: Understanding suffering**

**Description :**

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 proper 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 shall not avoid delicate or horrific situations or sensitive ethical questions.

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

**Texts**

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

## Assignments

Reading review	4 pages or 1000 words
Film review	3 pages or 700 words
Research Paper	10 pages or 2500 words
Conversation	30 minutes of discussion on three questions submitted by the student
Two quiz	at the end of two classes

## Rating scale

Class participation	10%
Including two quiz	
Reading review	20%
Film review	15%
Conversation	15%
Final research work	40%

Reading review	4 pages or 1000 words
Film review	3 pages or 700 words
Research Paper	10 pages or 2500 words
Conversation	30 minutes of discussion on the research paper

The subject of the Research Paper is to be determined according to the interest of the student after a discussion with the professor.

For the review, we suggest that you find books linked to your personal interest. The title of the book has to be submitted at least two weeks before the due date of the review. Please, consult the Professor for guidance to discuss any ideas on the relevancy of the text. The same rules apply for the movies.

There will be no final examination.

## Schedule

September 12	Presentation: Genocide		

September 19	No class		
September 26	The Holocaust		
October	Antisemitism	Research proposal	
October 10	No class	Reading week	Book selection
October 17	<i>If This is a man</i>		Research selection
October 24	<i>If This is a man</i>	Reading review	
October 31	<i>If This is a man</i>		Film selection
November 7	<i>If This is a man</i>		
November 14	<i>Night</i>	Film review	
November 21	<i>Night</i>		
	<i>Night</i>	Research work	
December 5	<i>Night</i> <i>Conclusion</i>		

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