Racism, including racial antisemitism, was a core element of Nazi ideology and a driving force behind the Holocaust. Racism also legitimized the continued subjugation and persecution of African Americans long after the end of slavery. Although different in many ways, the history of racism in Nazi Germany and the Jim Crow South sheds light on universal phenomena as well as historically specific experiences.

The 2018 Curt C. and Else Silberman Seminar for Faculty will analyze the similarities, differences, and gray zones of racial theory and practice in Germany and the United States in the first half of the 20th century, paying special attention to how these practices sharply diverged as Nazi antisemitic policies turned into widespread, state sanctioned genocide in the 1940s. Looking at canonical scholarship on antisemitism and racism as well as the practical persecution in both locales, participants will learn how to respectfully and accurately represent these ideologies, their practices, and the impact on these victims in Holocaust-related courses across disciplines.

Required Texts:
Strongly Recommended Background Reading:

Seminar Schedule (all sessions take place in Classroom D unless otherwise noted)

**Week 1:**

**Monday, June 4: Introduction and Resources**

10:00-11:30: Welcoming Remarks & Introductions
11:30-12:00: Introduction to USHMM resources: Library and Archives
12:00-12:05: Group photo
12:05-1:30: **Lunch with MCAHS staff and research fellows (Classroom A)**
1:30-3:00: Seminar Agenda and Rationale
3:00-3:15: **Break**
3:15-5:00: Contemporary Relevance: The three seminar leaders will discuss why teaching their topics is important today and what can be learned by bringing such different histories into conversation.

**Readings:**

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**Tuesday, June 5: Eugenics: Racist Scientists or Scientific Racism?**

10:00-12:00: “The Black Stork”: an introduction to eugenics
12:00-1:00: **Lunch**
1:00-2:00: The use of “racially inferior” bodies for science: The Tuskegee Syphilis trials
2:00-3:00: Sterilization
3:00-3:05: Break
3:05-5:00: Nazi eugenics: Policy and practice

Readings:

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**Wednesday, June 6: Racism**

10:00-12:00: The colonial roots of racism; American racism and the place of African American persecution

12:00-1:00: Lunch

1:00-3:00: The historical construction of groups and scientific racism

3:00-3:15: Break

3:15-5:00: Racism and antisemitism in the early 20th century: similarities, difference, and grey zones
2018 Weinmann Annual Lecture, “Far from Us, But Close at Heart:” Sephardic Jews in America Confront the Holocaust, Devin Naar Isaac Alhadeff Professor in Sephardic Studies, Associate Professor of History, and faculty at the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies in the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington.

Readings:

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Thursday, June 7: NMAAHC
9:00-12:00: Tour the National Museum of African American History and Culture’s Permanent Exhibit
12:00-1:00: Lunch
1:00-2:00: Tour the NMAAHC’s galleries
2:00-3:30: Discussion with NMAAHC staff about their specializations relating to the Seminar topic
3:30-3:45: Break
3:45-5:00: Discussion with NMAAHC staff about the Museum’s permanent exhibit

Readings:

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Friday, June 8:  
*Segregation Laws in a Racial State- What were the specific political and economic situations in different locals that facilitated the rise of these laws in the United States and Germany?*

9:00-11:00:  Walk through the Museum’s permanent exhibit

11:00-12:00:  *The Birth of a Nation* and discussion

12:00-1:00:  Lunch and a discussion of the Museum’s Permanent Exhibit

1:00-2:15:  Race laws in America

2:15-2:30:  Break

2:30-5:00:  Race laws in Nazi Germany

**Documentary Evidence:**

1934 Reich Ministry of Justice discussion of German race laws in relation to segregation laws in the Jim Crow south.

Nuremberg Race laws 1935

“Triumph of the Will”

**Readings:**


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Week 2:

Monday, June 11:  
*Persecution as a part of daily life*

10:00-12:00:  Racist policy and practice in different locals: What influenced the diverse establishment of anti-Jewish measures and implementation of race laws in Germany and countries annexed by the Nazis

12:00-1:00:  Lunch

1:00-3:00:  Two exercises in socialization: Berkeley, CA and Sugar Land, TX
3:00-3:15: Break
3:15-3:45: Introduction to USHMM resources, cont.: Film and Video; Oral History and testimony
3:45-4:45: Introduction to USHMM resources, cont.: Photo Archives and a discussion of perpetrator film and photos
4:45-5:00: Campus Outreach and University Programs at the Mandel Center

Readings:

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Tuesday, June 12: Perpetrators and Segregated Space

10:00-11:00: Nazi policies in occupied Poland and the Soviet Union

11:00-12:00: An introduction to the camp system by Alexandra Lohse, Applied Research Scholar and a discussion of the diverse nature of camps and non-obvious perpetrators

12:00-1:00: Lunch

1:00-2:00: Spaces of segregation: White streets, black allies, sundown cities, convict leasing, segregated housing and ghettoization, and Parchman Farm.

2:00-3:00: Lynching as spectacle: The ordinary man, public space, and murder, Christopher Petrella, Adjunct Professorial Lecturer, School of International Service

3:00-3:15: Break
3:15-5:00: Perpetrators in Nazi Germany

**Readings:**

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**Wednesday, June 13: Responses to Persecution- Individual and Institutional**

10:00-11:00: The Great Migration and other acts of African-American resistance
11:00-12:30: Introduction to USHMM resources, cont.: *History Unfolded*, Eric Schmalz, Community Manager, Digital Learning and New Media
12:30-1:30: **Lunch**
1:30-3:00: Introduction to USHMM resources, cont.: *Experiencing History*, Leah Wolfson, Senior Program Officer
3:00-3:15: **Break**
3:15-4:15: Jewish Responses to National Socialist persecution
4:15-5:00: Emil Kerenji, Applied Research scholar, Jewish responses to National Socialist persecution in allied and occupied Europe

**Readings:**

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**Thursday, June 14:** The Question of mass murder

10:00-12:00: Street violence, systematic murder, pogroms, riots, and lynching

12:00-1:00: Lunch

1:00-2:30: Introduction to USHMM resources, cont.: Elizabeth Anthony, *ITS supplements* and assignment brainstorming.

2:30-2:45: Break

2:45-5:00: Aftermath and continuities: The value and importance of knowing African American and Jewish persecution histories and how they affect racism in today’s society.

**Readings:**


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**Friday, June 15:** Syllabus sharing

10:00-1:00: Participant syllabus workshop

Closing Comments

1:00: Adjournment