

'The message is to remember'

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David Goldstein's class of Tulane University students takes a field trip to Lambeth House in uptown New Orleans to meet with 100-year-old Holocaust survivor Joseph Sher. (Photo provided by David Goldstein)

David Goldstein teaches his students about the brave young leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, considered the largest revolt by Jews during the Holocaust.

"Don't ever think you're too young to change the world," says [Goldstein](#), rabbi emeritus of Touro Synagogue and adjunct professor of [Jewish Studies](#) at Tulane University.

"I find myself moved especially when I tell my students about the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, how these Jewish kids who are your age held off the Wehrmacht (Nazi Germany's armed forces) a significant amount longer than the Polish army did."

Goldstein teaches about the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in his course, The Holocaust in Film and Literature.

In his course, students learn about the Holocaust from a variety of perspectives. One, a Hollywood film called *Defiance*, starring Daniel Craig, tells the true story of the Bielski brothers, who saved 1,200 Jews in Poland. Another, a Nazi propaganda film, called *The Eternal Jew*, shows negative stereotypes being disseminated during that time.

The range of materials in Goldstein's course includes such iconic texts as *Maus I* by Art Spiegelman, *Night* by Elie Wiesel, *Survival in Auschwitz* by Primo Levi and *The Last of the Just* by Andre Schwarz-Bart.

Goldstein rejects political theorist Hannah Arendt's claim that the Jews went to their deaths "like sheep to the slaughter." Instead, he uses films like *Defiance* and the history of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising to show Jewish resilience and resistance.

Teaching the next generation about the Holocaust from an academic perspective is important, Goldstein says. He regards the Holocaust as potentially the most cataclysmic event of the 20th century.

Goldstein asks his students, "What is the message? The message is to remember. Not to relegate it to forgetfulness. That would be the No. 1 crime for me."

The [School of Liberal Arts](#) offers this course annually through the generous support of donors.

Mary Sparacello is a communications specialist in the Office of Development Communications.

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