Syllabus

PHILOSOPHERS THINK ON THE HOLOCAUST - 15734

Last update 07-03-2017

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: philosophy

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Elhanan Yakira

Coordinator Email: elhanan.yakira@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday 13:00-14:00

Teaching Staff:
Prof Elhanan Yakira
Course/Module description:
The seminar will deal with philosophical texts on the Holocaust and will discuss major philosophical questions on it.

Course/Module aims:
To get a general acquaintance with the philosophical literature on the Holocaust and with the main questions it involves.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
To write a paper on the topics discussed in the seminar.

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:
Week 1: Historical and thematic introduction. Questions of definition (between historiography and ideology); the Historikerstrait; internationalism vs. functionalism; universalism vs. particularism.
Read: The chapters on Bauman, Friedlander and Momsen from Fifty Key Thinkers on the Holocaust and Genocide; Christopher Browning, The Origins of the Final Solution, Chapters 1-3; S. Friedlander, Nazi Germany and the Jews, Vol I: The Years of Persecution 1933-1939, ch. 3.
Week 2: Primo Levi and Jean Amry. Read: “Ressentiment” from At the Mind’s Limits; The Drowned and the Saved.
Week 4: Questions of delimitations: time, place, sources (Holocaust and antisemitism). Read: Jan Gross, Neighbors; The chapter on Antisemitism in Hilberg’s book.
Week 5: Theology — Hans Jonas.
Week 6: How to talk on the Holocaust and how to show it? Read: The students are asked to watch on their own Shoah of Claude Lanzmann and read any work of fiction on the Holocaust.
Week 7: Jean-Paul Sartre. Read: Anti-Semite and Jew; Jonathan Judaken, J.-P. Sartre
and the Jewish Question.

**Week 8: Film Shoah of Claude Lanzmann. Read: The Patagonian Hare: A Memoir, Ch. 18.**

**Week 9-10: Recapitulation.**

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**Required Reading:**

**Week 1:** Historical and thematic introduction. Questions of definition (between historiography and ideology); the Historikerstrait; internationalism vs. functionalism; universalism vs. particularism.

Read: The chapters on Bauman, Friedlander and Momsen from Fifty Key Thinkers on the Holocaust and Genocide; Christopher Browning, The Origins of the Final Solution, Chapters 1-3; S. Friedlander, Nazi Germany and the Jews, Vol I: The Years of Persecution 1933-1939, ch. 3.

**Week 2:** Primo Levi and Jean Amry. Read: "Ressentiment" from At the Mind’s Limits; The Drowned and the Saved.

**Week 3:** Is it possible to conduct an interesting philosophical discussion of the Holocaust? Read: J. Hartman, The Longest Shadow, Introduction and Chapters 2-3; Berel Lang, Act and Idea in the Nazi Genocide, Introduction and Chapters 1-2; idem, Post-Holocaust. Interpretation, Misinterpretation and the Claims of History, first part; Gitta Sereny, Into that Darkness: from Mercy Killing to Mass Murder.

**Week 4:** Questions of delimitations: time, place, sources (Holocaust and antisemitism). Read: Jan Gross, Neighbors; The chapter on Antisemitism in Hilberg’s book.

**Week 5:** Theology — Hans Jonas.

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**Additional Reading Material:**

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**Course/Module evaluation:**
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 50 %
Project work 50 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: