

**HON 395: Commemorating Catastrophe: The Case of Auschwitz-Birkenau (3 cr)**

Dr. Jeri Kraver

[Jeraldine.Kraver@unco.edu](mailto:Jeraldine.Kraver@unco.edu)

Office Hours T/R 11-12 and by appointment

1130C Ross Hall

SPRING 2023 /

## READINGS:

**CORE TEXTS:** There we will reading/listening assignments from each of these texts every week.

1. *Auschwitz* by Deborah Dwork and Robert Jan Van Pelt
2. *Auschwitz: A New History* by Laurence Rees (available on audiobook)
3. *Auschwitz: Not Long Ago. Not Far Away* by Luis Ferreiro, Miriam Greenbaum, Robert Jan van Pelt (Editor)
4. *War & Genocide* by Doris Bergen (available as an audiobook)
5. The Auschwitz Podcast

**ADDITIONAL TEXTS** appear below. Most will be made available as PDFs.

## SCHEDULE

### TOPIC: Introductions and Overview

"Intellectuals on Auschwitz: Memory, History and Truth" by Omer Bartov (*History and Memory* Vol. 5, No. 1 (Spring - Summer, 1993), pp. 87-129)

From: *History and Memory After Auschwitz* by Dominick LaCapra (Ithaca and London: Cornell UP, 1998)

### TOPIC: Auschwitz Then

Auschwitz and the Final Solution

The Auschwitz Album

Excerpts from *Night* by Elie Wiesel and *Survival in Auschwitz* by 0.004 nitE3i7t)(Q(on aA)BD 0Tc 0Tw 005d(F

From *Representing the Holocaust: History, Theory, Trauma and Writing History, Writing Trauma* by Dominick LaCapra

“The Holocaust and Problems of Historical Representation” by Robert Braun  
(*History and Theory* Vol. 33, No. 2 (May, 1994), pp. 172-197)

From *Man’s Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl (Beacon Press, 2006)

**TOPIC Representing Auschwitz: Concentrationary" Realism**

From: **The Holocaust: Literature and Representation** (A USHMM Symposium)

<https://www.ushmm.org/research/scholarly-presentations/symposia/holocaust-literature-representation>

From; *After Representation? The Holocaust, Literature, and Culture* R. Clifton Spargo And Robert M. Ehrenreich, eds. (Rutgers UP, 2010)

*This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen* by Tadeusz Borowski (Penguin Classics; Reissue edition, 1992)

*Blood from the Sky* by Piotr Rawicz (Yale UP, 2003)

*Auschwitz and After* by Charlotte Delbo (Yale UP, 1995)

*Smoke over Birkenau* by Liana Millu (Northwestern UP, 1998)

Film

Under most of our topics, we will consider a selection of creative texts, including prose, poetry, drama, music, and art. **FOUR TIMES DURING SEMESTER** you will be asked to reflect on one of those texts in an essay.

2. **Inquiry Analysis and Integrative Learning:** Connect and extend knowledge from one's own academic focus to other disciplines and to the world beyond UNC.

By WEEK EIGHT each student will be asked to pose an INQUIRY QUESTION of their own that emerges from our immersion into the space, place, and history of Auschwitz. That question will be the subject of their study and their **SEMINAR PROJECT** during the second half of the semester. It will also be the subject of a series of smaller assignments (e.g., a project proposal, an annotated bibliography, and a working outline and timeline).

3. **Written and Oral Communication:** Communicate one's thoughts on paper and in speech effectively with a scholarly voice by using evidentiary support and critical reasoning, within philosophical, analytical and theoretical frameworks appropriate to the discipline. Use appropriate citation and attribution for the discipline and join in the scholarly discourse.

The seminar project (a response to the inquiry question posed by the student), can take a variety of forms from a traditional research paper to a creative project. Regardless of the mode the student selects, there will be an **ORAL PRESENTATION** to the class about their project.

4. **Intercultural Competence and Global Learning:** Become cognizant of and engage with a diverse range of cultures, religions and beliefs.

**Title IX**

The University of Northern Colorado is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students that is free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Students who have experienced (or who know someone who has experienced) any of these incidents should know that they are not alone.

Students who are survivors, who are concerned about someone who is a survivor, or who would like to learn more about sexual misconduct or report an incident, can visit [www.unco.edu/sexual-misconduct](http://www.unco.edu/sexual-misconduct). Students may also contact OIEC at 970-351-4899 or email [titleix@unco.edu](mailto:titleix@unco.edu).

These and additional syllabus statements are also posted on Canvas in **MODULE ONE: START HERE**.