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The module entitled 'History of Now', which is designed for first year students and also taught by members of the Centre, raises fundamental questions on the relation between the past and present. Through the lenses of three different thematic approaches (protest, economics and China) the students are encouraged to question

order to attempt to prevent similar crimes in the future. Since then the term has become widely used in public and in academic scholarship describing mass murders as far back as the Assyrian Empire. But the practice did not come to an end with the Shoah, thus turning the concept of genocide into a pivotal analytical tool in understanding the violent history of the 20th century.

The course combines an in-depth analysis of various genocides with an investigation of genocide as a generic concept. In the first part, the course examines the international discussion leading up to the adoption of the Genocide Convention and the Shoah as the event which not only shaped the specific content of the convention but also guaranteed the necessary support at the General Assembly. In the second part case studies ranging from the killing of the Herero and Nama in German South-West Africa to Darfur are analysed, focussing mainly but not exclusively on the social dynamics that lead to the mass killings, the motivation of the perpetrators and the construction of the victim groups. In the last part, the course examines and contrasts various recent definitions of what constitutes genocide exploring merits and limitations and discusses alternative concepts.

1938: i ..

During the night of the 9th of November 1938, SS and SA forces launched an assault on German Jews; on their property, their synagogues, and their businesses. This so-called 'Kristallnacht' can be seen as a violent rehearsal for the Holocaust which Nazi Germany proceeded to implement three years later. It also marks the end of over a century of a prolific and (mostly) peaceful co-existence between Jews and Christian non-Jews.

This module concerns the relationship between Jews and non-Jews from the early 19th century. It focuses on the complex processes of political emancipation, of social integration, and of cultural adaptation through which Jews became an integral part of the German political, social and cultural life. At the same time, these processes changed Jewish religious, economic, social and cultural life.

The main focus is on the period from the mid-19th century to the beginning of the Holocaust, examining Jewish life in imperial and Weimar Germany as well as under Nazism. Issues of Jewish identity are discussed along with aspects of modern anti-Semitism. An understanding of this history of Jewish/non-Jewish relations is studied in all its richness, alongside its problematic aspects leading up to 1938 and the Holocaust.

1929: i j

1929 marks the year of the stock market crash and the further de-stabilisation of the fragile Weimar Republic. But it is also the year of the publication of Alfred Döblin's 'Berlin Alexanderplatz', one of the great works of modernist literature. This course looks at the history, politics, art and philosophy of the Weimar Republic (1918-1933). In addition to reading excerpts from 'Berlin Alexanderplatz'

Before a packed house at the Sternberg Centre, in north-west London, Professor John Röhl delivered the inaugural Peter Straus Memorial Lecture. The audience included members of Peter's family, many of his good friends and members of the congregation of the New North London Synagogue.

For many years Peter Straus was a keen supporter of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and this event provided an opportunity for the Centre to express its appreciation of Peter's unique contribution to our work. In her opening comments, Marion Godfrey, vice-chair of the Centre's London-based Support group, described Peter's special interest and commitment to the study of the German-Jewish experience. Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg introduced

Art History is also the field of the youngest speaker, Alexandra Fliege, who confirmed

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The workshop aims to bring together young researchers who are currently working on topics in Jewish history, Jewish religion and inner life, literature, culture, ideological movements, inter-religious and inter-cultural relations as well as everyday life, and give them the opportunity to present and discuss their

The summer school programme will be announced on the Centre website and the event will be open to the public free of charge.



Copies of 'The Bird World of Auschwitz', A novella by Arno Surminski translated by Stephen C J Nicholls, are available for £5 from the Centre. Contact details below.

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