

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE  
Department of History

**HIST 7: The Nuremberg Trial**  
Professor Udi Greenberg

Winter 2012: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:50 (X hour Wed 4:15-5:05).

Office Hours: Office 306 Carson Hall, Monday 3-5; Thursday, 3:50-5, or by appointment

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A note on email: Email is the best way to reach me, however, keep in mind that I am unable to respond to all email messages right away. Emails sent to me after 7 PM will be answered the following day.

Course Description:

The trial of the major Nazi leaders in Nuremberg, which took place from November 1945 to October 1946, was a foundational moment in modern history. By creating the International War Tribunals, the victors of WWII not only punished the leaders of the defeated Nazi regime; they also exposed countless secret documents from the Third Reich's archives, reshaped the structure of international law, and laid the foundations for future global institutions. This seminar will explore the complex origins, nature, and impact of this dramatic trial. We will ask: who were the people that created the tribunal, and what were their goals? What perceptions of justice, law, and history guided their actions? What kind of crimes did the trial expose, and what other crimes did it ignore and hide? What did it teach the world about the nature of the Third Reich? What can one learn from it about politics, society, and culture under Nazism? And finally, what was its impact on future war trials and international law? In order to answer these questions and others, we will read various primary and secondary sources not only on trial, but also on life and society during the Third Reich.

Learning Objectives

In this seminar, students will learn and practice the key elements of the craft of history, with particular attention to historical writing. Class sessions will include in-depth discussions of primary and secondary historical texts and the ways that historians use these sources to produce historical knowledge. Students will also produce their own historical writings, including analysis of historical documents from the Nazi period and the trial itself. Throughout the course, students will write two essay assignments, both of which will include a revision component in which students will read each other's papers and then participate in group peer review sessions aimed at producing constructive commentary for each author. Finally, students will be introduced to the fascinating world of historical research as practiced by professional historians. In addition to participating in research workshops with reference librarian and group research projects, all students will end the term by writing a research paper on some topic related to the Nuremberg Trial or the Nazi regime; this paper will be based on original research in both primary and secondary sources.

### Course Requirements:

This course aims to develop a variety of skills: the mastery of facts and concepts; the ability to assess and interpret various sources (both primary and secondary, visual and textual); and ability to express ideas and arguments (both in writing and in class). You will be assessed on all of these skills. For this purpose, the course includes several different requirements:

1. Reading and Participation (10%): Most class meetings will be devoted to discussion of the assigned texts. It will be impossible for students to participate effectively in these discussions if they have not completed the readings.
2. Primary Source Analysis (10%): In the second week of the course, each student will write one short primary source analysis about Nazi ideology. Students will choose their primary document from a list provided by Prof. Greenberg. **Length limit: 900 words.**
3. Essay Papers (15% each, 30%): During the term, each student must write two essays. The essays will be based on essay questions listed on Blackboard, and will include both primary and secondary sources. They will be submitted both to the instructor and to three students for review (see: Peer Review Meetings). **Length limit: 1,500 words.**
4. Peer Review meetings (10%): Twice during the term, students will meet with the instructor in small groups to discuss the first drafts of essay papers written by other members of the group. Students will be expected to review their peers' work in detail (based on guidelines provided by the Prof. Greenberg), and offer constructive suggestions for improvement of the text.
5. Group projects (7.5% each, 15%): Twice during the term, students will collaborate on a group project. The project will be based on a list of questions and materials provided by Prof. Greenberg, and will include library research. It will be presented to the class.
6. Final Research Project (25%): As the culmination of the course, students will write an independent research paper, which will explore a topic related to Nazi Germany or the Nuremberg Trial itself. Students will meet with Prof. Greenberg to identify an appropriate topic, write a short prospectus, present their research in class, and submit the final project at the end of the term. **Length limit: 3,000 words.**

### Course Readings:

The reading will include both primary and secondary sources. The course's books, **which are available both for purchase at Wheelock Books and on Reserve at the library**, are:

Richard Evans, *The Third Reich in Power* (Penguin, 2006).

Richard Evans, *The Third Reich at War* (Penguin, 2009).

Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (1992).

We will also use the proceedings of the Nuremberg Trial. These are available online as PDF files at the website of the Library Of Congress ([http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military\\_Law/NT\\_major-](http://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/NT_major-)

[war-criminals.html](#)) and as HTML pages on Yale University's Avalon Project ([http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject\\_menus/imt.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/imt.asp)). The two index volumes for these proceedings are available on Reserve at the library.

The rest of the readings (both primary and secondary sources) will be available both through Blackboard and on Reserve at the library.

## Course Policies:

### Writing:

All written material should be submitted in 12 point Times New Roman Font, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins. Sources must be cited in footnotes. Submissions are accepted **via upload on Blackboard**. You may **not** email me your paper. For guidelines on writing and citing sources, see the short citation guide provided on the course website on Blackboard.

All submitted written material must be **your own work** and must conform to the Dartmouth honor code (see <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~reg/regulations/undergrad/acad-honor.html>). If you have questions about citing the work of others in your paper, please come see me before submitting your work.

### Note on late submissions:

**Any** late submission will be penalized a **two-third letter grade** (for example, from A- to B). Additionally, late submissions will be penalized **another** third letter grade for every 24 hours after the initial deadline (for example, from B to B-). If you know you will need an extension, you must contact Professor Greenberg well in advance. Last minute requests will not be approved.

### Attendance:

You are expected to attend all classes. If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to get the missed material from a classmate. **Any** absence from class will result in a reduction of the student's overall grade. If you miss **more than two class meetings**, you will receive a **failing grade** in the course.

### Technology Policy:

All cell phones must be turned off and stowed in your bag for the duration of class. Laptops are allowed only for the purposes of note taking and/or consulting online/digital sources during class.

### Statement on Disabilities

Students with disabilities enrolled in this course and who may need disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see me as soon as possible. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Student Accessibility Services office may be consulted to discuss appropriate implementation of any accommodation requested. For more information on Student accessibility services <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~accessibility/facstaff/>

## Schedule of Classes

1. January 5<sup>th</sup>, Thursday: Course Introductions and Overview

### Unit I – Origins, Structure and Goals of the Trial

2. January 10<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday: The Origins of the Trial: War, Politics, and Law

Gary Jonathan Bass, *Stay the Hand of Vengeance: The Politics of War Crimes Tribunals* (2008) 147-205. [Blackboard]

“Opening Speech for the Prosecution,” *Trial of the Major War Criminals Before the International Military Tribunal*, Vol. 2 (1946) 71-82, 97-155. [Blackboard]

3. January 12<sup>th</sup>, Thursday: The Rise of Nazism + First Group Presentation

**Each group will have 10 minutes to present its research to the rest of the class.**

Richard Evans, *The Coming of the Third Reich*, pp. 60-76; 156-194; 217-230; 231-308.

“The Program of the National Socialist Party (NSDAP)” (1925). [Blackboard]

Alfred Rosenberg, “The Russian-Jewish Revolution,” (1919). [Blackboard]

**January 15<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 9 PM – Primary Source Paper due**

### Unit II - The Nazi Regime before the War – Violence, Racism, and Diplomacy

4. January 17<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday: Race and Religion in the New Regime

Evans, *The Third Reich in Power*, pp. 506-560.

“The Nuremberg Laws” (1935), [Blackboard]

Adolf Hitler, “Race and People,” *Mein Kampf* (1925), 245-255; 258-264. [Blackboard]

“Testimony of Hermann Goering,” *Trial*, Vol. 9, 250-278.

5. January 19<sup>th</sup>, Thursday: Crimes Against Peace – The Road to War

Evans, *The Third Reich in Power*, pp. 612-689.

Adolf Hitler, “Secret Memorandum on the Four-Year Plan” (1936). [Blackboard]

“Testimony of Hermann Goering,” *Trial*, Vol. 9, 278-309.

**January 21<sup>st</sup>, Saturday, 9 PM – first draft of Essay Paper 1 due**

6. January 24<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday: Section A: Peer review of paper drafts (2:00-3:00pm)  
Section B: Peer review of paper drafts (3:00-4:00pm)
7. January 26<sup>th</sup>, Thursday: Section C: Peer review of paper drafts (2:00-3:00pm)  
Section D: Peer review of paper drafts (3:00-4:00pm)

**Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>/Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 9 PM – final draft of Essay Paper 1 due**

### **Unit III – War Crimes**

8. January 31<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday: War Crimes 1: War and Occupation

Evans, *Third Reich at War*, pp. 3-145.

Adolf Hitler, “Table Talks,” (1941), 20-24; 26-32. [Blackboard]

“Testimony of Hermann Goering,” *Trial*, Vol. 9, 318-325, 362-364. [Blackboard]

Tadeusz Piotrowski, “Memoir of a Polish Family’s Ordeal,” 36-46; 60-68. [Blackboard]

9. February 1<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday (x-hour): meeting with history librarian about research

10. February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday: War Crimes 2: Total War Abroad and at Home

Evans, *Third Reich in War*, pp. 167-215; 403-432; 435-450; 346-357.

Joseph Goebbels, “Total War,” (1943) *Landmark Speeches of National Socialism*, 112-139. [Blackboard]

“Testimony of Friedrich Paulus,” *Trial*, Vol. 7, 253-262; 279-288.

**February 4<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 9 PM – first draft of Essay Paper 2 due**

11. February 7<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday: Section A: Peer review of paper drafts (2:00-3:00pm)  
Section B: Peer review of paper drafts (3:00-4:00pm)
12. February 9<sup>th</sup>, Thursday: Section C: Peer review of paper drafts (2:00-3:00pm)  
Section D: Peer review of paper drafts (3:00-4:00pm)

**Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>/Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 9 PM – final draft of Essay Paper 2 due**

### **Unit IV – Crimes Against Humanity**

13. February 14<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday: The Psychology of Genocide

Browning, *Ordinary Men*.

14. February 16<sup>th</sup>, Thursday: The Regime and the Holocaust

- Evans, *Third Reich in War*, pp. 217-281.  
 “Minutes of the Wannsee Conference” (1942) [Blackboard]  
 “Testimony of Otto Ohlendorf,” *Trial*, Vol. 4, 311-325.  
 “Testimony of Rudolf Hoess,” *Trial*, Vol. 11, 396-418.  
 Heinrich Himmler, “The Posen Speech” [excerpts] (1943) [Blackboard]

## **Unit V – Group and Individual Research**

15. February 21<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday: Second group project presentation

Members of Sections A, B, C and D will each have 15 minutes to present their research to the rest of the class.

16. February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday: No class – personal meeting with Prof. Greenberg to work on individual projects

### **February 26<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, 7:30 PM – prospectus for project due**

17. February 28<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday: In-class presentations

18. February 29<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday (x-hour): In-class presentations

19. March 1<sup>st</sup>, Thursday: In-class presentations

20. March 6<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday: The Legacy of Nuremberg

Selected essays from Belinda Cooper (ed.), *War Crimes: the Legacy of Nuremberg* (New York: TV Books, 1999). [Blackboard]

### **Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 PM – Final Project Submission**