

COMMON COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 260

Holocaust Literature Honors

3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

DESCRIPTION

ENGL 260 – 3 Credits - Holocaust Literature explores memory, the role of the writer, and controversies about fictionalizing the Holocaust. It focuses on the moral, philosophical and cultural legacy of these terrible events as presented through the literary and artistic imagination.

3 credits; 3 lecture hours per week

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 101 with a grade of “C” or better

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course the honors student will be able to achieve all the objectives of English 260 and in addition will be able to:

1. distinguish between museums and monuments particularly those established in the aftermath of the Holocaust
2. understand the ways in which locale, history and purpose influence the ways in which artists create Holocaust memorials
3. evaluate the ways in which artists and architects of the post Holocaust generation “remember” events they never experienced
4. understand how Holocaust history is always supported by the reasons for recalling it and the ways in which it is passed down to us
5. identify whenever aesthetic interpretations of the Holocaust contain a fascination with fascism
6. evaluate the value of introducing survivor memories into rational history
7. distinguish between memoir and fiction
8. debate whether Holocaust art, literature and architecture in a post-Holocaust world should have a redemptory message

Honors Topics

- I. The Problem of Representation
- II. The Function of Memory
- III. Art as Mourning and Testimony
- IV. The Americanization of the Holocaust

- V. Survivor Testimony and Reception
- VI. Second Generation Narratives
- VII. Museums and Monuments in Europe and the United States
- VIII. The Commodification of the Holocaust
- IX. Art, Literature and Architecture of the Holocaust in an Antiredemptory Age

Honors Requirements

4 Short Papers – two of these papers at least will be in response to films viewed during the semester. One of these films will be Shoah that will be viewed in part in class

4 Long Papers - the Papers will involve research. One of these will involve researching monuments that have been erected in Europe and contrasting it to the USHMM. As an alternative to this paper students may erect or draw a model Holocaust Memorial accompanied by a rationale for their monument and present it to the class.