

## **JSTU 375: The Life and Legacy of Anne Frank and the Tragedies of Twentieth-Century Europe**



### **Course Description**

This course introduces students to the life and legacy of Anne Frank (1929-1945), whose diary is still one of the most widely read books in contemporary society. While her literary impact has been profound and is lasting, this course takes a historical approach to Anne's life and experience during one of the most tragic chapters in human history, namely World War II and the Holocaust.

We will follow Anne from her hometown of Frankfurt, Germany, to 1930s Amsterdam, to the secret annex, to Westerbork and Auschwitz, and finally to Bergen-Belsen where, a few weeks before liberation, she succumbed to typhus, starvation, and exhaustion. We will study her diary as a historical document, as well as her father's correspondence to American immigration services, eyewitness accounts from Jewish prisoners in Nazi camps, secondary scholarly analyses on her literary legacy, and scholarly texts on Dutch Jews, Nazism, and the Holocaust. By exploring Anne through a historical lens, we acquire not merely a greater comprehension of the personal loss of life and of the coping mechanisms of Jews during a time of war; we also gain a deeper understanding of the ideology, aims, and implementation of one of the deadliest regimes in modern history.