

HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE STUDIES (B.A.)

Students examine both the Holocaust and the broader topic of genocide. The graduate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies is prepared to support curriculum development in the social studies and history, may pursue careers in social and governmental service, and may take a teaching certificate in elementary, special, or secondary (social studies) education. The major also prepares students for graduate studies in history as well as Holocaust and genocide studies, and for other post-graduate work, such as law and policymaking.

The program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies is rooted in the conviction that the Holocaust was a cataclysmic episode in the course of Western history, impacting culture, society, politics, ethics, science, and religion; indeed, no discipline in the academy is untouched by its shadow. In a world still tormented by mass murder and genocide, the program also rests on the moral imperative that learning from both the past and present may serve as a basis of hope for the future. The HGS program combines historical background with an interdisciplinary exploration of the Holocaust and other genocidal events through film, literature, philosophy, psychology, sociology, religious studies, women's studies, and other offerings. By understanding such issues as prejudice, discrimination, and racism, students are equipped to analyze contemporary political situations, think critically about ethical responsibility, and respond actively to injustice.

Students selecting a Holocaust and Genocide Studies major are required to complete 36 credit hours in the field, 16 of which (i.e., four courses) are specified below. Of the remaining 5 course electives (20 credits), one must be a Holocaust elective (4 credits) and one must be a genocide elective (4 credits), as designated by course title or description (see below). Three of the five electives (12 credits) must be at the 300-level or higher.