

Syllabus French 2211F

Dr Alain Goldschläger
Arts & Humanities Building
2R08A & 2G23
e-mail agold@uwo.ca
Phone 519 661 3820
Visiting hour : on appointment

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. No previous knowledge of the historical, religious or political background is required.

-
-
-

Class participation	10%
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 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.

For the review, we suggest that you find books linked to your personal interest or studies from the list of book suggestions. Please, consult the Professor for guidance, should you choose a book not on the list or to discuss any ideas. The same applies for the movies.

There will be no final examination.

September 13	Presentation: Genocide		
September 20	The Holocaust		
September 27	Antisemitism		
October 4		Research proposal	
October 11	No class	Reading week	
October 18		Reading review	
October 25			
November 1			

November 8

