

Memory Across Generations:

An Oral History Project

About Holocaust Memory

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Course(s): German 301: **Senior Seminar and Vassar College Alumnae/i**

Semesters: Fall 2010

GOALS:

- to teach students how to do research on different aspects involving Holocaust memory
- to conduct interviews in English and German
- to represent their research on a blog and webpage.



DESCRIPTION:



Students conducted **face-to-face Interviews** with two Vassar alumni/ae in NYC using digital recording devices.

Skype interviews with alumnae/i and former language fellows abroad or on the other coast, which were recorded with *Garage Band*.

We conducted one **in-class Skype conversation** with Marvin Chomsky in Austria, projecting his picture on a screen and using an external camera in order to be able to show Chomsky the image of the whole class.

We used a **blog** to collect all of our information and results.

A **webpage** then represented our findings.

Results and Conclusions:

The final project in the senior seminar involved Vassar students to speak to alumnae/i about their Holocaust memory, which ranged from survivor to second and third generation, and from Germany, Belarus, Czech Republic, to the United States. This was a unique opportunity for students to learn about the shape and changes that memory undergoes in the course of time and in different cultural contexts.

Technology such as Skype interviews and conversations, blogs and webpages helped students not only bridge geographical distances but also allowed them to organize their findings and think about the best way to represent their research to an outside audience. At the same time, students learned about privacy issues and legal considerations involved in the new communication technologies.