



Literature of the Shoah

Dr. Miriam Sivan

Course Number: 702.2154.b.01

Semester: Spring 2010

Class Time: Mondays 12:00-15:00

Class Location:

Office Hours: Thursdays 9-10

Location: Room 1601, Eshkol Tower

Phone: 04-824-0625

E-Mail: msivan33@gmail.com

Course Description:

The *Shoah* is a historical fact which continues to baffle, appall, and chide humanity. In this course, we will be reading authors whose work grapples with the multi-faceted implications of this war and its myriad experiences. Some of the authors we will be reading are people who lived through the worst of Europe, 1933-1947. Some will be by children of those who did. And some of the literature we will read has been written by Jews and non-Jews who struggle to fathom the unfathomable, and who are not only keen on 'never forgetting,' but are as frequently intent on trying to place themselves and their generation in relation to this tragedy.

Some of the 'classics' of *Shoah* literature will be on the syllabus. But lesser known works by young European, American, and Israeli authors will also appear. Most of what we read will be prose, but we will also be looking at poetry and a play.

Course Requirements:

- Weekly Reading Assignments
- Class Participation
- Play Participation
- Mid-Term Exam
- Term Paper

Final Grade:

Mid-Term Exam	45%
Play Participation	5%
Term Paper	50%



Course Outline and Reading List

22/2: Introduction to Course -- poetry by Paul Celan, Dan Pagis, Nellie Sachs

1/3: "The Hunt," Aharon Appelfeld
"The End" and "The Threshold," Ida Fink

8/3: *Night*, Elie Wiesel

15/3: excerpts from *The Periodic Table*, Primo Levi
"Sh'ma" by Levi

22/3: excerpts from *This Way to the Gas, Ladies and Gentleman*, Tadeusz Borowski

Passover Vacation

12/4: excerpts from *None of Us Will Return*, Charlotte Delbo

26/4: "The Woman from Hamburg," Hanna Krall
"The Shawl", Cynthia Ozick

3/5: *Lady of the Castle*, Leah Goldberg
"Morning in the Park among the Nannies," Savyon Liebrecht

MIDTERM HANDED OUT

10/5: *Nightwords*, David Roskies

MIDTERM HANDED IN

17/5: excerpts from *Nightfather*, Carl Friedman
"Tumblers," Nathan Englander

24/5: "Cattle Car," Thane Rosenbaum
"Shoes," Etgar Keret

31/5: "The Third Generation," Tova Reich
"The Last Words on Earth," Nicole Krauss

7/6: *Maus I and II*, Art Spiegelman