

RELI 4850 T / 5850 X

Seminar in the Study of Religion, Western Traditions: Holocaust Responses

This seminar explores the historical development of religious, philosophical, and cultural responses to the Holocaust in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, with an emphasis on Jewish perspectives and the questions the Holocaust raises today. The seminar moves chronologically and thematically through a range of religious, philosophical and cultural responses to the Shoah. These include voices from the Holocaust period itself, from Jewish and Christian sermons, letters within religious communities, rabbinic response, and Nazi propaganda films. Post-Holocaust responses include Jewish, Christian and Muslim philosophical, theological and cultural responses, feminist theology, documentary and popular film, video survivor testimony, literature –fiction and memoir, museums and public memorials, official commemoration and educational curricula. These responses constitute a richly layered intertextual discourse that plays out within and among particular communities as well as participating in public narratives about the Holocaust in Canada, Israel and around the world. As such, the seminar focuses on interdisciplinary questions of history, memory, representation, identity, and public life. The final project is a digital humanities project that is also experiential providing students with real-world experience in developing public-facing research. Students will be identifying, curating, and developing resources for the study of the Holocaust for secondary and post-secondary students and teachers to be made available through the Carleton University Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies web site. Students may optionally apply to assist researching and producing a short documentary film based on raw footage filmed in 2021 of survivors and second generation speaking about the Holocaust.