

GENDER, RACE & THE HOLOCAUST

GNDR_ST 382 / HISTORY 393



The aim of this seminar is to introduce students to the history and historiography of race and gender during the Holocaust. As with many historical events, race and gender interacted dynamically and created the particular context of Nazi-occupied Europe – a place where Jewish men and women suffered in particular ways, German men and women participated in particular ways, and other racial groups – men and women alike – were targeted, collaborated, resisted and rescued. We will read a variety of texts that explore the influences that shaped the people’s behaviors and responses during the Holocaust. Racism sat directly in the center of the Nazi world view. Once the Nazis got into power, they sought to translate ideology into policy. Still, their racial policies evolved over time, spurred by opportunism, innovation, and war. And too, Jewish men and women responded to the Nazi onslaught in ways similar and divergent. Sexism was also an important aspect of the Nazi perspective. While they embraced an anti-feminist stance, the Nazis nevertheless sought to incorporate “German” women into the national community and women participated actively in the implementation of Nazi racism.

Sarah Cushman

TTh 3:30-4:50pm
Locy Hall 305