This course examines the wide range of film materials relevant to the Holocaust, including primary film documents, rare archival films, propaganda produced by the Third Reich, films created by the Allied governments and private sources, as well as a variety of documentary, narrative fiction, experimental, and other representations produced from 1933 to today. Special guest filmmakers have been invited to share their works. The course explores the use of film in shaping, justifying, documenting, interpreting, and imagining the Holocaust, and how film—as a medium—works to (re)present historical events.

Class Format: Each week, class will begin with one or more film screenings followed by discussion. Reading assignments are to be completed prior to the class for which they are assigned. On several occasions throughout the semester, films will be assigned for viewing outside and prior to regular class time. Copies of the articles and films are available at the reserve desk at the Library and on LATTE for download. No computers or iphones or ipads will be allowed in class.

Requirements: Attendance at all class and screening sessions
Three film critiques (2 pages each)
Mid-term 3-page writing assignment and/or in class critical essay
Final term paper and/or final exam

Preparation time: Success in this 4-credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

Session 1
Tues Jan 14 Introduction – The World Destroyed
In Class: Jewish Life in Vilna (Goskind, Poland, 1939, 10 min)
Image Before My Eyes (Waletzky, USA, 1980, 91 min)
Assigned viewing: Genocide (Thames Television, England, 1975, 52 min)

Session 2
Tues Jan 21 Introduction II – Personal films by second generation Jew and a German
In Class: In Memory (Ravett, USA, 1993, 13 min)
Mutter’s Courage - My Mother’s Courage, (Verhoeven, Germany, 1996, 90 min. Eng version)
Assigned reading: Bauer, A History of the Holocaust, chapter 6
Assigned viewing: Yiddle with His Fiddle - Yidl Mitn Fidl, (Green, Poland, 1936, 91 min)

**January 27**

**Special event – Screening of SHOAH to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Liberation of Auschwitz and Holocaust Remembrance Day at Wasserman Cinematheque 11 to 10 pm**

Assigned reading: Hoberman, “Shoah: The Being of Nothingness”

**Session 3**

**Tues Jan 28**

**Nazi Propaganda**

In Class: Jud Suss – The Jew Suss, (Germany, Harlan, 1940, 98 min.)
Clips from Triumph des Willens -Triumph of the Will (Riefenstahl, Germany, 1935), & Olympia (Riefenstahl, Germany, 1938)

*View short film and write one page critique (JDC-St. Louis) --- due Friday Jan 31*

Assigned reading: Bauer, A History of the Holocaust, Chapters 4 & 5
Leiser, Chapters 1, 2 & Appendix I
Sontag, “Fascinating Fascism,” pp 73-105

Assigned viewing: Selections from The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl (Müller, Germany, 1994, 188 min.)

**Session 4**

**Tues Feb 4**

**Nazi Propaganda Continued**

In Class: Der ewige Jude - The Eternal Jew (Hippler, Germany, 1940, 71 min.)
The Führer Gives a City to the Jews (Der Führer schenkt den Juden eine Stadt)
Germany, 1944, 23 minutes (incomplete), B&W, Produced by the Ministry of Propaganda of the Third Reich

Assigned reading: Leiser, Chapter 6
Assigned viewing: God Doesn’t Love Us Anymore (Corti, Austria, 1982, 110 mins.)

**Session 5**

**Tues Feb 11**

**Genocide**

In Class: Death Mills (US Dept of War Information, 1945, 22 min.)

**Midterm Exam:** View short film and write short critique – due Tues Feb 25th.

**Einsatzgruppen Part 1** (Prazan, France, 2009, 90 min)

Assigned reading: Bauer, Chapters 9 & 10
Assigned viewing: A People Uncounted: The Untold Story of The Roma (Aaron, Canada, 2004, 99 min.)
Tues Feb 18  Vacation Week- Feb 17 to 21

Session 6
Tues Feb 25  Post World War II-- special guest Ron Blau
In Class:  Our Time in the Garden, (Blau, USA, 1981, 15 min)
Lang ist der Veg - Long is the Road, (Becker, U.S.-Occupied Germany, 1948, 77 min.)
Assigned reading: Bauer, Chapter 11

Session 7
Tues March 3  America and the Holocaust
In Class:  Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust, (Dan Anker, USA, 2004, 92 min.)
Assigned reading: Rosenfeld, “The Americanization of the Holocaust”
Assigned Viewing: Bent (Methias, USA, MGM, 2006, 143 min.)

Session 8
Tues March 10  America and the Holocaust --- Special Guest Martin Ostrow
In Class:  America & the Holocaust, (Ostrow, USA, 1994, 81 min.)

Session 9
Tues March 17  America and the Holocaust continued
In Class:  The Pawnbroker, (Lumet, USA, 1965, 116 min)
Discussion to include Schindler’s List
Assigned viewing: Schindler’s List (Spielberg, USA, 1994)

Select final paper topics and submit abstracts for approval

Session 10
Tue March 24  European Cinema
In Class:  Shop on Main Street, (Kadar & Klos, Czech, 1965, 128 min.)
Night and Fog, (Alain Resnais, France, 1955, 31 min.)
Assigned reading: Baron, Chapter 2 & Avisar, Chapter 3
Sylvie Lindeperg in Cinema & the Shoah “Night and Fog: Inventing a Perspective”.

Session 11
Tues March 31  Humor and the Holocaust
In Class:  Jakob, der Lügner - Jacob the Liar, (Beyer, East Germany, 1975, 95 min.)
Discussion includes clips from The Producers (Brooks, USA, 1967), Genghis Cohn (Moshinsky, England, 1995)
Assigned reading: Dawidowicz, “Visualizing the Warsaw Ghetto” & Baron, Chapter 5

Assigned viewing: The Great Dictator, (Chaplin, USA 1940, 125 min.)

Tues April 7 Brandeis Thursday. No class
Tues April 14 Vacation – Passover holiday

Session 12
Tues April 21 Documentary Films
In Class: Holocaust Tourist (Benstock, UK, 2005, 10 min)
Ha'taalumah Ba'meholah Ha'verakah - Green Dumpster Mystery, (Yoffe, 2010, Israel, 50 mins)

Session 13
Tues April 21 Personal Films by Son of a Nzai and Granddaughter of a Women Victim
In Class: 2 oder 3 Dinge, die ich von ihm weiß (Two or Three Things I Know About Him) (Luden, Germany, 2005, 85 min)
Yizkor aka Remembranc (Fertig, USA, 2020. 24 min.)

ISBN 9-780809-073641

Session 14
Tues April 28 TBA (A new contemporary film)

Fri May 21 All Final Papers Due

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Academic Honesty: You must complete all assignments alone. In your writing, you must follow rules of attribution, meaning that you must cite all sources consulted in preparing your papers. As stated in the Student Handbook, “Every member of the University community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. A student shall not receive credit for work that is not the product of the student’s own effort.” Examples of penalties for a student found responsible for an infringement of academic honesty are no credit for the work in question, failure in the course, and the traditional range of conduct sanctions from disciplinary warning through permanent dismissal from the University.

Students with documented disabilities: Students with disabilities certified by the Coordinator of Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities in the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs and First Year Services will be given reasonable accommodations to complete required assignments. Disabilities that are not documented and approved by the Office of Academic Affairs will not be given accommodations.
**Required Reading**
A course reader is on reserve at the reserve desk of the library and On Line through LATTE service at the Library. (Password is Shoah)

The readings includes:


Erwin Leiser, *Nazi Cinema* (Collier Books; NY. 1974) chapters 1, 2, 6 & appendix I

Sylvie Lindeperg in *Cinema & the Shoah* “Night and Fog: Inventing a Perspective”.

Lucy Dawidowicz, “Visualizing the Warsaw Ghetto,” (Yeshiva Univ, 1978) reprint


**Required readings – selected chapters - Book on Reserve and at Bookstore:**


Additional readings: Books and articles are on reserve at Library


Bartov, Omer (Editor); Grossmann, Atina (Editor); Nolan, Mary (Editor)

The "Jew" in Cinema: From the Golem to Don't Touch My Holocaust


Rosenfeld, Alvin H., “The Americanization of the Holocaust,” (Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, Univ. of Michigan, 1995) 44 pages. Call # D804.3 R6627 1995
