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Holocaust Perpetrators Explored at 1939 Club Lecture

Christopher Browning, one of the worlds most respected scholars of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust, will give a lecture on the choices and actions of a German police battalion that rounded up and shot Jewish men, women and children during the Holocaust even after they were given an option to refuse the order.

Titled Ordinary Men: Explaining the Perpetrators, the event will be held in Chapman Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22. Admission is free, however, attendees are encouraged to bring canned foods to donate to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

The lecture, the first of The 1939 Club Lecture Series, will focus on the question, If the men of Reserve Police Battalion 101 could become killers under such circumstances, what group of men cannot?

The Frank Porter Graham Professor History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Dr. Browning is author of the groundbreaking book, "Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland," on which this lecture is based, and more recently, "The Origins of the Final Solution."

The lecture, sponsored by Chapmans Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education and Stern Chair in Holocaust Education, inaugurates the 2005-06 series, Moments of Decision: Perpetrators, Witnesses, Rescuers.

Director of the Rodgers Center and Stern Chair in Holocaust Education, Dr. Marilyn Harran notes: We have an extraordinary group of speakers this fall, including Holocaust rescuer, Marion Pritchard, who saved the lives of 150 Jews, mostly children, and Paul Rusesabagina, whose heroic actions have been made known to the world through the film Hotel Rwanda. The lecture series challenges us to learn from history as we face our own moments of decision.

For more information, call x7377 or visit www.chapman.edu/holocausteducation.