Questions by Chapter for Course Text
by Yehuda Bauer
Course LIT 2174- “Literature & Multimedia of the Holocaust”
CRN____________
Professor Richard A. Gair, East Campus, 8-132

Gordon Rule

This rule applies to all students prior to receipt of an associate in arts (A.A.) degree from a public community college or university or prior to entry into upper division of a public university. For the purpose of this rule, a grade of "C" or better shall be considered successful completion.

Writing Requirements:

In accordance with Florida Department of Education Administrative Rule Number 6A-10.030, all students are mandated to complete satisfactorily courses which include written assignments requiring a total of 24,000 words.

In light of the above State requirement I have indicated a minimum number of words that must be written for each chapter essay question. If you count up the minimum number of words I have listed for each, the total is the required 6,000 words. The other chapter questions will be assigned in whole or part as we do each chapter. Written responses are required for these, but may be less formal. Essay answers will be collected and graded. IT IS IMPERATIVE that you run the WORD COUNT tool in Microsoft Word when you are done with each essay answer. Take that number and type it at the end of the answer in boldface font. These will add up towards the required minimum of 6,000 words. I will keep these after they are graded so that I have legal proof you have completed this State requirement. I RECOMMEND YOU PRINT 2 COPIES OF EACH ESSAY ANSWER. One is for me and the other is for your portfolio.

ALL WRITTEN WORK MUST BE WORD PROCESSED IN DOUBLE SPACED, 12 POINT TIMES NEW ROMAN FONT. HANDWRITTEN ANSWERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. PLAN AHEAD AND PRINT EARLY AS YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN A COMPUTER-PRINTER GLITCH MAY ARISE; A PRINTER RIBBON OR TONER DIES, ETC.

REMEMBER: ONLY THE ESSAY QUESTIONS ARE DUE ACCORDING TO THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE. THOSE QUESTIONS ARE IN BOLD AND HAVE **** BEFORE THEM. THE OTHER QUESTIONS FOR EACH CHAPTER ARE THERE TO GUIDE YOUR READING AND STUDying. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS WHEN DISCUSSING THE CHAPTER. WRITTEN ANSWERS TO THOSE ARE NOT REQUIRED UNLESS ASSIGNED SPECIFICALLY.
**** Chapter 1- Essay Question (answer- minimum of 300 words- do Word Count)

What relationship do you see between the official policies towards the Jews and the actions taken against them? How did this influence the actions of the Jews (their response)?

**** Chapter 2- Essay Question (answer- minimum of 300 words- do Word Count)

Define anti-Semitism. What were some of the false beliefs and rumors that existed towards the Jews? How did this relate to the rise of anti-Semitism?

Chapter 3- World War I and its Aftermath

1. Explain what the Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917 said.

2. Explain what a “pogrom” is and how the Jews in the Ukraine responded to them.

3. Chapter 3 mentions something called “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.”

   What is this?

4. World War I is described as a major departure from the history of mankind.

   Explain this.

5. In what part of Europe did most of the Jews live?

6. What was the motivation of Chaim Weizman’s work in Britain?

7. What was the political viewpoint declared by the Polish Catholic Press Agency in 1936?

8. What was the Soviet policy towards Jews during the early 1900’s?

9. In 1929 the US passed immigration reforms. What were they and what was the effect?

10. Explain the attitude towards the Jews in the US at that time.
**** Chapter 3 Essay Question (answer- minimum of 300 words- do Word Count) -
Describe the progression of attitudes and policies towards Jews from World War I to 1933.

Chapter 4- The Weimar Republic

1. After World War I the Allies demanded “reparations” from Germany. Explain what this was and the effect it had on Germany and its economy.
2. How did the German government respond to the demand for “reparations”?
3. Why is Hitler’s “Mein Kampf” significant in understanding Nazi ideology?
4. What are some of the ideas Hitler puts forth in “Mein Kampf”?
5. What was the worldwide effect of the 1929 New York Stock Exchange collapse?
6. What enabled the Nazi party to grow stronger?
7. How did Hitler (after becoming Chancellor of Germany in 1933) classify countries as an enemy of friend?
8. What did the Nazis mean when they referred to “The Jewish Problem”?

**** Chapter 4- essay question (answer- minimum of 300 words-(do Word Count)
Describe the relationship between Hitler’s Nazi ideology and the treatment of the Jews.

Chapter 5-The Evolution of Nazi Jewish Policy, 1933-1938

1. Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain of Britain allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland in a policy that became known as “appeasement”. What does this mean? Do you think he was right in his decision?
2. Which Nazi law first identified “non-Aryans”? Why is this significant in light of what you know so far about the Holocaust?
3. Why do you think most German Jews felt that Hitler’s rule could not last, and as a result they did not attempt to escape early?

4. Summarize the Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honor. Why is this a significant and unusual step taken by the German government?

5. During the 1936 Olympics Hitler suspended the Nuremberg Laws. Explain why.

6. What was Hitler’s reason for waging war? What was the major step he saw that needed to be accomplished to attain this goal?

7. Describe the events of November 9, 1938 which became known as Kritallnacht. Why is this a significant event?

**** Chapter 5 essay question- (answer- minimum of 500 words- do Word Count)

Summarize the gradual evolution and result of the Nazi policy towards Jews during 1933-1938.

Chapter 6- German Jewry in the Prewar Era, 1933-1938

1. Why did the Jews remain in Germany during years of 1933-1938? How does that decision relate to their view of the Nazis’ anti-Semitic policies?

2. For the Jews who did not care to emigrate, why did life become so difficult?

3. What was the chief obstacle to emigration to other countries?

4. What makes 1938 a turning point in Germany for European Jewry?

5. Describe the purpose of the Evian Conference of July 1938. What were the results of this conference?

6. What turning point took place on September 1, 1939? Why was this a turning point?

**** Chapter 6 essay question- (answer- minimum of 300 words- do Word Count)
Identify the reasons Jews wanted to emigrate and the various obstacles they faced to emigrate.

Chapter 7- Poland- The Seige Begins

1. List in order, the sequence of events that took place starting with September 1, 1939.

2. Using the Map Analysis Worksheet, study the map on page 148 of the text. Write a brief paragraph summarizing in your words what this map tells you.

3. What is the significance of Reinhard Heydrich’s letter of September 21, 1939 (pages 155-158)?

4. What was the reason the Nazi’s established the ghettoes?

5. What was the role of the Judenraet in the ghetto?

6. Who was Mordachai Hayim Rumkowski? What was the role and attitude in the Lodz ghetto? Why does history see him as a controversial figure?

7. Why did Adam Czerniakow, leader of the Warsaw Judenraete, commit suicide? Do you think he took the right action under the circumstances?

**** Chapter 7 essay question- (answer- minimum of 500 words- do Word Count)

Distinguish between each ghetto and its conditions and leaders. How were they similar and how were they different? (compare and contrast)

Chapter 8- Life in the Ghettoes

1. Describe conditions in the Warsaw Ghetto.

2. Write a statement that shows the conclusion you have drawn from your examination of the Table 8.1 (on page 185) of your text?
3. Historian Lucy Dawidowicz describes “The will to survive” in this chapter. Explain how this can be seen as a form of resistance to the Nazi oppression.

4. The word “resistance” is so often thought of as “physical resistance.” Give specific examples of non-physical resistance the Jews displayed.

5. How was the Theresienstadt concentration camp unique compared to the other camps? Why?

**** Chapter 8 essay question- (answer- minimum of 500 words- do Word Count)

Summarize the conditions in the various ghettos and what restrictions they had on the Jews. Tell how the Jews resisted these restrictions.

Chapter 9- The Final Solution

1. June 22, 1941 Germany invaded the Soviet Union – Russia (USSR). Explain why this is another major event and turning point in the Nazi attempt to kill all Jews.

2. What procedure did the Germans use at first to start eliminating the Jews of the Soviet occupied areas?

3. January 20, 1942, the Wannsee Conference was held. Describe the purpose of the conference, what took place at the conference, and the final outcome of the conference.

4. What was Adolph Eichmann’s function? How did he view his job?

5. Describe the work of Dr. Josef Mengele.

6. What is your reaction to the survivor testimony given in your text by Victor Frankl and Filip Müller?

**** Chapter 9 essay question- (answer- minimum of 500 words- do Word Count)
In a paragraph or two describe the “Final Solution” and the steps the Nazis took to implement it.

**** Chapter 10- Western European Jewry, 1940-1944 essay question- (answer- minimum of 500 words- do Word Count)

Write a summary of the chapter.

Chapter 11- Resistance

1. What conclusions do you draw from the study of the map “Jewish Revolts 1942-1945” on page 268 of your text? Use the Map Analysis Worksheet.
2. At first Jews did not outwardly resist. Why not? What happened to change that lack of resistance into active revolt?
3. How did the cohesion of Jewish families influence the attempts at open resistance in a way that discouraged it?
4. What was the attitude of the Judenraete leaders towards resistance? Do you believe it was wise under the circumstances?
5. Describe the role of the JFO in Warsaw. Why is April 19, 1942 a significant day in the Warsaw Ghetto?
6. How did the partisans differ from the ghetto resisters?
7. What occurred at Sobibor Death Camp on October 14, 1943?

**** Chapter 11 essay question- (answer- minimum of 500 words- do Word Count)

Describe at least 3 instances of armed resistance by Jews in the camps and ghettos.

Chapter 12- Rescue

1. What was meant by the term “the Righteous”?
2. Describe the work of one of the “Righteous” persons described in the text.
3. What was the content of the first detailed account of mass murder that reached the West (USA) in May-June 1942?

**** Chapter 12 essay question- (answer- minimum of 500 words- do Word Count)-

Summarize the chapter.

Chapter 13- The Last Years of the Holocaust, 1943-1945

1. What was the attitude of Rumania towards Jews?

2. Why is it correct to say that the response to the plight of European Jews by the US was late in coming?

3. Why was the demand to bomb Auschwitz in June 1944 a controversial one?

4. What role did Raoul Wallenberg play in the rescue efforts of the Jews?

5. What was the purpose of the Death Marches and the Nazi action to start to dismantle their own death camps?

6. What caused the Holocaust?

**** Chapter 13 essay question- (answer- minimum of 300 words- do Word Count)-

Do you think another Holocaust is possible? Fully explain your reasons.

Chapter 14- Aftermath and Revival

1. Why did most of the 500,000 people who were liberated from the camps try to emigrate to Palestine?

2. Why was it psychologically impossible for Jews to re-establish life in Europe after the Holocaust?

3. Describe what happened on May 14, 1948. Why is this an especially significant event in the aftermath of the Holocaust?

**** Chapter 14 essay question- (answer- minimum of 700 words- do Word Count)-
Write a paper summarizing what lessons you have learned from reading this book.

Explain how those lessons and new learnings can be used to create a better world.

Are these lessons relevant to today? Is study of the Holocaust relevant to today’s world? How or how not?

If you have answered every essay question you with the minimum words required, you will have met the Gordon Rule State Requirement of 6,000 words. Keep them in a folder-portfolio so that you may turn this in at the end of the course for my records. Make sure you have saved all 14 files on your computer in case you need access to them later.