

The Holocaust: *Stories of Survivors, Perpetrators, and Resistance*

Rationale:

The course will provide an opportunity for educators to hear firsthand the stories of Survivors and their challenges to survival. It will explore the repercussions of bullying and the emotional consequences of separation and loss. The course includes an overview of the Holocaust, strategies on how to use Survivor testimonies, age and subject appropriate films for classroom use and a unique collection of artist illustrations about the Holocaust used as a resistance tool before and during WWII.

- Teacher content knowledge
- Diverse Learners
- Instructional Planning
- Cultural Competency
- Curriculum Development

Course Goal:

The goal of this course is to provide educators with an opportunity to learn firsthand from Survivors through their stories, the experiences they faced, and the challenges they overcame in order to live a good and productive life. It is important to understand the impact when freedom is taken away by the use of stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination and scapegoating. Through Survivor testimonies and film the educators will be exposed to the role of perpetrators and resisters in the lives of this very special group of citizens.

Course Objectives:

- Participants will develop a knowledge and understanding of the varied ways Survivors experienced the Holocaust
- Participants will learn the different responses to the events in Europe between 1933 and 1945 through both the written word and the art of the era
- Participants will be exposed to films and books relating to the Holocaust that are appropriate for classroom use
- Participants will learn firsthand from Survivor stories
- Participants will be trained on the IWitness tool from the USC Shoah Foundation
- Participants will take away a new understanding of the Holocaust that will enable them to help their students make positive changes in their own lives
- Participants will learn the roles of the perpetrators and resisters in the lives of Survivors

Course Description:

The course will provide an opportunity for educators to hear firsthand the stories of Survivors and the challenges they faced. It will clarify for teachers the impact on a population when freedom is taken away by the use of stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination and scapegoating. This will also be an opportunity for teachers to learn the role of perpetrators and resisters as they related to annihilation or survival. The content includes an overview of the Holocaust, strategies on how to use Survivor testimonies, age and subject appropriate films for classroom use and a unique collection of artist illustrations about the Holocaust used as a resistance tool before and during WWII. Strategies will be provided on how to use the materials in a classroom setting.

Course Outline:

Session 1

- Explore the USC Shoah Foundation IWitness interactive program. Develop classroom activities using testimonies
- ***Echoes and Reflections*** is planned as a two-hour session and will include an overview for teachers to use in teaching the complex issues of the Holocaust and its lessons for today.

Session 2.

- Show the film ***One Survivor Remembers***, an Academy Award-winning documentary where Gerda Weissmann Klein takes us on a journey of survival. At age 16, Klein's comfortable life was shattered by the Nazi invasion of Poland. She and her family were sent to a series of concentration camps, but she was the only one to survive. On the

occasion of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, HBO and The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum produced this moving and eloquent film. Footage shot on location in contemporary Europe is presented along with a series of interviews and personal photographs. Klein's story is gracefully told as an example of the strength of the human spirit in the face of one of the most devastating events in human memory. ~ Cara Saposnik, Rovi

- A Survivor will be available to educators so they may ask questions about experiences before, during and after the Holocaust.

Session 3

Show *Haven*, a film based upon a true story that happened when President Roosevelt decided to accept a thousand European immigrants in the midst of World War II and the Holocaust. The story of these European refugees stands out as a momentary relaxation of America's restrictive immigration policy. Roosevelt planned to allow the 984 refugees to reside in the United States only until the end of hostilities, but when the end of the war came, the President and Congress were lobbied—with the help of Catholic, Jewish and Protestant clergy—and convinced the officials to let the refugees stay. While the story ended happily for these refugees, sadly it came at the expense of others waiting in displaced persons camps in Europe.

- Readers Theater excerpt from *Two Suns in the Sky* by Miriam Bat-Ami about Oswego.

Session 4

- Include guest speaker, Irvin Ungar who through an illustrated presentation will examine the career of the 20th century artist Arthur Szyk. The artist was a prominent political illustrator during World War II and in many ways was the forerunner to the graphic novel of today. In addition to speaking to high school students and on numerous college campuses about Szyk, Irvin Ungar is also the author of *Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk* and the curator of the traveling exhibition program of The Arthur Szyk Society.

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