Holocaust Studies

Instructor: Andrew James

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**Course Description:** This course will focus on the Holocaust that occurred in Europe during World War II. Students will learn the causes, major events surrounding the Holocaust for all involved, and the aftermath of the Holocaust. We will also cover several instances of genocide which have occurred since World War II. This class will be taught using a multimedia and multidisciplinary approach. You should be prepared to see a variety of films and documentaries, watch and read the testimonies of survivors, and read literary works and memoirs. We will attempt to cover the Holocaust from a variety of perspectives, including historical, literary, artistic, scientific, religious, cultural, philosophical, ethical, and diplomatic points of view.

**Special Note:** There is no way to cover this material without touching on some sad, disturbing, and gruesome aspects and actions of human behavior. I have made every effort to insure that the materials are appropriate for high school students. You need to make every effort to insure your behavior and reactions are those of a mature high school student. Several of the films we will view carry an R rating, and you will be required to have your parent/guardian return my emailed permission slip before watching any of the films.

**Expectations:** A minimum grade of 60% is required to pass this class. The Holocaust Studies class is a social studies elective, but is still factored into graduation requirements. Active participation is a MUST in this class. You will be required to complete frequent reflective essays. Group and individual presentations will make up part of your grade. There will be occasional quizzes and tests.

**GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS:** This course is not intentionally difficult, but because much of the content is abstract, some students find that they struggle with it more than they anticipated. Because of this, it is critical that all students do the following to be successful:

* Take Notes over all Lectures and Discussions
* Turn in completed work on time
* Study for Exams
* Contribute to class discussions
* Actively engage in learning – you won’t learn if you just sit back and try to “let it all soak in”

**CLASSROOM RULES:**

* 1. If it is a rule at RPHS, it will be enforced in the classroom.
* 2. Do as you are asked.
* 3. Respect: Space, students, teacher, classroom (give respect to get respect).
* 4. Honesty is the best policy.

**CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF SCHOOL OR CLASS RULES:**

1. Students will be asked to change their behavior.

2. Students will be sent to a Buddy Room and must process with me prior to being readmitted to class. Processing can only be done before or after school, not during passing period and not during class time.

3. Students will receive a detention with me. It must be arranged by the end of the next class, and it must be served within 1 week from the date it was assigned.

4. Student’s parents will be notified of discipline issues.

5. Students will receive an office referral.

**Note:** *Depending upon the nature of the offense, not all steps may be followed. Any school policy violation will automatically result in a referral. If a class rule violation escalates into a larger situation, this may also result in a more stringent consequence.*

**ACADEMIC ISSUES:**

**CLASS MATERIALS:** Students should always have their notebook and a writing utensil for class.

**BELLWORK:** On the white board, you will find a bellwork assignment, the plan for the class and the objectives being covered during class. Students are to begin bellwork as soon as they are seated and will receive ten minutes to complete it before it is due. There will be no late bellwork accepted.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Due dates will be announced at the time an assignment is given. Students are responsible for meeting that deadline. Assignments must be turned in to the appropriate area.

**TUTORING:** Holocaust Studies tutoring is a time for students to get caught up on work they are missing, need help with, or work on group projects. Mandatory tutoring is for students who do not turn in specific assignments or do not meet proficient levels on exams. Failure to attend a mandatory tutoring session will result in a discipline referral.

**ABSENT WORK:** See school policy

**LATE WORK POLICY:** See school policy

**IMPROVEMENT POLICY:** See school policy