Representations of the Holocaust

In his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel said: “Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.” Yet how should writers, artists, and filmmakers fill the void left by the Holocaust? In our course, we will study survivor testimonies before turning to second and third generation fictional representations of the Holocaust. We will analyze key themes and ideas faced by writers and artists: Is it ethical for writers and artists to create literature and art from the ashes of Auschwitz? Through poems, short stories, novels, essays, comics, paintings, photographs, and films, we will explore the difficult issue of creating ethical representations of the Holocaust.