

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

COM 362

Spring 2007

Froma I. Zeitlin

**STOLEN YEARS: YOUTH UNDER THE NAZIS IN WORLD WAR II**  
**Syllabus**

This course examines the experiences of childhood and adolescence under the Nazis in World War II as witnessed, remembered, and represented, through a variety of means & genres in text and image. Among these are historical studies, diaries, testimonies, memoirs, fiction (semi-autobiographical or otherwise), and film (documentary and feature) of 1st and 2d generations. Although we focus on the fate of Jewish youth, who were specific targets of genocidal policy, not just unintended victims, we will also attend to others in the occupied countries as well as in Germany itself. In final projects, students may elect to study other theaters of war.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS and INFORMATION**

Attendance at seminars is MANDATORY. Only ONE unexcused absence allowed. Films are also obligatory. Since most are on video or DVD (shown on large screen), in case of dire emergency only, they can be viewed in the Language Resource Center, located in E Pyne 011 (or borrowed from instructor). <http://www.princeton.edu/~lrc>

**WEEKLY SEMINAR** (Thursdays 1:30-4:20):

**FILM SHOWINGS:** Monday evenings at 7:30.. Most film programs run about two hours or so. A few sessions are longer.

**PROGRAM NOTES** for each film will be distributed in the class session (Thurs) preceding each showing (Mon). They are also posted on our website (under COURSE DOCUMENTS). Please read beforehand and keep for use in your film journals.

**REQUIRED BOOKS** available from U-Store (for list, see end of syllabus and on our website under ANNOUNCEMENTS

**RESERVE BOOKS:** listed on our Website (under COURSE MATERIALS) and on Library Web Page. All required books are on reserve. There are a number of others listed as optional for browsing and consultation.

**COURSE PACKET:** There is no course packet to purchase. All the assignments are conveniently available as PDF files on the course website in COURSE MATERIALS under the rubric, ASSIGNED OR RECOMMENDED ARTICLES. I haven't put most of this material on ECR, but can do so, if the class desires.. In either case, the material can (and should) be downloaded and printed.

**OTHER:** Occasional handouts distributed in class. These Word documents will also be found by individual title under MATERIALS.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:** Important Deadlines

1. **One-two page weekly comments/questions/reactions on the assignment** at the time of the seminar [for use in class discussion and for your own record of reading]. These will not be graded officially, but will be collected and evaluated. You may submit to me IN ADVANCE by file

attachment [with your name on the file heading] but bring your own copy to class to be used in discussion.

\*3. **Midterm paper** (5-8 pages): Topic of student's choosing in consultation with the instructor. DUE Mar 27; LAST EXTENSION DEADLINE: Friday, Mar 30. No questions asked; no further adjustment. Plan your time accordingly.

4. **Film Journal** (approx. 15-20 pages): DUE Mon May 9. LAST EXTENSION DEADLINE IS Wed May. 11 (ALTHOUGH DISADVISED).

5. **Final Paper/Project** (10-12 pages): topic of student's choosing in consultation with instructor. Due Dean's Day, Tues, May 15. LAST POSSIBLE DATE: May 18.  
NB: you may write the midterm or final paper on a film, if you wish, but not for both assignments.

1. **Feb 8. Introduction.** Film(s) in class: *As If It Were Yesterday* (Belgium) or *Hiding From Hitler* (UK)

War seen through the eyes of the young. Theoretical approaches to the study of the young and varieties of childhood and adolescent experience in the context of violence, disruption, and loss: historical, psychological, literary. Modes of representation and interpretation:

*Recommended:*

Naomi Sokoloff, "Fictive Voices: The Discourse of Childhood, ch. 1. *Imagining the Child in Modern Jewish Fiction*. PDF

Sue Vice, Introduction, *Children Writing the Holocaust*. PDF

Film: Mon Feb 12. *Grave of the Fireflies* (Japan)

2. **Feb 15. History: Narrative and Background**

Debórah Dwork. *Children with a Star: Jewish Youth in Nazi Europe*

Introduction: Search and Research: xv-xlvi

Part I: The Recognizable World: 3-112

Part II: A World Without Precedent and Parallel: 113-208

André Schwarz-Bart, *The Last of the Just*, excerpt: 84-103. PDF

Susan Rubin Suleiman: "The 1.5 Generation: Thinking About Child Survivors and the Holocaust." *American Imago*. 59. 3 (2002) 277-295. PDF

*Recommended:* George Eisen, *Children and Play in the Holocaust: Games Among the Shadows*. chs 4, 5, 6. PDF

Film: Mon Feb 19. *My Name is Ivan* (Russian)

3. Feb 22. **History: Diaries:**

Debórah Dwork. *Children with a Star: Jewish Youth in Nazi Europe*

Part III: The Unrecognizable World: 209-249

Part IV: Conclusion and Epilogue: 253-270

Alexandra Zapruder: *Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust*. Introduction: 1-12

Choose at least three or more of the following (or any others of your choice): they are arranged chronologically, not by area

\*= esp recommended but all are interesting.

\*Moshe Flinker (Brussels) 90-129

Peter Ginz and Elsa Ginzova (Terezin ghetto) 160-89

\*Yitskhok Rudashevski (Vilna Ghetto) 190-225

Miriam Korber (Transnistria) 243-70

Elsa Binder ((Stanislawow, Poland) 301-28

Ilya Gerber (Kovno Ghetto) 329-360

Anonymous Boy (Lodz ghetto) 361-94

Alice Ehrman (Terezin ghetto) 395-428

Mon. Feb 26: Film: Europa, Europa (German)

#### **4. Mar 1. Writing and Re-writing the Ghetto:**

Jerry Spinelli, *Milkweed*

Janina Bauman, *Night Comes in the Morning*, memoir: excerpt. PDF

Josef Zelkowicz. "Days of Nightmare." 199-213. PDF

Marianne Hirsch, "Projected Memory: Holocaust Photographs in Public and Private Memory." *Acts of Memory: Cultural Recall in the Present*, eds Mieke Bal, J. Crewe, L. Spitzer, 3-23. PDF

Film: Mon Mar 5: Korczak (Polish)

#### **5. Mar 8. Writing and Re-Writing the Ghetto and Beyond**

Michal Glowinski, *The Black Seasons*

CLASS VISIT WITH PROF. JAN GROSS (History)

Film: Mon Mar 12: Life is Beautiful

#### **6. Mar 15. Remembering the Camps I:**

Cordelia Edvardson, *Burned Child Seeks the Fire*

### **M I D T E R M   R E C E S S**

Film: Mon Mar 26: Fateless (Hungarian)

#### **7. Mar 29. Remembering the Camps II:**

Imre Kertesz, *Fatelessness*

Film: Sun Apr 1: Au revoir, les enfants (French) [instead of Apr 2]

#### **8, Apr 5. Hiding In the Bosom of the Church**

Saul Friedlander, *When Memory Comes* (France)

Georges Perec, *W or Memories of Childhood* (France)

CLASS VISIT WITH PROF DAVID BELLOS, translator of Perec

Film: Mon Apr 9. The Last Butterfly (Czech)

**9. Apr 12. Anti-Fairy Tale: In the Forest**

Louise Murphy, *The True Story of Hansel and Gretel* (Poland/US)  
CLASS VISIT WITH PROF. ULI KNOEPFLMACHER

Film: Mon Apr 16: Revolt of Job (Hungarian)

**10. Apr. 19. Anti-Fairy Tale: The Other Self**

Aharon Appelfeld, *Tzili: The Story of a Life* (Fiction)  
Aharon Appelfeld: *The Story of a Life* (autobiography)  
Aharon Appelfeld, *Beyond Despair*, Introduction PDF

Film: Mon Apr 23. Red Cherry (Chinese)

**11. Apr 26. The Passion of Recollection**

Magda Denes, *Castles Burning*

Film: Mon. Apr 30. Under the Domim Tree (Hebrew)

**12. MAY 3. Afterwards: Second Generation**

David Grossman, *See Under: Love* (part 1: Momik) (Hebrew) PDF  
Carl Friedman, *Nightfather* (Dutch).

*Recommended:* Naomi Sokoloff. "The Holocaust and the Discourse of Childhood: David Grossman's See Under: Love." *Hebrew Annual Review* 11 (1987). PDF

**BOOK LIST:**

**Required:**

Aharon Appelfeld. *Tzili: The Story of a Life*. Grove Pr /  
Aharon Appelfeld. *The Story of a Life*. Schocken  
Magda Denes. *Castles Burning*. INSTRUCTOR WILL MAKE THIS BOOK AVAILABLE AT A NOMINAL FEE  
Debórah Dwork, *Children With a Star: Jewish Youth in Nazi Europe* Yale Univ Pr /  
Cordelia Edvardson, *Burned Child Seeks the Fire*. Beacon.  
Saul Friedlander, *When Memory Comes*. U of Wisconsin Press.  
Carl Friedman, *Nightfather* Persea..  
Imre Kertesz, *Fatelessness*. Vintage International.  
Louise Murphy, *The True Story of Hansel and Gretel*. Penguin.  
Georges Perec, *W or Memories of Childhood*. Verba Mundi Books.  
Jerry Spinelli, *Milkweed*. Laurel Leaf..  
Alexandra Zapruder. *Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust*. Yale.

**Optional:**

Miriam Winter. *Trains: A Memoir of a Hidden Childhood During and After World War 2*. Kelton Pr  
Dwork, Deborah & Robert Jan van Pelt. *Holocaust: A History*. Norton.

ON RESERVE: in addition to Required Books

Lynn Nicholas: *Cruel World: The Children of Europe in the Nazi Web*. 2005.  
Nicholas Stargardt, *Witnesses of War: Children's Lives Under the Nazis*. 2006