ADHS 126301 HITLER, THE CHURCHES, AND THE HOLOCAUST
4 Credits, Fall 2015

Instructor: Professor Lorenz Reibling
email: reibling@bc.edu
Office Hours: Only by appointment please. I will usually be in class 15-30 minutes before each session to answer your questions and listen to concerns.
Telephone: 617 407 9877
Schedule: Wednesdays, 6:30 – 9:00pm
Room: Stokes 461S

Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
To better understand the climate and complexities that contributed to the Christian church's weakened responses to Hitler's policies, the course examines the development of Christian anti-Judaism, anti-Semitism and nationalism. It analyzes the resistance that emerged in response to totalitarianism and to the Holocaust, and considers the main Christian post-Holocaust efforts as they contribute to theological development and current thinking.

The course examines anti-Semitism, nationalism and totalitarianism in relation to Hitler and the Nazis. It explores the roots and development of Christian anti-Judaism and the role it played in helping to prepare the seedbed for the Holocaust in Europe. In the context of an overview of the years of National Socialism and the Holocaust, it analyzes the weak and inadequate responses of the Churches during the Nazi era, the theological and institutional resistance that emerged in response to totalitarianism and the Holocaust. The course attempts to crystallize in a template applicable to past, present and future genocide or terrorism occurrences. There will be invited guest speakers.

The course does not promote any specific religious orientation, but adheres to strict academic guidelines, reliable and diverse source materials and high standards of scientific research.
Course Objectives
1. The students will gain factual knowledge of the background of anti-Semitism, nationalism and totalitarianism in Germany during the Nazi period as well as of the role of the churches.
2. The students will learn to analyze and critically question the role of the Church in the Holocaust. They will evaluate arguments and points of view and apprehend how genocide or terrorism materializes.
3. The students will develop skills in expressing themselves orally and in writing.
4. The students will demonstrate knowledge across cultural settings and will learn the impact of culture, gender, and age in Nazi Germany through reading and watching relevant literature and documentaries.
5. The students will demonstrate ethical competency pertaining to how people and groups organize themselves in a dictatorship and how some offer resistance while others go with the flow.

Grading
Grades will be determined as follows:
33% for good attendance (no unexcused absences, a sign –in sheet is provided for each class) and active participation in group work, oral presentation, and discussions;
33% Midterm paper with 1200 words on a specific resistance movement;
33% Final exam.

WCAS Grading System
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course. The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67), C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (.00), failure.

Grade Reports
All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known, the Student Learning and Support Center in the O’Neill Library Computer Center will issue a new one. The SLSC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

Text(s)/Readings (Required)
Extracts from the following books:
- Elie Wiesel (EW): *Night*, Hill and Wang, New York, 2006, revised edition. (Note: Be sure to purchase this 2006 edition which is a new translation by Marion Wiesel and contains a new preface by the author.)

Further readings will be announced in the course of the semester

**Text(s)/Readings (Recommended)**
Hand-outs and documentary films will supplement the core course material. Among others some of the following films will be integrated into the course:

*The Star and the Cross: The Jewish Question and the Holocaust*
*Wheels Must Roll: Trains to the Nazi Death Camps*
*Nazi Medicine: In the Shadow of the Reich*
*Nuremberg: Tyranny on Trial*
*Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Pacifist, Nazi Resister*
*“I am Joseph your Brother”*
*The Purple Triangle*
*The Longest Hatred: Night Fog*
*Amen*

**Written Work**
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed: [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html](http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html)

**Scholarship and Academic Integrity**
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.

See Important Policies on Academic Integrity: [http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html](http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html)

**Request for Accommodations**
If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for
accommodations. For further information, you can locate the disability resources on the web at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

Attendance
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate’s notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.

Deadlines
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments will be graded accordingly.
## SEMESTER SCHEDULE

The following readings are required **in preparation** of each class:

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| Sept 2 | *Introduction, overview of syllabus and course requirements*        | Interactive dialogue: Definition of “Holocaust”, “Shoah” and “Final Solution”  
Who happened?  
Where/when/why did it happen?  
Who and how many were affected?  
Who were the perpetrators? |
| Sept 9 | *Introduction to the Churches, Nazism and Totalitarianism*          | RR: Prologue, pp. 1 – 22;  
EW: complete;  
PG: pp. 1 – 16. (hand out)  
Martin Doblmeier: *Bonhoeffer, Pastor, Pacifist, Nazi Resister*  
Costa-Gavras: *Amen*  
Followed by critical discussion |
| Sept 16| *Hitler’s Willing Executioners: Understanding the German Mindset*   | RR: Chapter 1 and 2;  
PG: pp. 17 – 22. (hand out) |
| Sept 23| *The Nazis in Power*                                                 | RR: Chapters 3 and 4;  
DG: Chapters 1 and 2;  
PG: pp. 23 – 24. (hand out) |
Review of September course material – catch up with your reading! |
| Oct 7  | *Symposium*                                                          | 100 Questions to Holocaust Survivors and 900 Answers.- with Historian Bern Rammerstorfer;  
7-9 pm. Further details tba |
| Oct 14 | *The Catholic Church During the Nazi Era*                            | RR: Chapter 9;  
DG: 7, 8, 9;  
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<td><strong>Mid-term paper due Oct 21</strong> - Choose either one of the two topics:</td>
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<td>A) What is industrialized murder? How was it implemented in Nazi Germany?</td>
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<td>B) Why did the Nazis so vehemently persecute the Bibelforscher (Jehovah’s Witnesses)?</td>
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<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>Righteous Gentiles During the Holocaust: Rescuers, Resisters, and their Motivations</td>
<td>No additional readings due to mid-term paper requirement</td>
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<td>Nov 4</td>
<td>Post-War/Post-Holocaust Responses and Reactions</td>
<td>Class handout: Doris L. Bergen: <em>Nazism and Christianity: Partners and Rivals?</em>; Manfred Gailus: <em>A Strange Obsession with Nazi Germany</em>; Richard Steigmann-Gall, <em>Christianity and the Nazi Movement</em>;</td>
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<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>Explaining the Perpetrators’ Actions and Motivations: Anti-Semitism as a Genocidal Motivation</td>
<td>DG: Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Dec 8</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong> (Multiple Choice) - Closure re. Christian post-Holocaust Theological Developments</td>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> the final exam is multiple choice. All questions are taken from the assigned reading materials. Time allotted 60 minutes. If you need more time due to documented medical condition, please let me know two weeks BEFORE the exam.</td>
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