

Jewish Studies 434: Shanghai Project 2015

The following project was assigned to Holli Levitsky's Literature of the Holocaust (English/Jewish Studies 434). The text was originally incorporated into the dh.lmu.edu website and has been cut and pasted into this document.

ABOUT

Welcome Scholars:

This Literature of the Holocaust (English/Jewish Studies 434) research project centers on LMU's Archives & Special Collection's [Werner von Boltenstern Shanghai Photograph and Negative Collection](#), which contains among other images, multiple photographs of Jewish refugees in 1930s and 1940s Shanghai.

This is a semester long project that will lead to the creation of an online digital text using [Tumblr](#). The basic components include: familiarizing yourself with the photograph collections, researching the history of Jewish refugees in 20th century Shanghai, sharing your research process and progress through blogging and creating a scholarly digital resource. Final projects will be presented in an open forum setting at the end of the semester.

Jewish Refugees in Shanghai?

You may be surprised to learn that Jews have a long history in China. Take a look at this [Wikipedia](#) article for a cursory overview. (Make sure to look under "References" to see the **authoritative/scholarly sources** the article uses. Some may be helpful for your own research.)

[What is an authoritative or scholarly source?](#)

Yes, you can use Wikipedia and [here's how](#).

For this project you will be focusing on Shanghai Jewish refugees during the Holocaust, meaning Jews who went to Shanghai to seek refuge from the Nazis.

To learn more, start with the Holocaust Encyclopedia (H.E.). Read about [German and Austrian refugees](#) as well as [Polish refugees](#) in Shanghai. Then search "Shanghai" in the H.E. and see what else you can find.

Your final project will be linked to from the dh.lmu.edu projects page.

Why Are You Doing This?

The history of Jewish refugees in China is a rarely discussed aspect of WWII and the Holocaust. This project will give you the opportunity to learn about this important historical event as well as to educate others through the creation of your digital projects.

Contact

For questions about this project, please contact [Melanie Hubbard](#), Digital Scholarship Librarian.

ASSIGNMENTS

Introduction:

Below is a rundown of this semester's *Shanghai Photograph and Negative Collection (SPNC)* Project. For assistance, visit the [research](#) and "[How To](#)" resource pages. For additional help, contact [Melanie Hubbard](#), Digital Scholarship Librarian.

Research is a major component of this project. While there will be some research related deadlines, it will primarily be up to you to create your own research schedule. Make sure to stay on top of it, otherwise you will run into difficulty down the road.

You can view the *SPNC* on [Flickr](#) and in [ContentDM](#), the digital library's content management system. To embed images into your digital projects use Flickr. (Instructions will be provided on how to do this.) To see images in a larger size view ContentDM. In terms of generally viewing the collection, chose which platform you prefer.

Please Note: Each assignment mentions as to whether the work is to be done in groups or individually. If you do not remember who is in your group, please the [Groups](#) page.

Part 1: Exploring the Collection

Due: February 23th

Assignment:

[working individually]

1.) Before you start this assignment, read the Holocaust Encyclopedia (H.E.) entries about [German and Austrian refugees](#) as well as [Polish refugees](#) in Shanghai. Then search "Shanghai" in the H.E. and see what else you can find. This will give you a foundation of the subject matter.

2.) You will begin your project by exploring the *SPNC*. As you explore, make notes about:

- What you find interesting and what you would like to explore further
- What your impression is of life in Shanghai during this time
- Any questions you may have
- How your H.E. reading relates to the images

3.) Go over the Tumblr instructions on the "[How to](#)" page.

4.) Create a post in the class [blog](#) and **title it:**

Exploring the Collection, Your First Name Last Initial

For example: Exploring the Collection, Melanie H.

5.) In your blog post you will share your notes. The post should be written in complete sentences but you do not have to write extensive paragraphs. Be clear and concise and remember that your work is public, so use proper grammar and punctuation.

Please Note: Feel free to link to images inside the *Shanghai Photograph Collection* or to other outside resources. (Later on we will learn how to embed images, for now if you want to refer to Shanghai collection images just link to them by providing its URLs [website addresses].)

Part 2: Brainstorming Topics

Due: March 13

Assignment:
[working as a [group](#)]

For this assignment you are going to use research to help brainstorm possible final project topics.

1.) Locate at least six secondary sources and come up with at least two potential project topics. The sources may inform your topics or the topics may affect your source selections. (Likely it will be a back and forth relationship.) You will also need to look at the *SPNC* to make sure you are covering topics that relate to the collection and/or the collection can help illustrate.

Don't forget about the [Research](#) page.

2.) As a group, create a post in the class [blog](#) and **title it:**

Brainstorming Topics, Group Name

For example: Brainstorming Topics, Group 1

3.) In the post provide the source citations, one to three sentences about the topic, and 4+ sentences summarizing the way in which the sources addresses the topic. (This is a bit like a annotated bibliography.)

The formatting should look like the following:

1.) MLA Style citation
Sentence(s) about topic
Summation of source

2.) MLA Style citation
Sentence(s) about topic
Summation of source

Etc.

Part 3: Share Your Topic and Research

Due: March 18

Assignment:
[working as a [group](#)]

1.) As a group create a post in the class [blog](#) and **title it:**

Our Topic and Research, Group Name

For example: Our Topic and Research, Group 1

2.) In your post answer the following questions:

- What is your research topic? (Make sure it is not too general, e.g. Shanghai ghettos. It needs to have some kind of an angle, i.e. family life in Shanghai ghettos.)
- How does your group plan to divide the labor/organize the workflow?

3.) Share at least two of the images you think you may use and explain how you think they will help illustrate your topic.

Part 4: Implementing Your Digital Skills

Due: April 22

Assignment:
[working individually]

In your library instruction sessions, and from the [“How To”](#) page, you have learned about digital project best practices, in particular ones concerning the creation of hypertexts. **From now on you are required to implement such practices in all of your digital assignments.**

1.) As **individuals**, go back to your Part 1 blog post and apply what you have learned. As a **group**, go back to the blog post entry for Part 2 & 3 and make corrections there as well. You are not editing your writing, though you should if you find mistakes. You are editing the way you have digitally presented your work. This may mean turning URL addresses in to hyperlinked text, reformatting images or fixing the way you cited a source.

2.) The digital resource you will be creating at the end of the semester must meet the criteria of the [Digital Projects Check List](#). Take a look at the list now and see if your current work is meeting those standards.

Part 5: Creating a Digital Resource

Due: May 6

Assignment:
[working as a [group](#)]

Up until this point you have gotten to know the *Shanghai Photograph and Negative Collection (SPNC)*. You have researched the history of Jewish refugees in Shanghai and you have learned how to use Tumblr as well as how to create polished digital projects. All of this work will now culminate in the creation of a scholarly digital resource.

The digital resource you are creating must be done in Tumblr and must focus on some historical or cultural aspect of the Shanghai Jewish refugee experience.

Requirements:

- 1.) Each group will be issued a new Tumblr blog. Rename the blog the same name you wish to give your project. (This can be done towards the end.) Please see, [Creating a Tumblr](#) blog for more information.
- 2.) Your first blog entry should include your names (meaning, your first names and last initial), the name of this course and a short summary (60-100 words) of your work. Your last blog entry should be a works cited. (We will discuss this further.)
- 3.) In terms of content amount, you need to generate what would equal about four double spaced pages of information. You are welcome to do more if you wish.
- 4.) You must incorporate at least **two** images from the *SPNC*.
- 5.) You must incorporate (e.g. link to or embed) at least **three** other outside sources. This may include images, videos, audio, other websites, etc. Be creative, have fun, but keep in mind, outside sources are additional content. They do not replace the content you are required to create.

Please Note: You must credit and cite all sources properly. (This includes the *SPNC*.)

- 6.) Before submitting your project, consult the [Digital Projects Checklist](#) to make sure that the technical and visual aspects of your work meets all criteria. For additional help with creating your digital resource see the [Tumblr blog](#) I created about Tumblr.
- 7.) At least one person from each group **MUST** meet with me one week before the project is due (April 20th-24th). That person(s) will need to show how far the project has progressed and discuss what will be done/added to the project before it is turned in.

Keep in Mind:

This is not a paper you write and then forget about. You are creating content for the web, which means it's going to be available to anyone for a very long time. What does this mean? Grammar, punctuation, word choice, ACCURACY and citations are more important than ever.

Tumblr Examples: [Newsweek](#), [Historical Nonfiction](#), [Classical Archeology News](#), [Science in a Can](#), [This Day in History](#)

Research Topics:

Just to help get you thinking, here are some general topics that could be further developed. Please feel free to come up with your own.

- The experience of arriving in Shanghai from Europe
- Family life in Shanghai
- The Jewish experience of Japanese occupation
- How refugees formed their own communities
- Chinese/Jewish relations
- Jewish established schools, businesses, theaters, etc.
- The experience of being forced into ghettos
- Specifics concerning ghettos, i.e. how they were constructed, their geographical locations in Shanghai, what were the living conditions like, etc.
- Sports in Jewish communities

- The journey from Europe to Shanghai
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Part 6: Reflection

Due: May 4

Assignment:
[working individually]

This is a post in the class blog, not your group projects.

Look back at your first blog entry (Part 1: Exploring the Collection) in the class blog and answer:

- Did any of your assumptions about the images turn out to be true and which ones, if any, were incorrect?
- How do you view the collection differently now that you have spend so much time with it?

Then consider the following:

- What sage advice would you give someone taking on this same project? For example:
 - How would you suggest they begin their research?
 - What turned out to be or not be a productive approach for you?
 - What are the kinds of pitfalls they they should avoid?
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Part 7: Presenting Your Digital Resource

Due: May 6 @ 11:00 AM in the English Village

Assignment:
[working as a [group](#)]

You will present your final digital project in a poster session. Each group is responsible for bringing a laptop. If you do not have access to one, please let me know.

RESEARCH

This project is more about using research sources than it is about finding them. For that reason, a list of sources are provided below. Keep in mind, however, that this is not an exhaustive list. You will likely need to do more searching.

LMU Resources:

[Emancipation through muscles: Jews and sports in Europe](#) (Electronic resource available through library catalog)

[Encyclopedia of the Jewish Diaspora: Origins, Experiences, and Culture](#) (Electronic resource available through library catalog)

[Exodus to Shanghai: stories of escape from the Third Reich](#) (Book) [[on reserve](#)]

[Japanese diplomats and Jewish refugees: A World War II Dilemma](#) (Book) [[on reserve](#)]

[Life in the ghettos during the Holocaust](#) (Book) [[on reserve](#)]

[Once They Had a Country: Two Teenage Refugees in the Second World War](#) (Electronic resource available through library catalog)

[A Place to Save Your Life: The Shanghai Jews](#) (Film available online through library catalog)

[Shanghai Sanctuary: Chinese and Japanese policy toward European Jewish refugees during World War II](#) (Book) [[on reserve](#)]

[Port of Last Resort: The Diaspora Communities of Shanghai](#) (Book) [[on reserve](#)]

[The Port of Last Resort Zuflucht in Shanghai](#) (DVD) [[on reserve](#)]

[Voices from Shanghai: Jewish exiles in wartime China](#) (Electronic resource available through library catalog)

[Shanghai Ghetto](#) (DVD) [[on reserve](#)] [[on Youtube](#)]

[Stories of Deliverance: Speaking with men and women who rescued Jews from the Holocaust](#) (Book) [[on reserve](#)]

[Wartime Shanghai and the Jewish refugees from Central Europe: Survival, co-existence, and identity in a multi-ethnic city](#) [[on reserve](#)]

[To Wear the Dust of War](#) (Electronic resource available through library catalog)

Outside Resources:

[American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee](#) (has a variety of resources)

[Charles Millett Collection](#) (Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust; [info on visiting the archive](#))

["China's Little Vienna"](#) (Los Angeles Times article)

[China Rhyming](#) ("A gallimaufry of random China history and research interests")

["German and Austrian Jewish Refugees in Shanghai"](#) (Holocaust Encyclopedia entry)

[Holocaust Encyclopedia at U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)

["Jewish Life in Shanghai's Ghetto"](#) (New York Times article)

["Jewish Refugees in Shanghai Tells Story of Survival"](#) (Jewish Journal article)

[Jewish Shanghai Refugee Museum](#) (in Shanghai)

[“Polish Jewish Refugees In The Shanghai Ghetto, 1941–1945”](#) (Holocaust Encyclopedia entry)

[Rickshaw.org](#) (This site is in the Internet Archives Wayback Machine. It is missing some images, links, etc. but there is a lot of great firsthand account information here.)

[“The Saved in Shanghai—A Young Girl’s Story Highlights a Rare WWII Place of Refuge”](#) (Times of Israel article)

[“Shanghai’s Forgotten Jewish Past”](#) (Atlantic Monthly article)

[“Shanghai: A Haven for Holocaust Victims”](#) (Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Program paper)

[Shoah Foundation](#) (Shanghai and China based refugee interviews)

[United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Photo Archive](#)

[Virtual Shanghai](#) (Research and resource platform)

[Visualizing China](#) (Digital collections and interactive resource)

“HOW TO”

Tumblr

Tumblr has a **front end** and **back end**. When writing a post you work in the back end, which looks very different from the front end. I suggest you open two windows. One in which you are writing your post and one where you can view the post as the public will see it. In the case of the class blog, sign in to your Tumblr account to access the back end and see the front end this URL:

<http://literatureoftheholocaust2015.tumblr.com>

Getting started:

- [Tumblr: Getting Started](#) (written instructions by Melanie)
- [“How to Use Tumblr—Introduction and Overview”](#) (video by Anson Alexander) This video is a great overview of Tumblr. **I highly recommend you watch it.**
- [Posting Basics](#) and [Advanced Posting](#) (written instructions by Tumblr)

Working in Tumblr:

- [A Tumblr about Tumblr: Types of Posts, Formatting and Copyright/Citations](#)

Tumblr examples: [Newsweek](#), [Historical Nonfiction](#), [Science in a Can](#), [This Day in History](#), [Black Lives Matter](#)

Google Documents

Google docs are a great way to work in groups. Download [these instructions](#) to get started.