

Theology after the Holocaust

Religious Studies 268: Modern Judaism
and
Religious Studies 285: Roman Catholicism's Encounter with Other Religions
cross-listed as Catholic Studies 271
Spring, 2001
T-TH 11:50-1:20, SAC 254
DePaul University

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Course web site: <http://www.depaul.edu/~jcarlson/extra/holocausttheology.html>. Consult this site for an electronic copy of the syllabus, which will make it easier to view and print readings simply by clicking on the links as they appear the last section of the syllabus. Discussion questions and other materials relevant to the course will also be posted at this location.

A. Description and Goals

This course seeks to engage students in a critical consideration of the moral, religious and theological implications of Nazi Germany's "war against the Jews," the intentional and calculated destruction of some 6 million European Jews (accompanied by the enormous suffering and losses experienced by other "undesirable" groups) which is referred to as the Shoah, or Holocaust. In order to do this, students will consider those events and perceptions that allowed the Holocaust to come about, particularly the development of racial anti-Semitism and religious anti-Judaism, which trace part of its lineage back to the Catholic and Christian theological perspectives, values and actions of the early and medieval church. The behavior and teachings of the church, its leaders, and lay adherents during the holocaust will be explored, as will the religious motivations for the extraordinary courage displayed by those Christians who risked their lives to save Jews. The course will also focus on traditional and contemporary theologies of Judaism and Christianity, and explore how various thinkers have chosen to respond to the Holocaust's challenge to Jewish and Christian traditions, values, and theological positions.

This course has some specific learning goals, and if you complete the course successfully you will achieve the following:

1. You will be able to define, describe and explain some of the key facts about the important themes, figures, texts and other materials we consider in our course.
2. You will be able to analyze complex ideas to show an understanding of their structure and meaning.
3. You will be able to make plausible and insightful comparisons of different concepts and thinkers.
4. You will formulate evaluations of the relative merits of some of the ideas under consideration, and articulate your own ideas as well, drawing upon knowledge and insight you have gained in this class or elsewhere in order to make a solid, plausible and potentially convincing case for your own position.

5. You will develop your capacity for clear and effective writing.

6. You will develop your capacity for clear and effective verbal communication.

This course counts for Traditions in Context credit in the Religious Dimensions liberal studies learning domain.

B. Student Requirements

1. Preparation of readings and assignments. Please come to each class session having done any assigned readings, taken thorough notes, and having tried your best to find out the meanings of terms and concepts in the readings that are unfamiliar to you. If you do this carefully and consistently you will be well prepared for our discussions and quizzes and you will have a strong foundation from which to write your papers. This course has been designed with the expectation and requirement that you will spend at least *six hours per week outside of class* preparing readings and assignments. Being in college is hard work, but hopefully it is work you enjoy doing, and take pride in doing well. You owe it to yourself, to others in the class, and to the integrity of the learning process to approach your academic work with sufficient seriousness. Missing class or coming to class late will result in a lower grade in this area.

2. Discussion in class. Asking questions, raising concerns and offering your own ideas during class discussions are crucial components of the learning process. The overall degree of intellectual engagement you demonstrate in the course will be assessed, focusing on the extent to which you are an active, informed, stimulating participant in class discussions.

3. Quizzes. These will allow you to demonstrate your ability to define, describe and explain some of the key facts about the important themes, figures, texts and other materials we consider in our course. Dates for quizzes will not be announced in advance. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. A missed quiz will be scored as zero. However your lowest quiz score will be dropped in calculating your final grade.

4. Extra Credit. There will be two opportunities to complete optional assignments for extra credit.

- Attend a performance of *The Action Against Sol Schumann* at the Victory Gardens Theater, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago (just a short walk of a few blocks from the Lincoln Park Campus). Play dates: Tuesday, April 17 at 8:00 PM or Thursday, April 19 at 8:00 PM. Cost = \$5.00. You must sign up and pay by Thursday, April 5. Write a 2-page critical analysis of the play in light of some of the materials discussed in our course. Due at the next regular class session. Worth up to 20 points.
- Attend at least two hours of the conference "*Eichmann in Jerusalem: 40 Years Later*" taking place on DePaul's Lincoln Park Campus on Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12. Details to be announced. Write a 2-page critical analysis of the conference in light of some of the materials discussed in our course. Due at the next regular class session. Worth up to 20 points.

5. Papers. These will allow you to demonstrate your ability to analyze complex ideas, to show an understanding of their structure and meaning, make plausible and insightful comparisons of different concepts and thinkers, formulate evaluations of the relative merits of some of the ideas under consideration, and articulate your own ideas, drawing upon knowledge and insight you have gained in this class or elsewhere in order to make a solid, plausible and potentially convincing case for your own position. Three papers will be assigned (each approximately six typed, double spaced pages). See the schedule below for specific due dates for the papers.

C. Grading

Grades will be based on a point system as follows:

Discussion in class worth	150 points		
Quizzes combined worth	210 points		
First paper	worth 200 points	Assigned Apr. 19	Due May 1
Second paper	worth 220 points	Assigned May 10	Due May 22
Third paper	worth 220 points	Assigned May 31	Due June 12 by 11:00 AM

The final course grade will be determined according to the following chart:

<u>Total points accumulated</u>	<u>Final course grade</u>
930-1000	A
900-929	A-
870-899	B+
830-869	B
800-829	B-
770-799	C+
730-769	C
700-729	C-
670-699	D+
600-669	D
Under 600	F

D. Academic Integrity

Please read the Academic Integrity Policy in the current *Student Handbook*. It describes violations of academic integrity, including plagiarism and cheating, noting that students who commit such violations are subject to sanctions such as (but not limited to) lowering a grade or failing the course. The policy states that students "must abstain from any violations of academic integrity and set examples for each other by assuming full responsibility for their academic and personal development..."

E. Required Texts

1. *The Book of Job*, Translated and with an Introduction by Stephen Mitchell. HarperPerennial, 1992.
2. *A Holocaust Reader: Responses to the Nazi Extermination*, Edited by Michael L. Morgan. Oxford University Press, 2000.
3. Rosemary Radford Ruether, *Faith and Fratricide: The Theological Roots of Anti-Semitism*. Wipf & Stock, 1996.

These texts are available for purchase at DePaul's Lincoln Park Campus Bookstore. Also, they may be checked out for two hours at a time from the Richardson Library Reserve Desk.

F. Schedule

Tuesday April 3

Introduction and Syllabus. Film: *Night and Fog*.

Jewish and Christian Religious/Theological Traditions

Thursday April 5 (print and bring these texts to class) Note: The easiest way to get these materials is to visit the course web site at <http://www.depaul.edu/~jcarlson/extra/holocausttheology.html> and simply click on

these links in the on-line syllabus.

- Genesis 1:26-31 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Genesis&chapno=1&startverse=26&endverse=31>
- Genesis 3:1-24 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Genesis&chapno=3&startverse=1&endverse=24>
- Genesis 4: 1-16 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Genesis&chapno=4&startverse=1&endverse=16>
- Genesis 18:16-33 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Genesis&chapno=18&startverse=16&endverse=33>
- Genesis 22:1-19 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Genesis&chapno=22&startverse=1&endverse=19>
- Exodus 1:1-22 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Exodus&chapno=1&startverse=1&endverse=22>
- Exodus 14:30-31 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Exodus&chapno=14&startverse=30&endverse=31>
- Exodus 15:1-21 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Exodus&chapno=15&startverse=1&endverse=21>
- Leviticus 19:1-18 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Leviticus&chapno=19&startverse=1&endverse=18>
- Leviticus 19:33-34 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Leviticus&chapno=19&startverse=33&endverse=34>
- *Pastoral Constitution On the Church in the Modern World* (This link takes you to the entire text, but you only need to read Sections 11-32; print and bring these sections to class)
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_cons_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html

Tuesday April 10 (print and bring these texts to class)

- Deuteronomy 27:1-26 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Deuteronomy&chapno=27&startverse=1&endverse=26>
- Deuteronomy 28:1-68 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Deuteronomy&chapno=28&startverse=1&endverse=68>
- Deuteronomy 29:1-29 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Deuteronomy&chapno=29&startverse=1&endverse=29>
- Deuteronomy 30:1-20 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Deuteronomy&chapno=30&startverse=1&endverse=20>
- Lamentations 1:1-22 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Lamentations&chapno=1&startverse=1&endverse=22>
- Lamentations 2:1-22 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Lamentations&chapno=2&startverse=1&endverse=22>
- Lamentations 3:1-66 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Lamentations&chapno=3&startverse=1&endverse=66>
- Psalms 10:1-18 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Psalms&chapno=10&startverse=1&endverse=18>
- Psalms 13:1-6 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Psalms&chapno=13&startverse=1&endverse=6>
- Psalms 88:1-18 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Psalms&chapno=88&startverse=1&endverse=18>

Thursday April 12

The Book of Job, Mitchell translation, pages 1-54.

Tuesday April 17

The Book of Job, Mitchell translation, pages 57-97.

Thursday April 19

- Gospel According to Matthew (Read the entire text; print it and bring it to class as well as the selections from Paul's Letter to the Romans listed below) <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=DIV1&byte=4563978>
- Romans 9:1-33 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Romans&chapno=9&startverse=1&endverse=33>
- Romans 10:1-21 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Romans&chapno=10&startverse=1&endverse=21>
- Romans 11:1-36 <http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/r/rsv/rsv-idx?type=citation&book=Romans&chapno=11&startverse=1&endverse=36>

PAPER 1 ASSIGNED.

Tuesday April 24

Ruether, *Faith and Fratricide* pages 117-182: Chapter 3, "The Negation of the Jews in the Church Fathers."

Thursday April 26

Ruether pages 183-225: Chapter 4, "The Social Incorporation of the Negative Myth of the Jews in Christendom."

Tuesday May 1

PAPER 1 DUE. Film: *The Cross and the Star*.

Narratives From Inside the Holocaust

Thursday May 3

- Gerhard Schoenberner, *The Yellow Star: The Persecution of the Jews in Europe 1933-1945*. Bantam Books, 1969, pp. 9, 29, 49, 81, 101, 133, 165, 185. Photocopied material.
- Morgan, *A Holocaust Reader* pages 19-42: Primo Levi, "Survival in Auschwitz" and Jean Améry, "On the Necessity and Impossibility of Being a Jew."

Tuesday May 8

- Christopher R. Browning, "One Day in Jozefow: Initiation to Mass Murder," in *Art from the Ashes: A Holocaust Anthology*, ed. Lawrence L. Langer. Oxford University Press, 1995, pp. 93-105. Photocopied material.
- David P. Gushee, *The Righteous Gentiles of the Holocaust: A Christian Interpretation*, Fortress Press, 1994, pp. 117-148. Photocopied material.

Theological Reflections after the Holocaust

Thursday May 10

Morgan pages 47-63 and 67-77: Hannah Arendt, "The Concentration Camps" and Elie Wiesel, "A Plea for the Dead."

PAPER 2 ASSIGNED.

Tuesday May 15

Morgan pages 90-115: Richard Rubenstein, "The Making of a Rabbi" and "Symposium on Jewish Belief," Eliezer Berkovits, "Faith after the Holocaust" and Irving Greenberg, "Cloud of Smoke, Pillar of Fire: Judaism, Christianity, and Modernity after the Holocaust."

Thursday May 17

Morgan pages 115-157: Emil L. Fackenheim, "Jewish Faith and the Holocaust: A Fragment," "Holocaust," and "The Holocaust and the State of Israel: Their Relation," and A. Roy Eckardt, "Christians and Jews: Along a Theological Frontier."

Tuesday May 22

PAPER 2 DUE. Films: *Shoah* and *Weapons of the Spirit* (excerpts).

Thursday May 24

Morgan pages 164-196: Michael Wyschogrod, "Faith and the Holocaust," Amos Funkenstein, "Theological Interpretations of the Holocaust: A Balance," and Arthur A. Cohen, "Thinking the Tremendum: Some Theological Implications of the Death Camps."

Tuesday May 29

- *Declaration On The Relation Of the Church to Non-Christian Religions* http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651028_nostra-aetate_en.html (Read the entire text; print it and bring it to class)
- Ruether, *Faith and Fratricide* pages 226-261: Chapter 5, "Theological Critique of the Christian Anti-Judaic Myth."
- Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, "Antisemitism: The Historical Legacy and the Continuing Challenge for Christians," Address given at Hebrew University, March 23, 1995. Photocopied material.

Thursday May 31

Morgan pages 238-270: Johan Baptist Metz, "Christians and Jews after Auschwitz: Being a Meditation Also on the End of Bourgeois Religion," Emil L. Fackenheim, "The Holocaust and Philosophy" and Hans Jonas, "The Concept of God after Auschwitz: A Jewish Voice."

PAPER 3 ASSIGNED.

Tuesday June 5

Morgan pages 196-237: Franklin Sherman, "Speaking of God after Auschwitz," Robert E. Willis, "Auschwitz and the Nurturing of Conscience," and David Tracy, "Religious Values after the Holocaust: A Catholic View."

Thursday June 7

Morgan pages 290-337: Omer Bartov, "Intellectuals on Auschwitz: Memory, History, and Truth," Kenneth Seeskin, "What Philosophy Can and Cannot Say about Evil," and "Coming to Terms with Failure: A Philosophical Dilemma."

TUESDAY JUNE 12: PAPER 3 DUE BY 11:00 AM.