



Course details

Course title

History: Understanding the Holocaust

Course code

Q00019820

Course date

Start: 04/02/25

End: 05/02/25

Number of classes

2 sessions

Timetable

Tue 4th Feb, 17:00 to 19:00

Wed 5th Feb, 17:00 to 19:00

Tutor

Julian Roberts

Fee range

Free to £14.80

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

The course will examine the background to one of the defining events of the C20th. How and why did the German people come to perpetrate arguably the largest crime of a troubled century? Was this the actions of a relatively small number of antisemitic zealots or did the responsibility go much wider within German society? How far were the populations in the countries where the Holocaust took place active participants in mass murder. As we pause to remember on each Holocaust memorial day, to what extent is our perception and remembrance partial and distorted? These are some of the questions this course will address. The subject matter is inevitably difficult but it remains important to understand how these events came to pass. This course is funded by Greater London Combined Authority.

Course description

The defining image of the Holocaust for many people is that of the ramp at Auschwitz. Beside a line of cattle trucks, people are selected for work or death. The process takes a matter of seconds for each person. It is conducted by a small number of Germans in uniform. Over one million people would die in Auschwitz, the majority in the gas chambers, others worked to death in the surrounding factories and in the camp itself.

Before Auschwitz a less remembered Holocaust took place in two phases. Initially the Jewish population within the occupied areas of the USSR were individually shot at hundreds of sites outside cities, towns and villages. It is estimated that over two million people were murdered in this way. When this became unbearable for the perpetrators, death camps were established on pre-war Polish territory. At Chelmno, Sobibor and Treblinka a tiny number of people briefly escaped death to facilitate the mass murder of their fellow deportees. For most, death came quickly on arrival at the death camps. An estimated 1.7 million people were murdered in this way. In total an estimated six million Jews would be murdered mostly in a short, intense phase of killing between Spring of 1942 and summer of 1943.

The facts of the Holocaust raise uncomfortable questions most notably, but not exclusively, for the Germans who perpetrated the genocide. How could this happen and could it have been prevented?

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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