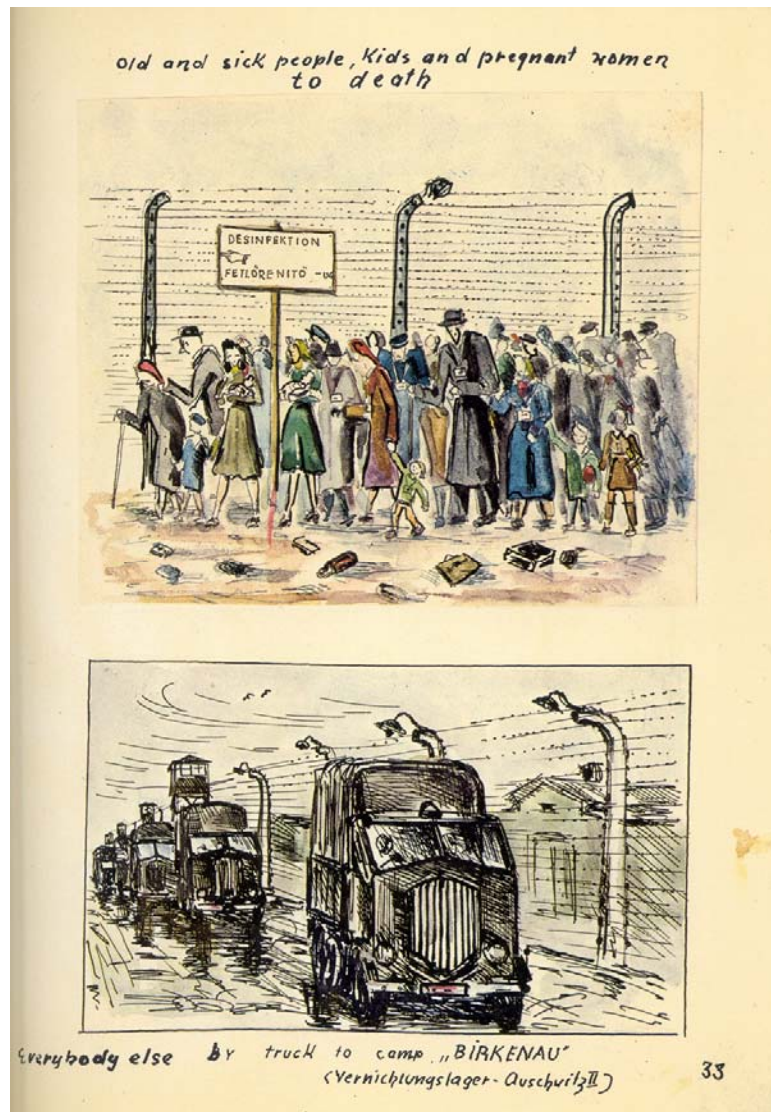


The Shoah (Holocaust) in Literature and the Arts

COLT-485, Class #22067R, Fall 2009

Tues & Thurs 3:30-4:50, THH 121



We should abandon forever the unfortunate term of “holocaust” [i.e., “a burnt offering to God”] used by Elie Wiesel and others and adopt the rare biblical term of SHOAH [“an earthshaking human annihilation of the greatest magnitude”] as used by Claude Lanzmann in his filmed documentary series in 1985 and more recently by Steven Spielberg in *Schindler’s List* in 1993 and in the name of his Shoah Foundation, now at USC, which has collected and preserved the testimonies of 50,000 survivors. To quote from Raoul Hilberg’s study: “...the missionaries of Christianity had said, in effect, to the Jews: *‘You may not live among us as Jews’*. The secular rulers who followed them from the Middle Ages then decided: *‘You may not live among us’*, and the Nazis finally decreed, *‘You may not live’*.”

Week 1-2: The demonization/dehumanization of the Jews around the world in verbal and visual imagery throughout history up to Henry Ford’s *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. **Week 3:** Racist ideologies; the rise of the Nazi party; “Kristallnacht”; the Berlin Olympic Games; Films: Leni Riefenstahl, *Triumph of the Will* and *Olympia*. **Week 4:** Cleansing the German Reich and Europe of “biological parasites”: Jews, gypsies, the mentally disabled, homosexuals, etc.; Play: Brecht, *The Jewish Wife*; Film: Lothar Mendes, *Jew Suss* (1940). **Week 5:** The mass deportations; Text: Aharon Appelfeld, *Marienburg 1939*; Film: Louis Malle, *Au revoir les enfants*. **Week 6:** Death behind a theatrical stage at Theresienstadt; Opera: *Emperor of Atlantis*; Poems and pictures by children: ...*I never saw another butterfly*. **Weeks 7-9:** Texts: Elie Wiesel, *Night*, and Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*; Short film: Alain Resnais, *Night and Fog*. **Weeks 10-11:** Madness and Creativity; Poem: Paul Celan, “Death Fugue”; Texts: Silvano Arieti, *The Parnas*, and Charlotte Salomon, *My Life as Theatre*; Film: Chaplin, *The Great Dictator*. **Weeks 12-15:** Texts: Ka-Tsetnik 135633, *Shivitti: A Vision*, and Jakov Lind, *Soul of Wood*; Films: *The Trial of Adolf Eichmann*, Spielberg, *Schindler’s List* and *The Last Days*, and Claude Lanzmann, *Shoah* (excerpts).

Grading: Active participation: 30%; mid-term paper: 30%; final individualized project: 40%.

COLT L/M/CT Track: This is a Literature Concentration Course.

Professor Moshe Lazar

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