

**Department of French Studies
Western University**

Course Number : 2211

Course Name : Holocaust and literature : Understanding suffering

Term(s) : Autumn 2019

Location : AHB room 2H04

Days : Wednesday

Hours : 3:30 – 5:30

Professor

Name : Dr Alain Goldschläger

Email : agold@uwo.ca

Email hours : Weekdays 8:00 to 6:00

Office : University College, room 4125

Office hours : by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Holocaust and literature : Understanding suffering

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*

METHODS OF EVALUATION

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
Three quiz	at the end of two classes

Rating scale

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

Student presence is expected but do not consider presence as participation. The quiz will not be announced and missing them implies a missing assignment. The expectation is that the books will have been read before we start their analysis in class

The subject of the Research Paper is to be determined according to the interest of the student with consent of the professor. The research proposal shall be 1 page (250 words).

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 choosing the movies. Non-restrictive lists of possible books and films will be available.

The conversation will be centred around the questions asked by the student but could encompass other subjects. The questions are to be submitted at the time of the meeting.

There will be no midterm or final examination. Thus requests for accommodation are not relevant.

CALENDAR
Schedule

September 11	Presentation: Genocide		
September 18	The Holocaust		
September 25	Antisemitism	Research proposal	
October 2	Literature of the Shoah		Book selection
October 9	<i>No class (Yom Kippour)</i>		
October 16	<i>If This is a man</i>		Research selection
October 23	<i>If This is a man</i>	Reading review	
October 30	<i>If This is a man</i>		Film selection
November 6	No Class	Reading week	
November 13	<i>If This is a man</i>	Film review	
November 20	<i>Night</i>		
November 27	<i>Night</i>	Research work	
December 4	<i>Night</i> <i>Conclusion</i>		
October/November	Conversation		

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

A clear statement of what electronic devices will or will not be allowed in class or during tests and examinations.

Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Form

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in

situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- a) students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- b) any absences in excess of the number designated in clause a above, regardless of duration, will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, detailing the duration and severity of illness, or appropriate documentation supporting extenuating circumstances to the Academic Counselling unit in their Faculty of registration no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Please see section 4 below for more details.
- c) The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
- d) The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- e) The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- f) Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
- g) Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.
- h) students must be in touch with their instructors **no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form**, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

Students seeking academic consideration for a medical absence not covered by existing Student Accessibility Services (SAS) accommodation, will be required to provide documentation in person in the form of a completed, signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.

The following conditions are in place for students seeking academic consideration for a medical absence:

- a) Students must submit their documentation along with a request for academic consideration specifying the nature of the relief being requested. This documentation, in the form of a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), shall be submitted to the Academic Counselling or Undergraduate Office of the student's Faculty of registration indicating the period of illness, severity, and when the

student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. **Forms must be submitted no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.**

- b) Students who require academic consideration must, where possible, seek medical attention in advance of due dates, examinations, etc.
- c) If the Academic Counselling/Dean's Office determines that academic consideration is warranted, the period of academic consideration will normally be that specified on the medical documentation. Once the request for academic consideration and supporting documents have been received and approved, the student's instructors will be notified of this by the Academic Counselling or Undergraduate Office in the student's home faculty.
- d) Academic consideration shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities, and only when the licensed practitioner providing the documentation is able to make a reasonable assessment of the student's physical or mental state during the period for which relief is sought. The expectation is that the practitioner's assessment of the student's condition will be made in person.
- e) The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the period indicated on the SMC should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time.
- f) Students must communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.
- g) In cases where a student may be experiencing long-term or recurring absences, students should consult their Academic Counsellors for advice about which of the options available to them (academic consideration, pursuing Academic Accommodation, withdrawal from the course) are most appropriate.

A downloadable Student Medical Certificate can be found here:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html

Request for Academic Consideration for a Non-Medical Absence

Students seeking academic consideration for a non-medical absence will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported Absences.

The following conditions are in place for students seeking academic consideration for a non-medical absence:

- a. Students must submit the appropriate documentation¹ along with a request for academic consideration specifying the reason for the absence and the nature of the relief being requested. This documentation shall be submitted to the Academic Counselling or Undergraduate Office in the student's Faculty of registration. Documentation must be submitted no later than two business days

- after the student resumes academic responsibilities.
- b. Academic consideration shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities as a result of an extenuating circumstance.
 - c. Students must communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the documentation, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.
 - d. In cases where a student might be absent for periods greater than 3 weeks, students should consult their Academic Counsellors for advice about which of the options available to them (academic consideration, pursuing Academic Accommodation, withdrawal from the course) are most appropriate.

Support services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness website 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 Policies available on the University Secretariat website: (“Undergraduate Students - Scholastic Discipline”, https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.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.” (“Attendance Regulations for Examinations”, http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/examinations.html)

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

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