

Special Topics: Holocaust Narratives

ENGL 4613 Spring 2024 Syllabus

Dr. Jennifer Dawes

Office: Bea Wood 214

Phone: 940-397-4126

Email: jennifer.dawes@msutexas.edu

Spring 2024 Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday, 10 a.m. - noon

Tuesday & Thursday, 11 a.m. - noon

Other days/times, by appointment

Course Meets: Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30-10:50 a.m., PY 205

Required Texts

Borowski short stories (*in D2L*)

Maus 1, Spiegelman; Pantheon (ISBN: 9780394747231)

Maus 2, Spiegelman; Pantheon (ISBN: 9780679729778)

The Reader, Schlink; Penguin Random House (ISBN: 9780375707971)

Night, Wiesel; Macmillan (ISBN: 9780374500016)

Train, Cohen; CreateSpace (ISBN: 9781505560459)

Critical articles as assigned on D2L

Course Description

This Special Topics course focuses Holocaust narratives of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. We will consider how the horrors of the past shape our present understanding of the world and how narrative helps us to devise a framework within which historical experiences can be comprehended as well as projections of future fears can be interrogated. The texts we will read are disturbing as they reflect the historical reality of a dark part of our collective past. However, at the root of each is the hope that the best parts of humanity can persevere.

Course Goals

In this course, students will learn to:

- Read literature closely, considering the rhetorical and historical context within which the text was produced.
- Discuss texts in writing informally in class discussion and formally in class papers.
- Devise a research project based upon our course material.
- Research a text using the library databases and incorporate this research into a formal paper.
- Present the findings of research to classmates clearly and articulately.

Assignments

Short paper: 15 percent

Research paper proposal: 10 percent

Annotated Bibliography: 15 percent

Research paper: 25 percent

Presentation: 10 percent

Class Attendance, Participation, In-Class Assignments/Homework: 15 percent

Peer Review: 10 percent

POLICIES

Attendance

I expect each student to be in class each day on time, be prepared for each class meeting, and actively participate in class. Preparation includes doing any assigned reading or completing assignments before coming to class on that day. Students who have more than 4 absences may be dropped from the course. Attendance and Participation will be 15 percent of your grade. I will allow two completely free absences. After that, each additional absence will count toward your A/P grade. If you have extenuating or emergency circumstances, please speak with me about making up missed work. These will be handled on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the instructor.

Late Work Policy:

Late work will receive a one-letter grade penalty for each day it is late unless you have spoken to me ahead of time to explain the circumstances that require an extension. Extensions are granted on a case-by-case basis and should not be expected.

Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing in "Works Cited")—whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. Penalties for plagiarism in this course can include failure of an assignment, failure of the course, and/or a formal university report of plagiarism.

→ A Special Note about the Use of Artificial Intelligence in this class:

You should not use any AI to create or compose any of your work for the class at any stage of the assignments—not in the drafting stage or in the revising stage. I expect your work to be completely your own. Turnitin has an AI program that detects the underlying code of a document that comes from an AI producing program. I will use this program. Essays that are found to contain AI may receive a zero grade.

Student Access:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140.

Safe Zone Statement:

I consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender identity, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is my expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Contacting Your Instructor:

Feel free to contact me either via phone or email. Email is generally a faster way to reach me. Please understand that I will respond on the next business day if you contact me on weekends or after hours.

Syllabus created: J. Dawes, 1/2024

Preliminary Course Schedule**Week 1**

Tuesday, 1/16–Course Introduction; Papusza poem; Framework for Studying the Holocaust
Thursday, 1/18–Borowski short stories “This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen” and “The Death of Schillinger”; Borowski poem and critical essay

Week 2

Tuesday, 1/23–Read *Night* through page 65
Thursday, 1/25–Read *Night* to end (then read Wiesel’s Nobel speech, the preface, and foreword)

Week 3

Tuesday, 1/30–*The Reader*; Part I
Thursday, 2/1–*The Reader*; Part II & III

Week 4

Tuesday, 2/6–*The Reader* film (watch in class)

Thursday, 2/8–*The Reader* film

Week 5

Tuesday, 2/13–**Peer Review** short paper

Thursday, 2/15–**Short paper due**; *Train* (page #s TBA)

Week 6

Tuesday, 2/20–*Train*

Thursday, 2/22–*Train*

Week 7

Tuesday, 2/27–*Train*

Thursday, 2/29–*Train*

Week 8

Tuesday, 3/5–*Train*

Thursday, 3/7–Roma narratives

Week 9: Spring Break**Week 10**

Tuesday, 3/19–*Maus I*

Thursday, 3/21–*Maus I*; Research Paper & Annotated Bibliography assigned

Week 11

Tuesday, 3/26–Library Workshop

Thursday, 3/28: Holiday Break; no class

Week 12

Tuesday, 4/2–*Maus II*; **Proposal due**

Thursday, 4/4–*Maus II*

Week 13

Tuesday, 4/9–*Life is Beautiful* film (watch in class)

Thursday, 4/11–*Life is Beautiful* film

Week 14

Tuesday, 4/16–**Annotated Bibliography due**; discuss film

Thursday, 4/18–Instructor Conferences

Week 15

Tuesday, 4/23–**Research Paper Draft Workshop**

Thursday, 4/25–Presentations

Week 16

Tuesday, 4/30–Presentations

Thursday, 5/2–Presentations

Finals Week–Research Paper Due