Eastern Illinois University
Course Proposal: University Senior Seminar
EIU 4193G, The Holocaust

1. Catalog Description
   a. EIU 4193G
   b. The Holocaust, Honors
   c. 4-0-4
   d. F, S
   e. The Holocaust
   f. An examination of the Holocaust from 1933-1945. This course will examine the many factors (including intellectual, political, legal, and economic changes) that resulted in the institutionalized destruction of European Jewry.
   g. History majors are excluded. Prerequisite: Admission to the University Honors Program.
   h. Writing-intensive

2. Student learning objectives
   a. In accordance with the goals of general education, students will
      1. Learn to read critically and analytically through a hands-on study of primary sources dealing with the Holocaust. Students will learn the skills necessary for evaluating primary sources (documents, letters, diaries, treatises, etc.). (critical thinking)
      2. Discuss and assess the content of primary sources in small group projects. (critical thinking)
      3. Write several document essays and a large research paper calling for extensive research and analysis of materials. (writing)
      4. Present the findings of their research to the class in oral reports. (speaking)
      5. Reflect on the issue of intolerance as expressed in the Holocaust. (citizenship)

   b. As they study the events surrounding the Holocaust, students will
      1. Become familiar with the political, social, cultural, and economic factors that allowed for the Holocaust.

3. Course Outline
This course will meet each week (for fifteen weeks) for 200 minutes total per week. Week twelve will be devoted to assessment, specifically TASKS test.

Week 1
A historical perspective of the roots of anti-Semitism.

Week 2
The origins of the Nazi movement.
Hitler’s rise to power.
The debate over Hitler’s role in the Final Solution.

Week 3
Setting the stage for annihilation
The economic boycotts
Nazified schooling
The Nuremberg Laws
Kristallnacht.

Week 4
Perfecting the killing machine: Euthanasia, Einsatzgruppen, gas vans, and Zyclon B.

Week 5
Life in the concentration camps
The psychological toll of survival
Slave labor & big business

Week 6
Jewish Resistance
Cultural life in the ghettos
Ghetto uprisings
Jewish partisans.

Week 7
The Vatican and the Holocaust
German Catholics and the Holocaust
German Lutherans and the Holocaust
Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the assassination attempt on Hitler

Week 8
Popular German response to the Holocaust
The annihilation of Germany’s Jews and the war effort

Week 9
Rescuers of the Jews
Le Chambon sur Lignon: one French village that saved 5000 Jews.

Week 10
Children of the Holocaust
Mengele’s medical experiments on twins

Week 11
The American response to the Holocaust: the “abandonment of the Jews”?
The role of the American State Department and the immigration quota system
The role of American Jews

Week 12
Assessment Activities

Week 13
Holocaust deniers and America’s college campuses
The question of freedom of speech and the right to deny

Weeks 14 & 15
Oral Reports
4. Evaluation of student learning

a. Achievement of student learning will be evaluated based on the following:

Primary source papers.............10%
In-class participation..............10%
Written exam..........................20%
Paper proposal and bibliography...5%
Research paper......................45%
Oral report............................10%
Total..........................100%

b. This course satisfies the criteria for a writing-intensive course through the document essays, written exam, and the research paper. The professor will work with the students while they identify, research, and write a paper on a topic of their choosing. A rough draft of the research paper will be evaluated and returned to each student.

5. Rationale

a. Senior Seminar
b. Prerequisite: 75 hours completed and admission to the University Honors Program.
c. This course does not duplicate any current offerings.
d. This course will not be required in any majors or programs other than the general education senior seminar.

6. Implementation

a. Initial instructor: Joy Kammerling
b. Textbooks:
   Levin, The Holocaust Years (1996)
   Lipstadt, Denying the Holocaust (1994)
   Niewyk, The Holocaust (1997)
c. No additional costs
d. Spring 2001

7. Community College Transfer

Not applicable

8. Date Approved by College Curriculum Committee: April 12, 2000

9. Date Approved by Senior Seminar Advisory Committee: April 20, 2000

10. Date Approved by CAA: October 19, 2000

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