



Human Mind Through Film

The Holocaust and Schindler's List Assignment - 25%

As discussed and announced in class this assignment will take the place of the test indicated on the course outline.

1. What is the Holocaust?
2. Explain the process of “Aryanization” and its role in the movie?
3. One of the first directives the Nazis issued was the establishment of the Judenrat. Explain what the Judenrat is and its role in the movie.
4. What is the significance of the little girl in **RED**?
5. Who was Itzhak Stern and what role did he play in the movie?
6. The SS officer Amon Goeth (pronounced Gert) commanded the Plaszow labour camp. He had orchestrated the final “liquidation” of the Krakow ghetto as well as the ghettos in several provincial towns, including nearby Tarnow.
 - a. Explain what a labour camp was.
 - b. Explain what the “liquidation” of a ghetto means and the intent of this process.
7. Oskar Schindler would have been an easier man to understand if he he'd been a conventional hero, fighting for his beliefs. The fact that he was flawed - a drinker, a gambler, a womanizer, driven by greed and a lust for high living - makes his life an enigma.

Schindler saw his chance at the beginning of World War II and moved to Nazi-occupied Poland to open a factory and employ Jews at starvation wages. His goal was to become a millionaire.

By the end of the war, he had risked his life and spent his fortune to save those Jews and had defrauded the Nazis for months with a munitions factory that never produced a single usable shell.

Based on your viewing of the film, class discussions and your readings discuss why **YOU** think he changed. Your answer will be supported with specific references to the film.

8. In 1953, Israel established Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem. Yad Vashem honours the Jews who perished in the Holocaust and "the high-minded Gentiles who risked their lives to save Jews." The formal Hebrew title for these saviours is *Hasidei Umot Ha-Olam*, literally "the Righteous Ones of the Nations of the World." They are the spiritual heirs to the Lamed Vav, the thirty-seven Gentiles mentioned in Jewish legend whose purpose in every generation, unknown to themselves or to others, is to assist their fellow man in his hour of greatest despair. The exact wording of Yad Vashem's requirement to be honoured as a Righteous Gentile is as follows:

Extending help in saving a life; endangering one's own life; absence of reward, monetary and otherwise, and similar considerations which make the rescuer's deeds stand out above and beyond what can be termed ordinary help.

Yad Vashem honours the Righteous Gentiles with a medal which quotes, in Hebrew and in French, a verse from the Jewish Talmud: "He who saves one life, it is as if he has saved the entire world."

- a. What is a gentile?
- b. Was Schindler awarded this honour? If yes, why? If no, why not?

