

**UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies**

**2018 Curt C. and Else Silberman Seminar for Faculty:
Racial Practice: Theory, Policy, and Execution in Nazi Germany and the Jim Crow South**

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June 4-15, 2018

Racism, including [racial antisemitism](#), was a core element of Nazi ideology and a driving force behind the Holocaust. Racism also legitimized the continued subjugation and persecution of African Americans long after the end of slavery. Although different in many ways, the history of racism in Nazi Germany and the Jim Crow South sheds light on universal phenomena as well as historically specific experiences.

The 2018 Curt C. and Else Silberman Seminar for Faculty will analyze the similarities, differences, and gray zones of racial theory and practice in Germany and the United States in the first half of the 20th century, paying special attention to how these practices sharply diverged as Nazi antisemitic policies turned into widespread, state sanctioned genocide in the 1940s. Looking at canonical scholarship on antisemitism and racism as well as the practical persecution in both locales, participants will learn how to respectfully and accurately represent these ideologies, their practices, and the impact on these victims in Holocaust-related courses across disciplines.

Required Texts:

Engel, David. *The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews*. New York: Routledge, 2013.
Woodward, C. Vann. *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Strongly Recommended Background Reading:

Moody, Anne. *Coming of Age in Mississippi: The Classic Autobiography of Growing Up Poor and Black in the Rural South*. New York: Dell, 1992.

Washington, Booker T. *Up From Slavery*. New York: Dover Publications, 1995.

Seminar Schedule (all sessions take place in Classroom D unless otherwise noted)

Week 1:

Monday, June 4: *Introduction and Resources*

10:00-11:30: Welcoming Remarks & Introductions

11:30-12:00: Introduction to USHMM resources: Library and Archives

12:00-12:05 Group photo

12:05-1:30: **Lunch with MCAHS staff and research fellows (Classroom A)**

1:30-3:00: Seminar Agenda and Rationale

3:00-3:15: **Break**

3:15-5:00: Contemporary Relevance: The three seminar leaders will discuss why teaching their topics is important today and what can be learned by bringing such different histories into conversation.

Readings:

Kühl, Stefan. “The Cooperation of German Racial Hygienists and American Eugenicists before and after 1933.” In *The Holocaust and History: The Known, the Unknown, the Disputed, and the Reexamined*, edited by Michael Berenbaum and Abraham J. Peck. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2002, 134-152.

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Tuesday, June 5: *Eugenics: Racist Scientists or Scientific Racism?*

10:00-12:00: “The Black Stork”: an introduction to eugenics

12:00-1:00: **Lunch**

1:00-2:00: The use of “racially inferior” bodies for science: The Tuskegee Syphilis trials

- 2:00-3:00: Sterilization
- 3:00-3:05: **Break**
- 3:05-5:00: Nazi eugenics: Policy and practice

Readings:

- Brandt, Allan M. "Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment." In *Tuskegee's Truths: Rethinking the Tuskegee Syphilis Study*, edited by Susan M. Reverby, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000, 15-33.
- Gilman, Sander. "The Jewish Nose: Are Jews White? Or, The History of the Nose Job" in *The Jew's Body*. New York: Routledge, 1991, 169-193.
- Heller, J.R. and P.T. Bruyere. "Untreated Syphilis in the Male Negro: Mortality During 12 Years of Observation." In *Tuskegee's Truths: Rethinking the Tuskegee Syphilis Study*, edited by Susan M. Reverby, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000, 119-124.
- "Interview with Four Survivors, Department of Health, Education and Welfare Study, 1973." In *Tuskegee's Truths: Rethinking the Tuskegee Syphilis Study*, edited by Susan M. Reverby, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000, 132-135.
- Patterson, Andrea. "Germs and Jim Crow: The Impact of Microbiology on Public Health Policies in the Progressive Era American South," *Journal of the History of Biology* 42, no. 3 (Fall 2009): 529-599.
- Rivers, Eunice V., Stanley H. Schuman, Lloyd Simpson, and Sidney Olansky. "Twenty Years of Followup Experience in a Long-Range Medical Study." In *Tuskegee's Truths: Rethinking the Tuskegee Syphilis Study*, edited by Susan M. Reverby, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000, 125-131.

Wednesday, June 6: Racism

- 10:00-12:00: The colonial roots of racism; American racism and the place of African American persecution
- 12:00-1:00: **Lunch**
- 1:00-3:00: The historical construction of groups and scientific racism
- 3:00-3:15: **Break**
- 3:15-5:00: Racism and antisemitism in the early 20th century: similarities, difference, and grey zones

7:00-9:00 2018 Weinmann Annual Lecture, “*Far from Us, But Close at Heart:*”
Sephardic Jews in America Confront the Holocaust, Devin Naar Isaac
Alhadeff Professor in Sephardic Studies, Associate Professor of History,
and faculty at the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies in the Jackson School
of International Studies at the University of Washington.

Readings:

Fredrickson, George M. “The Rise of Modern Racism(s): White Supremacy and Antisemitism in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries.” In *Racism: A Short History*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015, 49-96.

Grill, Johnpeter Horst and Robert L. Jenkins. “[The Nazis and the American South in the 1930s: A Mirror Image?](#)” *The Journal of Southern History* 58, no. 4 (November 1992): 667-694.

Volkov, Shulamith. “The Written Matter and the Spoken Word: On the Gap Between Pre-1914 and Nazi Anti-Semitism.” In *Unanswered Questions: Nazi Germany and the Genocide of the Jews*, edited by François Furet, New York: Schocken Books, 1989, 33–53.

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Thursday, June 7: NMAAHC

9:00-12:00: Tour the National Museum of African American History and Culture’s
Permanent Exhibit

12:00-1:00: **Lunch**

1:00-2:00: Tour the NMAAHC’s galleries

2:00-3:30: Discussion with NMAAHC staff about their specializations relating to the
Seminar topic

3:30-3:45: **Break**

3:45-5:00: Discussion with NMAAHC staff about the Museum’s permanent exhibit

Readings:

Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror. Montgomery, Alabama: Equal
Justice Initiative, 2017. <https://lynchingamerica.eji.org/report/>

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Friday, June 8: ***Segregation Laws in a Racial State- What were the specific political and economic situations in different locals that facilitated the rise of these laws in the United States and Germany?***

9:00-11:00: Walk through the Museum's permanent exhibit

11:00-12:00: *The Birth of a Nation* and discussion

12:00-1:00: **Lunch and a discussion of the Museum's Permanent Exhibit**

1:00-2:15: Race laws in America

2:15-2:30: **Break**

2:30-5:00: Race laws in Nazi Germany

Documentary Evidence:

1934 Reich Ministry of Justice discussion of German race laws in relation to segregation laws in the Jim Crow south.

Nuremberg Race laws 1935

"Triumph of the Will"

Readings:

Friedländer, Saul. *Nazi Germany and the Jews*. Vol. I, *The Years of Persecution, 1933-1939*.

New York: Harper Collins, 1997, 9-40.

Mack, Kenneth. "Law, Society, Identity, and the Making of the Jim Crow South," *Law & Social Inquiry* 24, no. 2 (Spring 1999), 377-409.

Week 2:

Monday, June 11: ***Persecution as a part of daily life***

10:00-12:00: Racist policy and practice in different locals: What influenced the diverse establishment of anti-Jewish measures and implementation of race laws in Germany and countries annexed by the Nazis

12:00-1:00: **Lunch**

1:00-3:00: Two exercises in socialization: Berkeley, CA and Sugar Land, TX

- 3:00-3:15: **Break**
- 3:15-3:45: Introduction to USHMM resources, cont.: Film and Video; Oral History and testimony
- 3:45-4:45: Introduction to USHMM resources, cont.: Photo Archives and a discussion of perpetrator film and photos
- 4:45-5:00 Campus Outreach and University Programs at the Mandel Center

Readings:

- Gruner, Wolf. "Local Initiatives, Central Coordination: German Municipal Administration and the Holocaust." In *Networks of Nazi Persecutions: Bureaucracy, Business and the Organization of the Holocaust*, edited by Gerald D. Feldman and Wolfgang Seibel, (New York: Berghahn Books, 2005), 269-294.
- Rothstein, Richard. *The Making of Ferguson: Public Policies at the Root of its Troubles*. Washington, D.C.: Economic Policy Institute, 2014.
<https://www.epi.org/publication/making-ferguson/>
- Walker, Clarence. "The Effects of Brown: Personal and Historical Reflections on American Racial Atavism," *Journal of Southern History* 70, no. 2 (May 2004), 295-302.

Tuesday, June 12: *Perpetrators and Segregated Space*

- 10:00-11:00: Nazi policies in occupied Poland and the Soviet Union
- 11:00-12:00 An introduction to the camp system by Alexandra Lohse, Applied Research Scholar and a discussion of the diverse nature of camps and non-obvious perpetrators
- 12:00-1:00: **Lunch**
- 1:00-2:00: Spaces of segregation: White streets, black allies, sundown cities, convict leasing, segregated housing and ghettoization, and Parchman Farm.
- 2:00-3:00: Lynching as spectacle: The ordinary man, public space, and murder, Christopher Petrella, Adjunct Professorial Lecturer, School of International Service
- 3:00-3:15: **Break**

3:15-5:00: Perpetrators in Nazi Germany

Readings:

Browning, Christopher. "Ordinary Men." In *The Holocaust: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation*, edited by Donald L. Niewyk. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011, 76-90.

Goldhagen, Daniel. "Hitler's Willing Executioners," In *The Holocaust: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation*, edited by Donald L. Niewyk. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011, 91-103.

"Legacy of Lynching." Equal Justice Initiative. January 11, 2017. <https://eji.org/racial-justice/legacy-lynching>

Litwack, Leon F. "Hellhounds." In *Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America*, edited by James Allen, Hilton Als, Congressman John Lewis, and Leon F. Litwack. Santa Fe: Twin Palms Publishers, 2000, 8-37.

Wednesday, June 13: Responses to Persecution- Individual and Institutional

10:00-11:00: The Great Migration and other acts of African-American resistance

11:00-12:30: Introduction to USHMM resources, cont.: *History Unfolded*, Eric Schmalz, Community Manager, Digital Learning and New Media

12:30-1:30: **Lunch**

1:30-3:00: Introduction to USHMM resources, cont.: *Experiencing History*, Leah Wolfson, Senior Program Officer

3:00-3:15: **Break**

3:15-4:15: Jewish Responses to National Socialist persecution

4:15-5:00: Emil Kerenji, Applied Research scholar, Jewish responses to National Socialist persecution in allied and occupied Europe

Readings:

Gruner, Wolf. "'The Germans Should Expel the Foreigner Hitler...' Open Protest and Other Forms of Jewish Defiance in Nazi Germany", *Yad Vashem Studies* 39, no. 2 (2011), 13-53.

Marks, Carole. "Black Workers and the Great Migration North," *Phylon* 46, no. 2 (1985), 148-161.

Thursday, June 14: The Question of mass murder

- 10:00-12:00: Street violence, systematic murder, pogroms, riots, and lynching
- 12:00-1:00: **Lunch**
- 1:00-2:30: Introduction to USHMM resources, cont.: Elizabeth Anthony, *ITS supplements* and assignment brainstorming.
- 2:30-2:45: **Break**
- 2:45-5:00: Aftermath and continuities: The value and importance of knowing African American and Jewish persecution histories and how they affect racism in today's society.

Readings:

- Keyes, Allison. "A Long-Lost Manuscript Containing a Searing Eyewitness Account of the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921." *Smithsonian*. May 27, 2016.
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/long-lost-manuscript-contains-searing-eyewitness-account-tulsa-race-massacre-1921-180959251/>
- Wiesen, Jonathan. "American Lynching in the Nazi Imagination: Race and Extra-Legal Violence in 1930s Germany", *German History* 36, no. 1 (2018), 38-59.
- Wildt, Michael. "The Crowd as an Actor." In *Hitler's Volksgemeinschaft and the Dynamics of Racial Exclusion: Violence Against Jews in Provincial Germany, 1919-1939*. New York: Berghahn Books. 2012, 133-164.

Friday, June 15: Syllabus sharing

- 10:00-1:00: Participant syllabus workshop
- Closing Comments
- 1:00: Adjournment