



GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES

THE PROGRAM

In September 2000 West Chester University became one of a few institutions of higher education in the nation to offer a master of arts degree in holocaust and genocide studies. Faculty from seven departments have cooperated to design this interdisciplinary curriculum.

The master of arts in holocaust and genocide studies is being offered at WCU to help meet the growing need for teachers and scholars trained in this subject area. Increasingly, more states, including Pennsylvania, are requiring the teaching of the holocaust in secondary schools. Students receiving the master of arts would also be well poised for doctoral work and research positions in museums and nonprofit organizations.

This degree program offers students a strong core of interdisciplinary courses from history, languages arts, philosophy, political science, and psychology.

Because many of the students in this program are working adults, courses typically are offered in the evening and occasionally during the summer.

The master's degree requires the completion of 30 credits, six of which may be a thesis. The graduate coordinator will assist with curriculum choices.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Phase 1 – Core Content (12 semester hours)

Students must complete each course or an approved substitution.

- HIS 523 History of Germany
- HIS 543 Jews in Modern European History

- HIS 545 The Holocaust
- HIS 546 Genocide in Modern History

Phase 2 – Electives (12 semester hours)

Students can choose four electives from the following list:

- COM 503 Communication and Persuasive Influence
- COM 505 Concepts and Criticism of Public Influence
- COM 509 Communication and Conflict Resolution
- CRJ 505 Nature of Crime and Delinquency
- CRJ 555 Race, Class, and Crime
- EDF 589 Social Foundations of Education
- EGE 409 Impact of Holocaust on German Literature and Films
- ENG 573 Literature of the Holocaust
- GER 420 German for Reading Knowledge
- HIS 520 History of Racism, Bigotry, and Prejudice
- HIS 535 Nationalism and Democracy in Europe, 1815-1914
- HIS 536 Europe Since 1914
- HIS 544 The Final Solution in Europe
- HIS 547 A-Socials and the Holocaust
- HIS 548 Women in the Holocaust
- HIS 549 American Perspectives on the Holocaust
- HIS 602 Directed Readings in European History: Jewish History
- HIS 651 Seminar
- HIS 660 Field Studies
- PHI 512 Ethical Theories
- PHI 570 Bioethics

- PHI 588 Philosophical Concepts and Systems: Philosophy of Human Rights
- PHI 590 Independent Studies of Philosophy
- PSC 590 Independent Study in Political Science: Holocaust in Eastern Europe
- PSC 530 Politics of the Holocaust and Genocide
- PSY 509 Advanced Social Psychology
- PSY 540 Multicultural Psychology
- PSY 543 Psychology of Group Processes

Phase 3 – Thesis/Nonthesis Option (6 semester hours)

Choose either the thesis or nonthesis track.

A. Thesis:

- HIS 691 Thesis (6)
- Oral defense of thesis

OR

B. Nonthesis:

- Research paper in HIS 545, 546, 650, 651, or 652 (required in phase 1)
- Written comprehensive examination in the core content (phase 1)
- Two additional electives from courses listed in phase 2 (6)

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

West Chester University also offers an 18-semester hour graduate certificate in holocaust and genocide studies.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM RESOURCES AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

- Sender Frejadowicz Holocaust Library and Study Room

- Field studies to sites of holocaust history, Jewish history, history of genocides, Israel, World War II history, or civil rights history
- Annual lecture series
- Annual Holocaust Remembrance Day program

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Entry to the degree program requires the following:

- A written application including two letters of recommendation (apply online at www.wcupa.edu/grad)
- Official academic transcripts from all colleges and universities attended denoting receipt of bachelor's degree and major(s)
- A minimum 2.8 GPA
- A statement of personal goals

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education
McKelvie Hall
102 West Rosedale Avenue
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: gradstudy@wcupa.edu

Web: www.wcupa.edu/grad

Visit: www.facebook.com/wcugrad

Or contact the department:

Write: Dr. Jonathan C. Friedman
Director, Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Department of History
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-1096

E-mail: jfriedman@wcupa.edu

Web: www.wcupa.edu/_academics/holocaust

The Graduate Catalog is available online at www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/graduate.catalog/.

ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as

well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

