

Holocaust Studies

The **Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies** is very active in the field of Holocaust Studies. The following is a list of courses offered on a regular basis:

GERS 333

The Power of Propaganda and the Politics of Persecution: Literature and Film of the Holocaust and the *Third Reich*

GERS 333 focuses on Nazi popular culture and entertainment films and explores a variety of Holocaust narratives that emerged during the Second World War and its aftermath. Students will analyze how propaganda was designed and used to achieve its desired goals as well as how it served as a basis for mass persecution. Its potential effects/consequences are detailed by the personal narratives selected for the course.

GERS 433

“Overcoming the Past”: Film and Text

This course examines the Holocaust and its impact on subsequent generations through the lens of literature, film and art. Exemplary texts, documentaries and feature films probing the limits of representation will challenge students to reconsider their own assumptions and historical knowledge. As we move from eyewitness accounts to the after-images of the Holocaust, we will explore the deeply unsettling spaces of memory inhabited by Second and Third Generation writers, filmmakers and visual artists.

GERS 435

I-witness Holocaust Field School Project

The purpose of this 3-unit *Field School* is to explore and analyze the ways in which the Holocaust has become memorialized in Central Europe and to build an understanding of how the lessons of the Holocaust are relevant in today’s world. The course consists of one-week of intensive study at the University of Victoria followed by three weeks in Europe in May. The I-witness program promotes intercultural learning through a variety of activities including joint workshops with European students in Europe and visits to memorial sites, museums, and monuments of the Holocaust. Upon return to Canada, participants will share their experiences through formal presentations and discussions on campus, in high schools, and with the local community.

GER 550

“Memory Matters”:

Eyewitness (I-Witness) Accounts of the Holocaust and WWII

This seminar explores issues of memory from the perspective of both gender and genre. Drawing on the title of Caroline Schaumann’s book (*Memory Matters*), participants will examine issues of memory and postmemory, aspects of “truth” and positionality in memoirs, diaries and documentaries, as well as the fascination with the Holocaust and WWII as a site of cultural memory. Topics include: boundaries between fiction and creative non-fiction, authenticity and false memoir, genre ambiguity (imagetext), postmodernism and the Holocaust, gender and representation, and ways in which cultural memories of the Holocaust and WWII have been regionally and temporally processed.