

PORTRAYALS OF ANTISEMITISM IN FILM AND TELEVISION
Seminar in Cinema and Media Studies • Columbia College Chicago
Spring 2019 Syllabus



Course: CINE 440 / 3 credits
Instructor: Dan Rybicky

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Class location: 1104 S. Wabash, Room 402

Class time: tbd

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Class Blog:

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this Critical Studies class, students should be able to: 1) Develop an understanding of antisemitism as reflected throughout the history film and television; 2) Engage in critical dialogue with their classmates and instructor, during discussion or group work, about screenings and readings; 3) Indicate an ability to carefully read written analyses of media screened and incorporate them into their own writing and creative work; 4) Articulate, in writing, an ability to cogently and coherently analyze images and narratives from multiple perspectives for their potential formal, cultural, and political meanings; 5) Develop, in the form of a final paper or video essay, their own detailed and sustained critical arguments related to the course content

REQUIRED READING/VIEWING/LISTENING

Please review weekly class schedule

RECOMMENDED READING/VIEWING/LISTENING

Antisemitism: The Longest Hatred by Robert Wistrich

The Holocaust in American Film by Judith E. Donelson

After the Fact: The Holocaust in Twenty-First Century Documentary Film by Brad Prager

Hollywood and Antisemitism: A Cultural History Up to World War II by Steven Carr

Holocaust and the Moving Image: Representations in Film and Television Since 1933 edited by Toby Haggith and Joanna Newman

Denying the Holocaust by Deborah Lipstadt

Assimilation and Its Discontents by Barry Rubin

The History of Genocide in Cinema: Atrocities on Screen by William Hewitt

The Jew in American Cinema by Patricia Erens

Terrorism TV: Popular Entertainment in Post-9/11 America by Stacy Takacs

Claude Lanzmann's Shoah: Key Essays by Stuart Liebman



- In class:** ANTISEMITISM THEN AND NOW
 Introductions and Beginnings
 What is a Jew? What is Antisemitism?
 What media have you seen/heard that has informed your answers?
- Screen:** *European Antisemitism from its Origins to the Holocaust* (13min)
The City Without Jews (1924, excerpts)
Triumph of the Will (1935, excerpts)
The Eternal Jew (1940, excerpts)
Jud Süß (1940)
- Read:** [“How anti-Semitism impacted film before and after the Nazis” by Jochen Kürten](#) (*Deutsche Welle News*, October 2017)
[“Long-lost film that predicted rise of anti-Semitism has ominous message for today's world” by Rick Noack](#) (*The Washington Post*, March 2018)
[“What kind of antisemite was Leni Riefenstahl?” by Jacob Shamsian](#) (*Medium*, October 2014)
- Assign:** *The Great Dictator* (1940, 124 minutes)
 Blog Post 1
 Complete bio and student questionnaire



In class: DOCUMENTING THE HOLOCAUST

Screen: *The Wonderful Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl* (1993, excerpts)
Harlan – In the Shadow of Jew Süss (2008, excerpts)
Death Mills (1945, excerpts)
German Concentration Camps Factual Survey (1945/2014, excerpts)

Read: “Separate intentions: The Allied screening of concentration camp documentaries in defeated Germany in 1945-46” by Kay Gladstone (2005)
“Towards a Critical Pedagogy of Holocaust and Film” by Terri Ginsberg (August 2010)

Assign: *Night Will Fall* (2014, 80min)
Blog Post 2



In class: HOLLYWOOD AND ANTISEMITISM: PHASE 1

Screen: *Gentleman's Agreement* (1947, excerpts)
Crossfire (1947, excerpts)
The Diary of Anne Frank (1956, excerpts)
Judgement at Nuremberg (1961, excerpts)
The Pawnbroker (1964, excerpts)

Read: "The Effects of *Gentleman's Agreement* on Attitudes Towards Jews" by Irwin Rosen (*The Journal of Psychology*, Vol 26, October 1948)
"Ethnic Prejudice and Susceptibility of Persuasion" by Russell Middleton (*American Sociological Review*, October 1960)

Assign: *Imaginary Witness* (2004, 92 minutes)
Blog Post 3



In class: REALISM AND THE HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTARY

Screen: *Night and Fog* (1956, 32min)
The Sorrow and the Pity (1969, excerpts)
The Memory of Justice (1976, excerpts)
Shoah (1985, excerpts)
Photographer (1988, excerpts)

Read: "From the Holocaust to 'Holocaust'" by Claude Lanzmann (*Dissent, Spring 1981*)
"Rescreening Perpetrator Images: Witnessing the Past in *A Film Unfinished* and *Photographer*" by Brad Prager (*After the Fact: The Holocaust in Twenty-First Century Documentary, 2015*)

Assign: *A Film Unfinished* (2010, 89min)
Blog Post 4



In class: ANTISEMITISM AND JEWS ON TELEVISION

Screen: *Holocaust* miniseries (1978, excerpts)

Read: [The Television Project: Some of My Best Friends' Highlights from the National Jewish Archive of Broadcasting Examine Antisemitism Through Classic TV](#)

Assign: *Skokie* (1981, 125min)
Blog Post 5



In class: HOLLYWOOD AND ANTISEMITISM: PHASE 2

Screen: *Sophie's Choice* (1982, excerpts)
Music Box (1989, excerpts)
Schindler's List (1993, excerpts)

Read: "Sophie's Choice Undeserved Guilt" by Phyllis Deutsch (*Jump Cut*, February 1984)
"Is *Schindler's List* fatally flawed?" by Nathan Abrams (*The Jewish Chronicle*,
March 2013)
["Enemies, A Love Story" by Jonathan Rosenbaum](#) (*Sight and Sound*, April 1990)

Assign: *Enemies, A Love Story* (1989, 119 min)
Blog Post 5



In class: MAKING PEACE WITH THE PAST...OR NOT

Screen: *Martin* (1999, excerpts)
Fighter (2000, excerpts)
Forgiving Dr. Mengele (2006, excerpts)
Kz (2006, excerpts)
The Flat (2009, excerpts)
Prisoner of Her Past (2010, excerpts)

Listen: [“Confronting Hatred 70 Years After the Holocaust”](#) (*Voices on Antisemitism* podcast)

Assign: *My Nazi Legacy: What Our Fathers Did* (2015, 96min)
Blog Post 6



In class: HOLOCAUST DENIERS AND THE MOTIVATION TO HATE

Screen: *The Holocaust Was a Hoax* (YouTube)
Holocaust Denial, Explained (YouTube)
Lacombe Lucien (1974, excerpts)
School Ties (1992, excerpts)
La Haine (1995, excerpts)
Denial (2015, excerpts)

Read: ["La Haine 20 years on: what has changed?"](#)

Assign: *Dr. Death: The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter, Jr.* (1999, 91min)
Blog Post 7



In class: WHITE SUPREMACY AND ANTISEMITISM

Screen: *American History X* (1998, excerpts)
The Believer (2001, excerpts)
Defamation (2009, excerpts)

Read: [“American History X: A Racist Film About Racism” by Anjeliki Coconi](#) (*Unsung Films*, May 2012)
“Sociological Theories in *American History X*” by Matt Anselmi (*Reel Rundown*, December 2016)

Assign: *Welcome to Leith* (2015, 86min)



In class: TERRORISM, RADICALIZATION, AND ANTISEMITISM

Screen: *Protocols of Zion* (2005, excerpts)
[Blaming the Jews \(Muslim Antisemitism\) – BBC Documentary \(2005, 31min\)](#)
Jihad: A Story of the Others (2015, excerpts)
(T)ERROR (2015, excerpts)
“15 Years of Terror” – NOVA (2016, excerpts)

Read: “Terrorism and Counter-terrorism in Popular Culture in the Post-9/11 Context” by Stephen Muzzatti (February 2017)

Assign: *American Jihad* (2017, 88min)
Blog Post 8



In class: HOLLYWOOD AND ANTISEMITISM: PHASE 3

Screen: *Sunshine* (1999, excerpts)
The Grey Zone (2001, excerpts)
Munich (2005, excerpts)

Read: [“Hollywood’s Jewish Avenger” by Jeffrey Goldberg](#) (*The Atlantic*, Sept 2009)
“The Holocaust in Feature Films: Problematic Current Trends and Themes” by Jonathan C. Friedman (*The History of Genocide in Cinema*, 2017)

Assign: *Inglourious Basterds* (2009, 153 min)



In class: EUROPEAN CINEMA AND ANTISEMITISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Screen: *Downfall* (2004, excerpts)
Black Book (2006, excerpts)
In Darkness (2012, excerpts)
24 Days (2014, excerpts)

Read: [“Atrocity Exhibitionism” by Stefan Grisse](#) *Film Comment*, Nov/Dec 2015)

Assign: *Son of Saul* (2015, 157min)



In class: CONTEMPORARY ANTISEMITISM

Screen: *Keep Quiet* (2016, excerpts)
Why Do They Hate Us? (2017, excerpts)
Spiral (2018, excerpts)

Read:

Assign: Blog Post 9

Week 14



In class: CONFRONTING ANTISEMITISM IN DOCUMENTARY:
THE PERFORMATIVE AND PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

Screen: "Louis and the Nazis" (2012, excerpts)
"The Aryans" (2014, excerpts)
"The New KKK" – *United Shades of America* (2016, excerpts)
"White Right: Meeting the Enemy" (2017, excerpts)
"Charlottesville: Race and Terror" – *VICE News* (2017, excerpts)

Read: ["The Pornography of the Real in Documentary Film" by Stacey Karl](#) (*Film and Architecture*, October 2015)

Assign: Blog Post 10