



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

GERM 469.01/627.56
Remembering the Shoah
Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-3:15 pm
Location: EDC 156

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2016

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Jan Süselbeck, PhD, PD Dr.

OFFICE LOCATION: CHC118

OFFICE HOURS: W 10:00-11:00

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DESCRIPTION

Only few people survived the German murder of the European Jews in World War II. Some of them wrote down their supposed indescribable memories in autobiographic texts. In this class, famous works from Elie Wiesel, Primo Levi and Ruth Klüger will be read and compared. The comparative study of these texts will be combined with exemplary analysis of documentaries such as Claude Lanzmann's movie "Shoah" (1985) and "Landscapes of Memory". The Life of Ruth Klüger" by Renata Schmidt-kunz (2011).

In this seminar, you will learn about the Holocaust and the problems representing it in literature and motion pictures. In texts like Ruth Klüger's "Still Alive. A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered", these challenges are addressed. We will also discuss her critical thoughts about public forms of remembering the Shoah in museums or historical sites such as today's Auschwitz.

Prerequisites: Consent of the Department

OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to understand the history of the Holocaust. They will be trained to closely observe, read and analyse autobiographic texts and documentaries. They will have enhanced their presentation, reading and writing skills. Last but not least, they will have learned how to do bibliographic research for writing individual academic papers.

- **Attendance and Participation** are the key factors of this class. Participation means active engagement in the activities of the class (with your ideas you improve the discussions for everybody); it is based on thorough readings of the assigned texts, films, and other homework assignments. Attendance is mandatory; unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade. The quality of the sessions will depend upon your preparedness and willingness to engage with each other. Please note that you do not have to have understood everything you have read to make a valuable contribution. Expressing doubts, disagreements, and asking for clarification is a useful way of contributing to discussion. Your



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class participation mark will be based on the quality rather than the quantity of your contribution. Also, it is essential that all participants treat each other with respect and courtesy. Students who feel unable to actively engage in classroom discussion must bring their concerns to the instructor's attention early so that an alternative strategy to ensure adequate performance can be sought. Also, please don't use electronic devices during class except for accessing digital copies of the required texts on a reading device, as using computers or cell phones for other purposes might distract yourself as well as those around you.

- **Missed presentations, missed tests, missed deadlines:** Expected to contact the instructor prior to the missed class / deadline in order to reschedule the presentation or test (phone / email) or in order to ask for an extension.
- **Presentation:** 1 or 2 pages handout or a power point presentation for class to be handed in one day before presentation; 12-15 minutes of presentation in class – the topic for the presentation will be an open (group) research on a topic about a given text or a movie to discuss.
- **The Ticket to Class** tests the students' understanding of the assigned readings or movies to be watched. You may be asked to
 - come up with a good written question based on the reading / the movie
 - respond to a question or issue raised by the reading / the movie
- **Updated reading (for example of theoretical texts or interpretations), homework** as well as schedule changes will be announced in class or via e-mail. **Research paper:** You will be required to write one research paper (10 pages for undergraduates, 15 pages for graduates). It will be about one of the texts or movies discussed in this class, or an aspect of these works. Topics should be discussed with the instructor beforehand, either after class, during office hours, or via e-mail.

If you are a major or graduate student in our German programs, you are encouraged to write in German; if you are not a native speaker, this will of course be taken into account. At the discretion of the instructor, a paper submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

These essays are due on Friday, December 09, 2016.

By turning in a research paper, you certify that the work is your own; that you have given proper credit and citation to the work of others; and that you have not committed any other form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty. Any case of plagiarism will result in a failing grade and possible consequences up to expulsion from U of C. For definitions of plagiarism, please see the course calendar.

- **Writing skills statement:** All writings assignments will be marked according to content, form, analysis, and originality as well as clarity of writing including grammar, spelling, and organization.



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DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

Final Examination:

- Presentation (20 %)
- Attendance/participation/text responses ("tickets to class") (20 %)
- Abstract of research paper (10 %)
- Research paper (50 %)

There will be no final exam

REQUIRED TEXTS

Ruth Klüger, weiter leben. Eine Jugend.

Translated as:

Ruth Klüger, Still Alive: A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered.

https://www.amazon.ca/Still-Alive-Holocaust-Girlhood-Remembered/dp/B0140CYW7U/ref=sr_1_4?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1459368543&sr=1-4&keywords=still+alive+a+girlhood

Ruth Klüger, Unterwegs verloren. Erinnerungen.

http://www.amazon.de/unterwegs-verloren-Erinnerungen-dtv-Literatur/dp/3423139137/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1459368455&sr=8-1&keywords=unterwegs+verloren

Imre Kertész, Roman eines Schicksallosen
Fatelessness.

https://www.amazon.ca/Fatelessness-Imre-Kertesz/dp/1400078636/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1459368617&sr=1-1&keywords=fatelessness

Otto Dov Kulka, Landschaften der Metropole des Todes. Auschwitz und die Grenzen der Erinnerung und der Vorstellungskraft.

Landscapes of the Metropolis of Death: Reflections on Memory and Imagination

https://www.amazon.ca/Landscapes-Metropolis-Death-Reflections-Imagination/dp/B00NPP4KC6/ref=sr_1_8?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1459368288&sr=1-8&keywords=Landscapes+of+the+Metropolis+of+Death%3A+Reflections+on+Memory+and+Imagination

Primo Levi, If this is a Man

https://www.amazon.ca/This-Man-Truce-Primo-Levi/dp/0349100136/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1459368663&sr=1-1&keywords=if+this+is+a+man

Elie Wiesel, Night

https://www.amazon.ca/Night-Elie-Wiesel/dp/0374500010/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1459368733&sr=1-1&keywords=night

All other readings will be available through the D2L.



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ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted." Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre should contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)
Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)
Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)
For the complete list of assembly points please consult
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at



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403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it.

Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.