

Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (IHGS)

Proposal for the Creation of a Center of Excellence

Mission Statement

The mission of the Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies is to promote public awareness of the Holocaust and other genocides; to encourage and support scholarship, research, and teaching about the Holocaust and genocide; and to promote public participation in efforts to confront contemporary genocide as it occurs.

Rationale

In addition to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the national institution dedicated to promoting public awareness of the Holocaust and other genocides, several local and regional organizations dedicated to this purpose also exist. However, few of the organizations are housed in academic institutions. As such, their foci center on memorialization rather than scholarship, teaching, and research. Thus, IPFW's IHGS will become a vital bridge that ties memorialization to scholarship, teaching, and research about the Holocaust and other genocides.

Several free-standing Holocaust museums and facilities are located throughout the United States, and several universities have research centers devoted to studying the Holocaust and contemporary genocides. The closest museum is the Holocaust Memorial Center, located near Detroit, Michigan. While several Midwestern universities have Jewish Studies Programs that offer some study of the Holocaust and, in some cases, contemporary genocides, no center devoted specifically to the study of these topics is located in relatively close proximity to northeastern Indiana; in fact, the closest research center devoted to studying the Holocaust and contemporary genocide is housed at the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota. Given these facts, IPFW is ideally located to house a Holocaust and genocide center.

Any center focusing on studying the Holocaust and contemporary genocide should avail itself of pre-existing resources, most notably the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). Located in Washington, DC, this institution is recognized as the world's outstanding research facility dedicated to the study of the Holocaust and contemporary. IPFW already has two well-established ties to this museum as one faculty member of IPFW's Department of Communication is a Fellow of the USHMM's Center for Advanced Studies, and another faculty Member from the School of Education is a USHMM Museum Teacher Fellow and Regional Museum Educator. These formal ties should serve IPFW in developing further collaboration between IPFW and the USHMM and other similar institutions, thus providing IPFW faculty and students with potential opportunities for research, internships, and the like.

Goals

The primary goal of the IPFW's IHGS is to become a regional and national leader in all aspects of Holocaust and genocide education, research, teaching, and public awareness and participation. Many specific initiatives are included in the following section titled "Activities," which is presented on the basis of currently existing, short term, middle term and long-term plans.

Activities

Please see the attached document "Possible Programs and Initiatives" for a discussion of activities that could be developed as part of the IHGS's overall program.

Facilities and Equipment

In the short-term, the Center would need furnished office space with access to the Internet and telephone service for two (2) executive co-directors and secretarial support. In addition, the Center would need a separate and renewable library allocation to purchase scholarly material related to the study of the Holocaust.

Given that the initial support period will be for three (3) years, a long-range goal of the Center during this funding cycle will be to secure external funding for a permanent and self-sufficient on-campus facility. In order to achieve other long-range goals, this facility would need to house a library, a teaching resource area, a lecture hall, a screening room, meeting rooms, classrooms, a museum exhibition area, and administrative offices. Because of the sensitive nature of the Holocaust, the facility also should include a memorial site on its grounds. The facility also would need full access to Internet and telephone service.

Each public meeting or classroom should be easily configurable to accommodate a variety of different meeting formats so that it could easily be set up in the styles of a traditional classroom, a seminar, or as a meeting room. Each room also should come fully equipped with technology, such as a movable computer workstation, a sound system, and wall-mounted flat-panel monitors. Wireless networking should be freely available in the facility.

The state-of-the-art screening facility would require a room capable of eliminating ambient light, and it would be designed for optimum acoustics. Tiered seats would be arranged for viewing angle. Equipment in this facility would accommodate many different image formats, including film, video, and digital multimedia. In addition to high-resolution video projection, the facility would need to be fitted with a high quality reflective screen. The facility also would house the only 35mm film projector on campus at this time, in addition to being capable of 16mm projection.

The Center would raise funds for this facility from a variety of local, regional, and national sources, including individual donations as well as foundations and grants.

Structure

Two (2) executive co-directors would run the day-to-day operations of the Center. Representing the interests of teaching and pedagogy, one director would be from the School of Education. Representing the interests of academics and research, the other director would be a faculty member from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Upon receiving approval for the formation of the Center, the executive co-directors will create a set of operating guidelines addressing internal governance of the Center, membership criteria, and a seven (7) member Advisory Board. The Board would represent a cross-section of stakeholders in Holocaust education in the tri-state region. The Center's executive co-directors would answer to this Board. The Board would include the two (2) executive co-directors, ex-officio; two (2) at-large IPFW faculty representatives; one (1) representative from Fort Wayne Community Schools; one (1) representative from the Fort Wayne Jewish Federation; and one (1) at-large Fort Wayne community representative.

Membership

Since the purpose of the Centers of Excellence Program includes recognizing and advancing faculty expertise; engaging undergraduate and graduate students in experiential learning opportunities through service and research; applying the intellectual capacity of the University to the needs of the region; providing opportunities to integrate teaching, research, and service; and encouraging multidisciplinary collaboration, the membership of the Center will target faculty and students in the School of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences whose research and teaching interests include Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Given the inherently interdisciplinary nature of this discipline, Center membership would include faculty and students in the fields of Education, English and English Literature, Communication, History, Psychology, International Language and Culture Studies, Sociology, Political Science, and other allied fields.

The Center's Advisory Board as described above would consist of a variety of stakeholders, both from IPFW as well as the community.

Administration

Two executive co-directors would administer the day-to-day operations for the Center. In the short term, the Center would be housed within the School of Education, with one executive co-director from the School of Education supervising activities related to teaching, including teacher certification, secondary education, and Holocaust pedagogy. The other executive co-director, from the College of Arts and Sciences, would supervise matters related to Holocaust research and scholarship, including library resources, lecture programs, film series, and the creation of a free-standing Certificate program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Both co-directors would collaborate in expanding community outreach opportunities, developing ad hoc specialty programming targeting

working professionals, and for-credit study tours both to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC as well as abroad.

For the initial three (3) year funding cycle OAA will provide, the Center would require one (1) dedicated full-time administrative assistant.

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Current and Possible Programs and Initiatives

Currently Existing

1. Existing course “Teaching the Holocaust”
 - A. Currently cross-listed as EDUA F 400 / EDUA F 500
 - B. Possible alternative listing as EDUC M 514: “Workshop in Social Studies Education”
 - C. Possible alternative listing as EDUC L 530: “Topical Workshop in Language Education”
 - D. Summer intensive sessions and / or regular academic year sessions
 - E. Could be offered on other IU and Purdue campuses under IPFW auspices
2. Connection with local Yom HaShoah observances
 - A. Co-sponsorship with Fort Wayne Jewish Federation
 - B. Keynote speakers / on campus lectures and convocations
3. Teacher workshops (local, regional) (short term) (school district in service programs)
4. Non-credit continuing education courses for the community-at-large

Short Term

5. Walb Union speakers' series
6. Speakers' bureau
7. Summer teachers' institutes / pre-service teachers (Model: Program at the Holocaust Museum Houston for students for various campuses throughout Texas)
 - A. Pre-service teachers from through IU and Purdue systems
 - B. Pre-service teachers from other Indiana and Midwestern colleges
 - C. Competitive application process
 - D. Fully funded through grant(s)
 - E. Instructors: Holocaust scholars (USHMM staff and others)
 - F. Instructors: Holocaust teachers (USHMM Mandel [Museum] Fellows)
8. Summer teachers' institutes / in-service teachers (Model: Program at the Holocaust Museum Houston)
 - A. Fully funded through grants (except for travel-related costs)
 - B. Instructors: Holocaust scholars (USHMM staff and others)
 - C. Instructors: Holocaust teachers (USHMM Museum [Mandel] Fellows)
 - D. National Endowment for the Humanities seminars
9. Film discussion series
10. Literature discussion series
11. Guest students from other colleges and universities

12. Programs for special interest groups (*e.g.*, doctors, lawyers, civic leaders, etc.)
13. Cooperative programs with WFWA
14. Oral history project (interviewing survivors, liberators, and others connected to the event)

Middle Term

15. Courses offered by various departments and schools (See attached document)
16. Tours of Holocaust sites in Europe
 - A. Comparative education courses (*e.g.*, EDUC H 553)
 - B. IPFW faculty, staff, and students
 - C. Faculty, staff, and students from other colleges and universities
 - D. IU and / or Purdue alumni associations
 - E. Participants from the community, the region, and the nation-at-large
17. Campus library collection and reading room
18. Campus resource center
19. Traveling exhibitions (for display on campus)
20. Educational programs at the USHMM
21. Campus-wide seminars and colloquia for faculty and staff
22. Hosting of symposia for scholars and researchers
23. Funding of research by faculty members from various departments
24. Internships for faculty at various Holocaust institutions including the USHMM
25. Internships for students at various Holocaust institutions including the USHMM

Long Term

26. Campus memorial site
27. Campus museum
28. Journal (print and / or online)
29. Certificate program (in association with various IPFW departments and / or schools)
30. Development of publications (books, presentation proceedings, etc.)