Course objectives:

- To provide students with a solid understanding of the main events leading up to, during and after the Holocaust, focusing on the destruction of Europe’s Jewish community.
- To develop your abilities to think, organize, speak and write critically about historical sources.
- To provoke thought, discussion and writing on the complex moral questions related to the Holocaust and its legacy.

Required Readings: tentative

Packet of primary sources, maps and images.
Lucille Eichengreen. *From Ashes to Life*.
Art Spielgeman. *Maus*, Volumes I and II

Grades:

25% Attendance and Participation
30% Journal Entries
45% Final Comprehensive Essay

Major Topics:

During the first few days in Germany, I will provide students with background lectures, covering such topics as Historical Background – Judaism, Antisemitism in Early Modern and Modern Europe, and the Rise of the NSDAP. As we move through the course, making site visits, we will explore how the Third Reich treated those it saw as inferior and why. We will also delve into the development of the extermination program targeting Jews and the motivations for those who were involved, including the roles played by both technology and war. We will conclude with an examination of the legacy of the Holocaust for Jewish and German communities today, and its impact on the world in general. We will also look at how the Holocaust is remembered in Germany today.

Journal Entries: collectively worth 30% of your final grade.

As we read various documents, engage in class discussion and visit various sites in Germany and Austria, I will ask you to write about your ideas, to keep a journal of how your thinking about the Holocaust has developed and what questions you have.

Journals will be graded according to the following criteria:

1. Thoroughness of answer – Are comments superficial, or do they demonstrate familiarity with the assigned readings and ideas? Have you provided both summary and analysis, clearly explaining your own ideas? Have all the important and relevant aspects of the question been answered?
2. Understanding -- Have you correctly understood the material? What evidence have you presented that demonstrates comprehension?
3. Growth – Does this answer build upon prior knowledge? Are you making connections among readings and class discussions? Note: This will not be considered for early journal entries.
4. Inquiry – Have you thought of other questions that this material raises? Have you answered a question that you asked previously?
Final Comprehensive Question

As you develop your knowledge about the Holocaust and write your journal entries, I will help you trace major themes in your thinking and writing. At the conclusion of the trip, I will assign each student a comprehensive question, based on lectures, readings, and site visits which builds upon themes developed in your journals. This final assignment will be 8-10 typed pages.