

Course Unit Code	HIST31491
Course Unit Title	The Holocaust: History, Historiography, Memory

Dr. Jean-Marc Dreyfus

If you have any questions, please write to: jean-marc.dreyfus@manchester.ac.uk

Semester 1, 2020-2021, Level 3



Course description: More and more, the Holocaust is perceived and assessed as one of the seminal event of the 20. Century in Europe. If its consequences were not clearly embraced in the immediate after war, the long shadow of the genocide shapes today's culture and politics.

This course aims at presenting some main themes in the now well-established field of Holocaust studies. Themes will be on the Holocaust itself, its general interpretations, the question of victims, of perpetrators, the technologies of mass killings, but also on the consequences of genocide (justice, memorials, testimonies). It is a history module, with some interdisciplinarity: politics, literature, memory studies, psychology will also be used.

This course module will deal both with this immense crime itself, and with the memory of the offense, the memory of the crimes though it is not a course in memory studies. It aims one hand

at describing how the Holocaust was conducted (including in the most difficult aspects such as the technologies of killing) and on the other hand, at analysing how the genocide was received and which direct consequences it had in various fields: from the fate of survivors to the building of memorials.

When traditional teaching in Holocaust studies separates the Holocaust itself from its aftermath (consequences, representations, cultural studies of the Holocaust), this course module intends to unify the two sides of the topic. Perceptions and representations of the Holocaust have constantly evolved, leading to changing 'politics of memory' in various countries. The course module will be adapted to distance learning: small podcasts, guided reading, analysis of video documents, ... The assessment will be with no exam.

In order to comply with a 'decolonised' curriculum, the question will be asked whether the Holocaust influenced the Human rights and reparation politics in general, and mostly for colonial crimes and slavery.

Some themes that will be addressed in class: Interpreting the Holocaust; An administrated genocide? Jews in Germany, 1933-1943; How to become a perpetrator? The Holocaust by bullets; Gas chambers and crematoria; Uncovering the Holocaust : images of Bergen Belsen ; Survivors: Displaced persons and the creation of the State of Israel; Holocaust denial; Kindertransport and Hyde Park memorial: the Holocaust in British life; Transitional justice after 1945, the Holocaust in comparison

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Source analysis in class (finalised after the class) of several video testimonies. Each group of 3-4 students will work in class under the supervision of the course convenor. Research will be made on survivors' testimonies available on the website of the Shoah visual foundation (https://sfi.usc.edu/).	An electronic presentation with a minimum of 2000 words and ten testimonies abstracts.	30%
Essay	2500 words	70%

Skills to be acquired in this module: - Work in groups - Navigate databases - Uses of digital resources - Knowledge on the production of electronic files and documents - Communication skills: presenting, advising others, writing and editing - Organisation skills: follow through, meeting deadline, planning, time management - Interpersonal skills: relating with other members of the team, motivating people, resolving conflicts, being a team player - Some computer skills, searching the web in an organised way - Teamwork skills - Creativity skills.