

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

The Compensation Project: Reparations for Historical Wrongs in Europe after 1945 - 39856

Last update 30-08-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: History

Academic year: 2025

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Iris Nachum

Coordinator Email: iris.nachum@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:30-13:30

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Iris Nachum

Course/Module description:

In 1952, West Germany, Israel, and the Jewish Claims Conference signed the groundbreaking Holocaust Reparations Agreement in Luxembourg. Since then, and increasingly after the end of the Cold War, the Luxembourg Agreement has served as a model for addressing past wrongs for both former victims and perpetrators of severe human rights violations. This seminar explores the negotiations that led to the Agreement, the Agreement itself, and the German-Jewish-Israeli relations that emerged from it. Additionally, the seminar examines other case studies of compensation for historical wrongs in Europe since 1945, focusing on both their theoretical and practical aspects.

Course/Module aims:

The aim of the seminar is to examine cases of restitution and compensation for serious human rights abuses in contemporary Europe.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- explain the 1952 Reparations Agreement,*
- debate various models of compensation,*
- examine case studies of compensation and restitution in European history since 1945,*
- incorporate insights from history, political science, international relations, and law into the discussion,*
- critically analyze specific primary and secondary sources.*

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and class discussion

Course/Module Content:

Topics:

- The Luxembourg Agreement: A "Faustian Predicament"?*
- Theoretical Models of Reparation and Restitution*
- Case Study 1: Compensation for Forced Labor During the Nazi Regime*
- Case Study 2: Non-Compensation for the Distomo Massacre*

- Case Study 3: The Restitution of the “Golden Adele”

Required Reading:

For the required reading, see the course’s Moodle site.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 70 %
Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture 30 %

Additional information:

Students are required to deliver an oral presentation on a post-1945 compensation case study from Europe.

Additionally, students are asked to choose one of the following options:

- Submission of a final paper (11-12 pages in English), or
- Submission of a seminar paper (25 pages in English).