This course offers an introduction to the background, events, and representations of the Holocaust. The Holocaust is the murder of approximately six million Jews—and also unbearably large numbers of Sinti and Roma, homosexuals, communists, and other “enemies” of the Nazi regime—in Europe at the hands of the National Socialists, along with those who aided them. We examine not only what happened, but how and why, and we inquire especially about the possibilities and limits of the representation of these events in various forms: historical prose, memoir, poetry, fiction, and film. Lectures will be supplemented by weekly discussion sections.