HIST 3397/5397: World War II and the Holocaust in Poland (Study Abroad)
University of Texas at Tyler
May 2025[1]

Instructors: Prof. Matt Stith
Email: mstith@uttyler.edu
Office: CAS 127
Office Hours: T/R, 12:30-1:30; Tuesday, 3:30-4:30; or by appointment. **Note**: I will be available all day, every day during the study abroad portion of the class, and I will be available 24/7 should there be an emergency.

Course Description:
This course explores the Second World War and the Holocaust in Central Europe through readings, discussion, lectures, and a trip to Poland. We will tour major and minor historic sites, monuments, and cultural sites on a range of topics regarding the conflict and its consequences. Travel and tours will be contextualized with readings and discussions in order to gain a strong understanding and appreciation for the course and consequences of World War II and the Holocaust in Poland specifically and central Europe as a whole.

Content Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:
1. Demonstrate a strong understanding of the causes, course, and consequences of the Second World War and the Holocaust in Europe generally and Poland specifically.
2. Think critically and objectively about the Second World War and the Holocaust in Central Europe and Poland's role in the broader course of the global conflict.
3. Develop analytical skills through thinking, speaking, touring, and writing about history generally and the Second World War and Holocaust specifically.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/gallery/poland-maps

Required Reading:
- Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* (New York: Basic Books, 2010)
- Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz* (1947; New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996)
- Ian Kershaw, *To Hell and Back: Europe, 1914-1949* (New York: Viking, 2015) [Graduate Students Only]
- Selected primary sources (available on Canvas)

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[1] Note that this class will take place in May 2025 even though it is listed as a Spring 2025 course. There will be a few optional meetings in the spring semester, and I will post important information on Canvas, but the class is primarily in May. See schedule below for more details.

Assignments:
- Tour (50 pts)
    - o Conduct a brief 15-minute on-site tour for the class in Poland. Locations TBA.
- Presentation (50 pts)
    - o Deliver a brief 15-minute presentation for the campus community when we return.
- Paper (75 pts)
    - o Write a brief (2,500-word, double-spaced; <mark>Grad: 5,000-word, double spaced</mark>) paper on the same site.
- Book Reviews (2x25 = 50) <mark>(Graduate: 3x16.5)</mark>
    - o Write a 700-word synopsis of all required books.
- Attendance and Active Participation (300 pts)
    - o Attend and actively participate in <u>all</u> course related events in Texas and in Poland. Failure to do so (without instructor consent) will result in a zero on the attendance/participation.

Attendance, Participation, and Decorum:
This is an upper-level university course. Attendance and participation are mandatory. Considering the nature of this travel course, it is imperative that you show up on time for all meetings, tours, and any other class-wide event. *All* students must attend *all* class events. Failure to do so without instructor consent will result in a zero on the participation grade.

Point Breakdown:

		Grade Scale:
Tour:	50 pts	500-450 = A
Presentation:	50 pts	449-400 = B
Paper:	50 pts	399-350 = C
Reviews:	50 pts	349-300 = D
Attendance/Participation	300 pts	299-000 = F
Total:	500 pts	

Make-up Policy:
I will work with you on an individual basis regarding any missed assignments.

Academic Honesty [***IMPORTANT***]
Cheating of any kind, including plagiarism, will result in immediate failure of the class and possibly further sanctions from the University of Texas at Tyler. Plagiarism, put simply, is using another's work as your own without proper citation or usage. This includes everything from copying and pasting from the Internet to failing to cite an idea from another source that you put in your own words. Please carefully read the university policy for cheating and academic dishonesty at the following website: https://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/documents/8-student-conduct-discipline.pdf
<mark>AI is not permitted in this course</mark>. All work students submit for this course should be their own. This is college. Do your *own* work without artificial intelligence. The use of ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values and will be treated as cheating (see above).

Course Schedule/Itinerary (Subject to Change)
- January 13-May 2 (Spring Semester)
    - o I will post Canvas updates, information sessions, etc., throughout the semester. I would also like to meet informally as a group a couple times to get to know everyone and talk about the trip. There will be one mandatory class session on campus before we leave and another when we return. Dates TBA.
    - o We'll be traveling with Dr. Ramona Grad and her psychology students (also from UT-Tyler), and our goal is to have both the HIST and PSYCH students meet at least a time or two in advance of the trip as well.
- May 12, 2025
    - o Arrive in **Krakow**
    - o Neighborhood Walking Tour
    - o Group Dinner
- May 13
    - o Krakow Guided Walking Tour (Old Town and Wawel Castle Area)
    - o Guided Tour of Kazimierez (Jewish Quarter)
- May 14

- o Schindler Factory Museum
  - o Free Afternoon—Explore Krakow
- May 15
  - o Day Trip: **Auschwitz-Birkenau**
- May 16
  - o Visit Wieliczka Salt Mines
  - o Free Afternoon—Explore Krakow

- May 17
  - o Travel to **Warsaw** via train
  - o Guided Walking Tour of Old Town Warsaw
- May 18
  - o Visit POLIN Museum
  - o Visit Warsaw Uprising Museum
- May 19
  - o Day Trip: **Treblinka**
- May 20
  - o Travel on a train to **Gdańsk**
  - o Guided Walking Tour of Gdansk
- May 21
  - o Day Trip: **Hel Island** via Ferry
  - o Visit Hel Island World War II Museum
  - o Hangout on the Beach (Baltic Sea)
- May 22
  - o Visit Museum of the Second World War in Gdansk
  - o Visit Westerplatte and WWII Site
  - o Farewell Dinner
- May 23
  - o Fly Home

Other required syllabus information : See Canvas