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COM 2416

Dr. Zimmerman

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COM 2416-01 The Holocaust Dr. Zimmerman, Instr. Fall 2018

Reflecting on Your Research Project (Midterm)

This assignment will count as your midterm exam;

there will be one additional midterm question during class .

Purpose: To build on your learning from Grace Kim’s library presentation and previous WebQuests by reflecting on and researching topics of interest to you. The assignment has specific goals, as follows:

1. To embark on preliminary research that may or may not result in the selection of your research project topic. Observe that I use the terms “research project,” “research paper,” and “term paper” as synonyms.
2. To find and correctly document appropriate sources that you may or may not use in your research paper, thus learning how to avoid the charge of plagiarism.
3. To appreciate research methods as a means of furthering your own individual learning.

4. To develop intellectual curiosity about a topic that already holds a great deal of interest for you.
5. To do a great deal of reading on a chosen topic of interest to you that will give you a head start on your research.

Dr. Zim's personal purpose: as an undergraduate professor, it is my hope that the majority of my students will someday pursue graduate level studies. As someone who has written a master's thesis and a doctoral dissertation, I understand the necessity for students to learn appropriate research methods. If you have not done so already in your academic career, you can start now, with this assignment. I also learned from personal experience that research is effortless if you are deeply interested in your topic. The greater the interest, the easier the research becomes. To quote my mother (who had two master's degrees and a Ph.D.), "It is not work if you love what you are doing." Developing intellectual curiosity about a subject is imperative to make this assignment anything but a chore. By doing so, your research can become a labor of love as well as a source of pride.

Mechanical Directions:

Save this file in Microsoft Word, in the following format:

Midterm YourLastName. Thus, my file would be as follows: Midterm Zimmerman

PUT YOUR NAME AT THE TOP OF THE FILE. STUDENTS ARE STILL NEGLECTING TO DO THIS.

Put your answers in **black** font after each question. **Do not delete the questions.** Be sure the numbering system remains true—1a., 1b., etc. Each answer should follow the question it answers.

Leave all text left justified. It makes it very difficult to insert comments if you justify the text.

Use Microsoft's spell check and grammar check to avoid making mechanical errors in spelling and punctuation. Points deducted for mechanical errors (misspelled words, typos, grammatical and punctuation errors), or for evidence that you failed to proof read your work. **I will deduct up to 15 points off for not doing so.**

Assignment due: Email to me by midnight, **Friday, October 19, 2018.**

Miriam@ndnu.edu

Suggestion: Read the entire assignment before starting to answer these questions. As you conduct your research, reflect on the process of research as well as on the content of the information you are researching, so that you will be able to answer the reflection questions at the end. Reflection Question #12 is worth 15 points, more than any other question. Thus, you should spend the most time on it.

Time needed to complete this assignment: For a three unit class, it is expected that students should prepare for three hours outside of class each week. Since this assignment covers two weeks of homework, I anticipate that most students will need six hours to complete it.

Note: Wikipedia is not an appropriate academic source for your research paper.

Questions:

1. (5 points) Topic selection. Browse to

<https://www.ushmm.org/learn/students/the-holocaust-a-learning-site-for-students>

- a. List two different topics of interest to you about the Holocaust that you have not explored before. Describe the topics and why these topics interest you. What about the topic piqued your interest? Why? Why is this topic important? You will have to click on the icon to see what is entailed in each topic. In your answer, be sure it is clear about which topic you are writing. I am looking for a short answer, but proof that you explored both of your chosen topics; a paragraph or two should be sufficient for each topic.

The night of broken glass- This is the night of November 9 1938 where there was extreme violence against Jews across the Reich. Most Jew's homes were raided and looted, synagogues burnt, businesses looted and broken down, schools, hospitals and cemeteries looted and dozens of Jews were killed. This happened after the 17, 000 Jews from Poland who had been expelled by Germany were denied entry into their land making a teenager, angered by the action; shoot a German diplomat, fuelling the problem.

The final solution- Though unclear on what was the actual reason to the final solution, this was an attempt by the German Nazis to totally

exterminate Jews from Europe. In this attempt mass murders were committed through gassing, shootings, terror acts, starvation and disease culminating to a total of six million Jews killed. This was actually two-thirds of the European Jews.

- b. Add to this list the topics that interested you from your work in the library with Ms. Kim and/or from previous WebQuests or from any other Holocaust related source. List and write a one-sentence description of at least five topics in the order of your interest in them. Number one should be the topic in which you have the most interest.

The murder of the handicapped: The physically challenged and the mentally challenged in Germany were viewed as useless to the society. Hitler ordered that all of them be exterminated in order to make German a master race.

Jewish life in Europe before the Holocaust: Life prior to the Holocaust was bliss and normal. Nine million Jews occupied Europe and engaged in all kinds of activities, something that permanently changed when two thirds of them were killed.

The survivors: The surviving Jews were faced with almost impossible means of survival, most of them being killed and rejected as refugees.

Deportations: This was the mass transportation of Jews to concentration camps in occupied Poland in preparation of the final solution.

Mobile killing squads: Known as the Einsatzgruppen, the mobile squads killed Jews indiscriminately, in some places wiping them out forever

- c. Describe any two topics from Question #1.b that you did not describe in Question #1.a., and why these topics interest you. **You forgot to mention the appeal of these topics to you. -1** In your answer, follow the directions in Question #1.a.

The murder of the handicapped: Hitler had an idea that German was a master race that did not deserve to have any useless elements. As such, the incurably ill, and the physically and mentally disabled were rounded up and killed in fulfillment of this pursuit.

Deportations: In preparing for the holocaust, Hitler had gained enough power and influence in Europe. His men rounded up Jews from all over the continent and transported them to concentration camps in occupied Poland. The transportations/deportations were in sealed freights where most died on the way. The survivors were put in concentration camps where they were gassed and shot to death.

2. (5 points) Choose one of the topics that interests you the most as a potential term paper project, probably your number one topic from Question 1.b. You are not locked into using this topic for your research project, even after completing this assignment. Using the research tools presented by Ms. Kim, first, refine this topic into key concepts. From these key concepts, generate specific search terms

so that you have three to five different phrases or words that are suitable search terms for your chosen topic.

- a. What are the key concepts and search terms you used? List and label each set appropriately, as either key concept or search term. You do not have to write in complete sentences for this answer.

Topic: The murder of the handicapped

Terms: Motives, consequences, aftermath, results

What about “key concepts?”

- b. Use these search terms in actual searches. Summarize in a paragraph or two the information you learned about your topic after you completed these searches. You should summarize at least three different aspects of your topic, based on the information you found from three different searches.

There was a link between euthanasia and the final solution in eliminating specific groups of people that Hitler deemed not fit according to Friedlander (2002b).

Despite the seemingly common untoward perpetration of the Jews in Europe, Hitler **was very keep** **not clear** in expressing his hatred that he made the rest of Europe join his course (Crowe, 2018).

There was a predetermined method of extermination that was consistently against the handicapped, the Jews and the Gypsies, all in the name of purifying Germany (Friedlander, 2002a).

3. (10 points) Find two relevant and authoritative **print** sources on your chosen topic, using the library catalogue in Gellert Library (available electronically from offsite by logging on, as instructed by Ms. Kim). Find the books in the library or online so that you are able to peruse them. By “perusing,” I mean to look at the table of contents, find sections of the book relevant to your topic, and read some of the relevant sections or chapters on your topic.

- a. Cite each source using APA or MLA format, depending on which format your field of study uses. For example, if you are a psychology major, you would use APA style, and thus have a list of “References.” If you are an English major, you would use MLA style, and thus have a list of “Works Cited.” There are very real differences in the two formatting styles. If you do not know which format your field uses, ask one of your professors. List your annotations in alphabetical order. “Annotations” is another term for “citations,” the noun form of the verb “to cite.”

Browning, C. (2007). *The Origins of the Final Solution: The Evolution of Nazi Jewish Policy, September 1939-March 1942*. Nebraska: U of Nebraska Press.

Bartov, O. (2013). *Germany's war and the Holocaust: disputed histories*. New York: Cornell University Press.

- b. In a paragraph or two, summarize what you learned about your topic from your perusal of these two books. Be sure you list the book, then what you learned from reading the source; so that it is clear to me that you dipped into each book.

Bartov (2013) looks at the policies that Hitler and the Nazi regime applied in succeeding to cause such extensive atrocities against a population. Initially planned as a way of expelling the millions of Jews in Europe, the policies changed to systematic murders of this population, a fact that really led to the deaths of the millions (Browning, 2007).

- 4. (10 points) Find two relevant and authoritative **digital** sources on your chosen topic, using some of the library databases in Gellert Library. These sources can be peer-reviewed scholarly articles, survivor testimony, newspaper articles, etc.

- a. Cite each source using APA or MLA format, depending on which format your field of study uses. Follow the directions in Question #3.a. to complete your answer.

Hoskins, S. A. (2005). Nurses and National Socialism a Moral Dilemma: one historical example of a route-to euthanasia. *Nursing Ethics*, 12(1), 79-91.

Lindsay, M. (2015). Susan Benedict and Linda Shields (eds) *Nurses and Midwives in Nazi Germany; The “Euthanasia programs”*, New York: Routledge, 2014. ISBN 978-0-415-89665-8. *European Journal for Person Centered Healthcare*, 3(2), 267-273.

- b. In a paragraph or two, summarize what you learned about your topic from your perusal of these two sources. Be sure you list the source, then what you learned from reading the source; so that it is clear to me that you dipped into each.

Lindsay (2015) reports on the manner nurses were used in the **holocaust** to murder the handicapped; hiding as mercy killings but essentially with racial reasons. Hoskins (2005) also adds to this issue stating the manner in which the nurses were left with a moral dilemma.

5. (10 points) Evaluate your four sources from Questions #3 and #4. Use these two websites to help you evaluate your sources. For each topic, you will have an “a” answer and a “b” answer. List each of your four topics separately, followed by your “a” answer and your “b” answer for each.

<https://bowvalleycollege.libguides.com/research-help/evaluation>

Click on and read, “Primary, Secondary or Tertiary Sources”; learn the differences as described in this pdf file. Label your sources according to whether they are a primary, secondary, or tertiary source.

- Hoskins, S. A. (2005). Nurses and National Socialism a Moral Dilemma: one historical example of a route-to euthanasia. *Nursing Ethics*, 12(1), 79-91. (Secondary)
- Lindsay, M. (2015). Susan Benedict and Linda Shields (eds) Nurses and Midwives in Nazi Germany; The “Euthanasia programs”, New York: Routledge, 2014. ISBN 978-0- 415-89665-8. *European Journal for Person Centered Healthcare*, 3(2), 267-273. (Secondary)
- Browning, C. (2007). The Origins of the Final Solution: The Evolution of Nazi Jewish Policy, September 1939-March 1942. Nebraska: U of Nebraska Press. (Secondary)
- Bartov, O. (2013). *Germany's war and the Holocaust: disputed histories*. New York: Cornell University Press. (Secondary)

<http://flinders.libguides.com/evaluate>

Click on and read, “A guide to information credibility in a “post-truth” world” Evaluate each of your four sources according to the “C.R.A.A.P.” test, outlined in this pdf file.

Being two books and two scholarly sources and weighting them against the CRAAP evaluation tool, the works were credible

6. (5 points) After conducting this research, what additional questions do you have about your chosen topic? List three to five questions you have about your topic.
 1. **what** led to the idea that eliminating the handicapped would free Germany and purify it?
 2. Where were the other nations as the **holocaust** was going on?
 3. How comes Hitler was able to convince the wider Europe in Jewish atrocities?

7. (10 points) Develop a thesis statement. Usually, a thesis statement evolves from answering a research question. In addition, researchers notice recurring themes, images, or patterns in their research. As a result of your research and the resulting questions you have, write a thesis statement that meets the criteria in this website: <http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/tips/thesis/>

In consideration of the fact that the **holocaust** is one of the darkest moments in human history, the horrendous murder of the handicapped remains unfathomable. To avoid a repeat of such actions, the motivation behind the killings and the role played by Hitler should be unearthed. **It was all about keeping the Aryan race pure and not polluting it with inferior genes. Propaganda convinced the populace as to the truth of racial Nazi ideology.**

8. (10 points) Writing an introduction. Imagine that you are writing a letter home, and you want to explain to your parents what you are working on. Write an introduction to your topic by imagining that you are explaining it to an interested parent or friend who knows very little about the topic.

Since Adolf Hitler was declared the German Chancellor in 1933, **life the millions of Jews I** **not clear; evidently you did not proof read your work. I am sure you would have caught this error if you did.** Europe took an unexpected turn. Hitler's rise was the beginning of the Jewry fall and the start of one of the darkest moments in human history. The **holocaust**, a series of events that saw the demise of over six million Jews is discussed. The murder of the handicapped, a period within the **holocaust** is one of the issues that this paper has taken a keen interest on, discussing its motives and reasons behind such policies.

9. (5 points) Avoiding plagiarism. Browse to this website from Yale University:

<https://ctl.yale.edu/writing/using-sources>

Read all the topics listed so that you can return to the site if you need additional help in citing sources. Click on “Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism.”

Reflect on the meaning of plagiarism. In your own words (no copying and pasting), what is plagiarism? Why is plagiarism one of the most egregious of academic crimes? How will you avoid the charge of plagiarism in your term paper?

Plagiarism is use of someone’s work while purporting it to be yours. Plagiarism prevents originality and is a form of intellectual property theft. It can be avoided by being as original as possible and where necessary, acknowledging the use of other works through correct referencing.

10. (5 points) Reflection about research. Notice the difference between writing a report and writing a research paper, from the Carnegie Mellon University

website: <https://www.cmu.edu/teaching/solveproblem/strat-cantresearch/cantresearch-01.html>

How do you see the difference between research and writing a report? Do not copy and paste information. Make the distinction in your own words.

A research paper aims at discussing a certain topic using data to convince an audience of a position. It results to a certain unique perspective on an issue. A report informs on a certain topic, discussing information that is gathered for the particular topic. A report has no unique perspective.

11. (10 points) Reflect on the process of research itself. What do you see as your particular strengths when it comes to conducting research? What are your personal challenges? How will you overcome your challenges? Why is research so important in studying genocides and genocide denial? Why is research in general so important?

The process of research requires effort and expertise. One needs to be patient as they sift through the various available sources and data to substantial convince their articulation. I am at times challenged in getting the right sources something that I am handling by following the suggested database usage techniques.

Research in studying genocide is important **s it** might bring out trends necessary for mitigating future atrocities.

12. (15 points) Reflection question about your topic. As a result of this preliminary research, how did your attitude change about your topic? Did you find a different focus? Was your intellectual curiosity piqued? If so, how? If not, why not? How would you deepen your curiosity about and interest in this topic? What other reflections do you have about your topic?

I have learnt a lot about the **holocaust** and got more interest into why the Nazi regime needed to exterminate all the handicapped.

13. Feedback. No points, but points deducted for not answering.

- a. Which question brought you more in touch with your chosen topic?

Question 7 made me realize what I actually needed to learn on my chosen topic

- b. Which question would you delete? Why? None. I find all relevant

- c. How likely are you to use the topic you chose as the subject for your research project? Highly likely since I developed the interest
 - d. As a result of this assignment, has your attitude toward research changed? If so, how? If not, why not? Yes, I find research very informing
14. Any other comments? None as for now

Maha,

You are too good of a student not to proof read your work. This means that after you finished and ready to submit, you read it thoroughly from start to finish to make sure there are no errors; a last minute fail-safe process. Still, excellent work; obviously, you completed the exercise.

Note: “Holocaust” is a proper noun when referring to the destruction of the Jews during the Nazi era. Thus, it requires a capital “H.”

Grade: 94% = A

References

- Bartov, O. (2013). *Germany's war and the Holocaust: disputed histories*. New York: Cornell University Press.
- Browning, C. (2007). *The Origins of the Final Solution: The Evolution of Nazi Jewish Policy, September 1939-March 1942*. Nebraska: U of Nebraska Press.
- Crowe, D. M. (2018). *The Holocaust: roots, history, and aftermath*. Routledge.
- Friedlander, H. (2002a). Euthanasia and the final solution. In *The Final Solution* (pp. 61-71). Routledge.
- Friedlander, H. (2002b). Step by step: The expansion of murder, 1939–1941. In *The Holocaust* (pp. 73-86). Routledge.
- Hoskins, S. A. (2005). Nurses and National Socialism a Moral Dilemma: one historical example of a route-to euthanasia. *Nursing Ethics*, 12(1), 79-91.
- Lindsay, M. (2015). Susan Benedict and Linda Shields (eds) *Nurses and Midwives in Nazi Germany; The “Euthanasia programs”*, New York: Routledge, 2014. ISBN 978-0- 415-89665-8. *European Journal for Person Centered Healthcare*, 3(2), 267-273.