COURSE SYLLABUS
The Holocaust in Comparative Perspectives
2016

Instructor: Dr. Gábor Kádár, Visiting Professor
Department
Central European University
Semester/term, year
Course level (MA, PhD)
# Credits (# ECTS Credits)
Pre-requisites (if applicable)
Course e-learning site:

Course description
The course will examine the history of the Holocaust with a multi-contextual comparative approach. The first cluster will focus on the overarching issues and interpretations comparing the Holocaust with other genocides as well as the fate of Jewish and non-Jewish victims during the Nazi era. The classes will also touch upon the major debates in relevant historiography. The second cluster will explore various features and phenomena of the Holocaust (e.g. collaboration, rescue, Jewish responses, etc.) examining and comparing them in different temporal and geographical contexts. The third part of the course will focus on the spatial, cultural and political memory of the Holocaust with a similar approach.

Learning outcomes
By the end of the course, the students will be familiar with the main outlines of Holocaust history and its dominant interpretations. They will understand the complex genesis and evolution of the genocide as well as its various temporal and geographical patterns. They will be able to apply a comparative approach in the analysis of the events and have a deeper understanding of the historical context of the Holocaust.

Course requirements
• Class attendance and participation in discussions: 50 % of the final grade.
• Term paper: 50 % of the final grade. The paper should be minimum 2500 words (not including bibliography) and should relate to the themes of the course. The topic of the paper should be selected no later than the end of the first cluster (18 February 2016).

I. OVERALL APPROACHES

1. Evolution of a genocide I


2. Evolution of a genocide II

• Timothy Snyder. Black Earth. The Holocaust as History and Warning. London: The Bodley Head, 2015: pp. 11-28 (Living Space) and pp. 319-343 (Conclusion: Our World)

3. The Holocaust and other genocides


4. Non-Jewish victims of the Nazis

II. FEATURES AND PHENOMENA

5. Crime and collaboration


6. Rescue and resistance


7. Jewish responses


8. Plunder
III. THE MEMORY OF THE HOLOCAUST

9. Narratives and controversies I

- Joanna Michlic. *The Polish debate about the Jedwabne Massacre.*
  http://sicsa.huji.ac.il/21michlic.pdf

10. Narratives and controversies II


11. The image of the Holocaust

- Movies: Grey Zone (http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0252480/) and Son of Saul (http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3808342/)
12. A walk in the former “large” ghetto of Budapest