

Holocaust and Genocide

SPRING 2021: HIST 595~ MWF 1:30-2:20 ~ WALC 3090

"This story should not have happened – it did. We believed such stories cannot happen again – they are."
-Judith Sherman, *Say the Name*

Professor Klein-Pejšová (PAY-shova)

Email: rkleinpe@purdue.edu

Office: University Hall 313

Office hours: W 2:30-4:30pm, or by appointment



"Artobiography" by Tibor Spitz

The implications of the attempted destruction of European Jewry by the Nazis during the Second World War, what we term the Holocaust – along with millions of Roma (Gypsies), Poles, Russians, homosexuals, the handicapped, and others – are terrifyingly far-reaching. Genocide and ethnic cleansing are central to our understanding of the twentieth century. This course examines the historical origins and practices of genocide, centering on the causes and nature of the Holocaust as historical event, including its aftermath, problems of its representation and commemoration. We will work through a comparative framework to explore the Armenian genocide during World War One, Cambodia in the 1970s, and the cases of Rwanda and Yugoslavia in the 1990s. We will make use of primary sources and secondary literature, fiction, memoirs, film and other media in the course of our examination. Counts toward the Human Rights Minor.