

The History of Concentration Camps

History 300, Section 002
Fall 2009
Mondays, 1:30-4:15pm
Location: Robinson B 224

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Office Hours: Mondays 11am-noon, Wednesdays 5-6 pm and by appointment.

Course Description:

This course uses the topic of the history of concentration camps and other modern forms of detention to introduce students to the methodology of researching, interpreting, and writing history. Students will read both historical documents and secondary sources on a variety of themes and issues, including Nazi concentration camps, the Soviet Gulag, Japanese-American internment camps and other cases in this history.

Note students must earn a grade of C or better in HIST-300 in order to register for HIST-499.

This course fulfills all or in part the writing-intensive requirement for the history major through completion of the writing assignments listed below.

Course Requirements:

1) Participation:

Participation is crucial to the success of this course. Consequently, participation in each week's discussion and completion of in-class writing exercises will contribute substantially to the final grade. In-class writing exercises will be graded with a check plus, check, check minus system.

Attendance in class is crucial. If you do not attend, you cannot participate and your participation grade will suffer accordingly. With the possibility of an outbreak of the H1N1 influenza virus this year, I certainly encourage you to stay home when you have a fever. However, please try to attend class in all other situations.

2) Oral Presentations:

All students will make a 10 minute oral presentation on their final research project.

3) Written Assignments:

Final research paper: 12-15 pages, **due Monday, December 14, 2009 at 5pm.** Choosing one iteration of the concentration camp, write a research paper that explores how that concentration camp system is reflective of the polity in which it is found. The paper will be created using an iterative process throughout the semester that will include turning in a thesis statement, annotated bibliography, outline, first draft (no fewer than 5 pages) and final draft. The paper will be discussed further in class.

Grade Breakdown:

Participation	25%
Oral Presentation of Paper	5%
Evidence of Improvement from First to Final Draft	20%
Final Paper (12-15 pages)	50%

Course Policies – READ CAREFULLY:

Policy on Late Work: No extension on assignments will be granted. Grades on assignments will be reduced by 5 percent for each day of lateness, including weekend days.

Email Addresses: The professor will communicate with students via email. Therefore, all students must activate and check their official GMU email addresses frequently. You may forward it to another account, but you are responsible for the information that is sent via your official account.

ADA: Students with learning disabilities who need special accommodation must present appropriate documentation to me by the third week of class. Contact the Disability Resource Center (<http://www.gmu.edu/student/drc>) to obtain documentation.

Cheating and Plagiarism: All work in this class must be your own unless otherwise directed by the professor. If you haven't already, read the George Mason University Honor Code which defines cheating and plagiarism and outlines the penalties and procedures that apply thereto. Violators will receive the maximum penalty allowed by the University. If you have any questions on what constitutes cheating or plagiarism after reviewing these materials, please talk to me. If you are unsure when completing an assignment, ask me. Do not take a chance of your case winding up before the Honor Board. For more information on George Mason's honor code: <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>

Course Reading:

The readings and assignment due dates for the course are listed below. Additional material may be provided by the instructor to supplement the scheduled weekly readings.

In order to control costs for the course, a great many of the readings are online. If you will not have a laptop with you in class, please print the readings and bring them to class as we will refer to them during our discussion.

Week 1 (August 31) Introduction

September 7 – Labor Day Holiday – NO CLASS

Week 2 (September 14) Library Resources

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL BE MEETING WITH THE HISTORY LIBRARY LIASON IN THE FENWICK LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROOM (FENWICK LIBRARY ROOM 214-A)

The Camps of the Anglo-Boer War

READ:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Boer_War

<http://web.archive.org/web/20021213104032/www.bowlerhat.com.au/sawvl/con-camps.html>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/boers.html>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/cotext.html#672>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/parlpap3.html>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/parlpap6.html>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/parlpap4.html>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/pplcx.html> (Read all documents linked from this page.)

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/parlpap5.html>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/lxxxix.html>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/hansxc2.html>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/parlpapbeg.html>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/hansxc.html>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/hansxcvi.html> (Read all documents linked from this page.)

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/hansxcii.html>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/hansxciii.html>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/parlstat.html>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/cofo.html>

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/hansxcv.html> (Read all documents linked from this page.)

<http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/cd608.html>

What is History? How do We Know What we Know?

READ:

<http://discovermagazine.com/2009/jul-aug/03-how-much-of-your-memory-is-true>
http://www.yale.edu/collections_collaborative/primarysources/primarysources.html
<http://www.ithaca.edu/library/course/primary.html>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primary_source
<http://www.activehistory.co.uk/historiography/index.htm> (Read 1A, 1B, 1C, 2B, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D)

Week 3 (September 21) The Camps of the Anglo-Boer War (continued)

(No additional reading assignments.)

Doing History

READ:

http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/research.html
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>
<http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/general/evaluating/>

FIND: Find one internet source on the history of the Anglo-Boer concentration camps (other than those used in this class.) Read it and be prepared to discuss it using the criteria for evaluation web information in the above readings.

Using Zotero

Presentation from Trevor Owens, Center for History and New Media

Week 4 (September 28) The Soviet Gulag

READ:

Janusz Bardach, *Man is Wolf to Man*

<http://gulaghistory.org/> (Go through the entirety of the “Days and Lives” exhibit. Be prepared to talk about “your” prisoner who accompanied you through the exhibit.)

FIND: Find some printed PRIMARY source on the Soviet Gulag from the library. Bring it to class and be prepared to discuss how you found it, what type of source it is, what its advantages and disadvantages are in researching the history of the Gulag.

Week 5 (October 5) The Nazi Concentration Camp

READ:

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

<http://www.remember.org/eichmann/study1.htm>
<http://www.remember.org/eichmann/ownwords.htm>
<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/holocaust/h-eichmann.htm>
<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/holocaust/h-dach-early.htm>
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/stuermer00.html>
<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~baustin/nurmberg.html>
<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~baustin/nurmlaw1.html>
<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~baustin/nurmlaw2.html>
<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~baustin/nurmlaw3.html>
<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/holocaust/h-wannsee.htm>
<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/holocaust/h-posen.htm>
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1946hoess.html>
<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/holocaust/h-hoess.htm>
<http://h-net.org/~german/gtext/nazi/euthanasia-eng.html>
<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/holocaust/h-euthanasia.htm>
<http://www.library.yale.edu/testimonies/excerpts/annaw.html>
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/pwh/naziviews.html>
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/pwh/para175.html>
<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/holocaust/h-ausch-lib.htm>

Week 6 (October 12) The Japanese-American Internment Camp

READ:

Gordon Chang (ed.), *Morning Glory, Evening Shadow: Yamato Ichihashi and His Internment Writings, 1942-1945*

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/perfectunion/experience/index.html> (Look at entire site. Pick one item of material culture to talk about in class.)

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/perfectunion/resources/history.html> (This is an overview of the history here.)

FIND:

Find a contemporary newspaper article on the Japanese-American Internment. Read it, bring it to class and be prepared to discuss it.

Week 7 (October 19) Topic Statements Due – Individual Consultations – No class meeting

Week 8 (October 26) Annotated Bibliography Due

Historiography

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historiography>

<http://www.open2.net/historyandthearts/history/disagree.html>

Week 9 (November 2) Outline Due – Individual Consultations – No class meeting

Week 10 (November 9) Difficulties and Challenges in the Research and Writing Process

Week 11 (November 16) First draft of paper due

Writing is Re-Writing

Individual Consultations Late in the Week

Week 12 (November 23) Review First Drafts in your Writing Groups

Student presentations

Week 13 (November 30) Student presentations

Week 14 (December 7) Student presentations

