# JEWS in Central Europe: the Holocaust and its Aftermath

#### Dr Edyta Gawron

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The course presents the history of Central European Jews during the Holocaust and post-Holocaust period. Showing various aspects of the Holocaust, its history but also sociological and psychological aspects (human behavior in various situations and locations) will be the background to understand the postwar history of the Jews. Topics of the post-Holocaust history include migrations, political issues, Jewish cultural and religious life, the social life of the Jewish communities in Central Europe, the issue of postwar anti-semitism, Holocaust memory and the revival of Jewish culture. The contemporary history of the Jews in most Central European countries is included, but special attention is given to the Jews of Krakow-by visiting the local places important for Jewish history and meeting people involved in the contemporary Jewish life there.

# Type of course

Undergraduate Study Abroad

## **Number of ECTS points**

6

# Prerequisites (if applicable)

Basic knowledge of the contemporary (20<sup>th</sup> century) history of Central Europe.

# **Intended Learning Outcomes**

Comprehension, analysis and application

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office hours: Wednesdays, 11.00-12.00 Department of Jewish Studies, Jagiellonian University, Józefa Street 19, room 20 (in Kazimierz)

#### **Notices and announcements**

By email

#### **COURSE ORGANIZATION**

# **Assessment** based on the following elements:

- Exam (50%) In class. It will test your basic knowledge of events, individuals, chronology. Knowledge of the most important material from the lectures and readings will be required.
- Presentation in Class OR Take-Home Essay (40%) presentation or the essay both based on the recommended reading and the literature chosen by the student. The aim is to provide to the group the main facts and ideas for the discussion and show individual understanding of the material read. You will be given a list of topics in advance. You may write on one of the suggested topics, or chose your own (with the approval of Dr Edyta Gawron). The presentation should take 20-30 min.; the papers should be 2500-3000 words.
- Participation (10%) Regular presence and activity in the meetings/lectures. Active
  participation of the student at every seminar is expected, including reading all
  assigned literature

#### **STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE**

No.	Title of the session	Date	Format (lecture, seminar, combination?)
1	Jewish population of Central Europe before 1939 – Centers of Jewish life	Monday February 27, 2012	lecture
2	Nazi Germany: National Socialism and Beginning of War and Nazi Racial Policies in occupied countries of Central Europe.	Wednesday February 29, 2012	lecture
3-4	Ghettos in Central Europe. Everyday life in the ghetto. Study case: ghetto in Krakow	Monday March 5, 2012	study tour (the area of the former ghetto in Krakow and to Schindler's factory)
5	From the ghetto to work camps, concentration or death camps	Wednesday March 7, 2012	seminar
6	Perpetrators, victims and bystanders in the countries of Central Europe. Jewish Resistance and Gentiles' help in Central Europe.	Monday, March 12, 2012	seminar
7-9	Extermination of European Jews in the German Nazi death camps. The structure of work-, concentration- and death- camp.	Exact date to be decided	Study tour (the site of the former Concentration Camp Auschwitz- Birkenau)
10	The liberation time and 'long ways home'- Jewish post-Holocaust migrations in Central Europe.	Wednesday, March 14, 2012	lecture
11	Displaced Persons camps in Germany and Italy – temporary shelter for Central European Jews.	Monday, March 19, 2012	lecture
12	Struggle to survive – the lasting effects of the Holocaust and dealing with memories. Holocaust. Physical and mental healthcare.	Wednesday, March 21, 2012	seminar
13	Post-Holocaust status of the Jews in the Central European countries (1945-1950)	Monday, March 26, 2012	lecture
14	Postwar anti-Semitism. Case of Krakow and Kielce pogroms.	Wednesday, March 28, 2012	seminar
15	Emigration (to Israel and America) or rebuilding the Jewish life in Central European countries - Jewish dilemmas after proclamation of the State of Israel.	Monday, April 2, 2012	lecture
16	States' anti-semitism – anti-semitic law and policy – the Trial of Rudolf Slansky in Czechoslovakia, March 1968 in Poland	Wednesday, April 4, 2012	lecture