

PRIMO LEVI/HOLOCAUST ON FILM ASSIGNMENT**1250-1500 words***worth 20% of your final grade***WRITE ON TOPIC A OR B**

A. Pick 3 passages or issues from Levi's Survival in Auschwitz, that raise somewhat distinct issues about the treatment the prisoners are subjected to; about the effect of this treatment on the prisoners; about the different ways that prisoners react to their treatment; about the way the camp functions as a social system created by the SS; about the "moral order" of the camp; or about issues of human dignity and degradation, human behavior within the camp, and the like, such as we have discussed in class

Discuss why you see each of your chosen passages as interesting and significant for an understanding of the Holocaust in general (and Auschwitz in particular). Raise the question for yourself: How do these passages and the issues they raise help me understand the Holocaust? And, are there aspects of the Holocaust that you think are somehow left out or masked in some important way by what Levi is talking about in the passages you discuss.

In discussing each passage, you must also make reference to some other passages that bear on the issue(s) you are choosing to discuss in regard to that passage, since Levi generally (not always) discusses the same issues in different places. Keep in mind that Levi is not always totally consistent in what he says in different passages on the same topic, as we have seen in our class discussions.

It is appropriate to write 3 separate mini-essays. You do not have to relate them to each other, although you may do so if you think it would enhance your discussion of the particular issue you choose. HOWEVER, when discussing the issue of the "limits of understanding," it would be appropriate (though not actually necessary) to think about the passages together.

Your grade will be based on three factors:

1. The degree of insight and engagement with issues related to the Holocaust that you display in your discussion of Levi.
2. How well your discussion shows your familiarity with and understanding of Levi's book.
3. The degree of variety among the issues in your 3 passages. I am looking for your engagement with a variety of issues raised by Levi.

DUE THURSDAY OCTOBER 29 [lateness penalty: .1 for each day late]

This is also the date the police battalion assignment is due if you decide to choose it over this assignment

OR

B. Same assignment as above, except that instead of the 3rd passage from Levi, you pick some aspect of *Schindler's List* to discuss, in regard to questions about the Holocaust. You cannot focus on life in a camp like Auschwitz because that is not in the film, although there is a labor camp that is important in the film. But you can talk about other aspects of the Holocaust and compare that to the passages from Levi with respect to how it helps you understand the Holocaust. And again, I want you to think about the limits of the film (this film in particular, but you could also talk about film in general, as we will do in class when we talk about this film).

DUE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3 [lateness penalty: .1 for each day late]

