Course Syllabus

FIL3838: Holocaust Cinema; Section RVAA

Instructor Information Table

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- Instructor: Dr. Oren Stier
- Email: stiero@fiu.edu
- Phone: (305) 348-6729
- Office: DM 305A (MMC)
- Office Hours: By appointment
- Website: Professor Website

Course Description and Purpose

Perhaps no historical event has been represented cinematically with more frequency and variety than the Holocaust. Film provides a particular window through which we may examine what we know and think about the Holocaust and how we have come to know and think those things. By viewing and discussing films, we will analyze major trends and techniques in the representation of the Holocaust from the 1940s until the present, including documentaries and feature films, Hollywood-style and independent productions, from the United States, Israel, and Europe. In the course of these examinations we will have the opportunity to reflect on ethical and representational challenges and problems unique to this medium and its subject, such as the existence of Holocaust comedy, the “limits” on the representation of violence and atrocity, and religious and/or transcendent meaning.

Course Objectives

- Introduce Holocaust cinema to a non-specialist audience.
- Identify the major representational techniques and narrative components of Holocaust films.
- Develop critical thinking and written communication skills through course readings, blog and essay reflections on selected films, and a final essay.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will recognize the major advantages and disadvantages of cinematic representation.
- Students will appraise ethical choices arising from filmmakers’ and characters’ actions.
- Students will categorize different cinematic genres and styles and compare films within those genres and styles.

Policies

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- Policies
- Netiquette
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Accessibility and Accommodation
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Academic Misconduct Statement

Course Prerequisites
There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Textbook and Course Materials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Textbook Table</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indelible Shadows: Film and the Holocaust</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annette Insdorf  
ISBN-10: 0521016304  

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](http://fiu.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=21551&catalogId=10001). This textbook is also available in a Kindle edition and as an e-book via the Green Library (must sign-in if accessing from off-campus).

**Shoah: The Complete Text Of The Acclaimed Holocaust Film**

Claude Lanzmann  
ISBN-10: 0306806657  

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](http://fiu.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=21551&catalogId=10001).

**Films utilized in this course**

All films listed below are required viewing, except for two cases: in week two, you are only required to view any 60 minutes of the film Shoah, and in week five, you are required to choose only one of the two films assigned (either Defiance or Inglourious Basterds). All of the films are available for purchase from Amazon and other outlets (ASINs are included to aid in this), and all are currently available in streaming video format. Films that are available for free streaming are noted by venue; low-cost streaming options are also noted. Most of the films are available online via multiple platforms, including Hulu, Google Play, YouTube, Netflix, iTunes, and Amazon, in most cases for only a nominal rental charge; an Amazon Prime or Netflix membership will allow you to watch several of those films for free. Students are advised to immediately plan how they are going to access each required film so there is no delay in completing the assignments.

- **Jud Süss** (Germany, 1940; 98 mins.), ASIN: B0017ZGYR0: available via YouTube ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIvaBOxHDj0&bpctr=1462565903](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIvaBOxHDj0&bpctr=1462565903))
- **Death Mills** (USA, 1945; 22 mins.), ASIN: B004E2NWM (on disc with *A Film Unfinished*): available via Amazon Prime All Warrior Network ([http://www.amazon.com/Death-Mills-Billy-Wilder-Burger/dp/B01E1N0EU2/ref=sr_1_37?ie=UTF8&qid=1463083475&sr=1-3&keywords=death+mills+1945](http://www.amazon.com/Death-Mills-Billy-Wilder-Burger/dp/B01E1N0EU2/ref=sr_1_37?ie=UTF8&qid=1463083475&sr=1-3&keywords=death+mills+1945)) (this subscription-only offers a 7-day trial and provides closed captions) or YouTube ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV4MxDFKfi4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV4MxDFKfi4))
- **Shoah** (France, 1985; 566 mins.), ASIN: B00BX49B6G: available via SundanceNow Doc Club ([https://www.sundancenow.com/series/watch/shoah/4308141?utm_source=google&utm_medium=paid-search&utm_campaign=dynamic&utm_content=5922068676&utm_term=&gclid=Cj0KCQjwhuvlBRCeARlsAM720HorqKL_74zjRIVP6HFG7YpIFwQaFcQSzVpalPNwWHJuPJr](https://www.sundancenow.com/series/watch/shoah/4308141?utm_source=google&utm_medium=paid-search&utm_campaign=dynamic&utm_content=5922068676&utm_term=&gclid=Cj0KCQjwhuvlBRCeARlsAM720HorqKL_74zjRIVP6HFG7YpIFwQaFcQSzVpalPNwWHJuPJr)) (via 7-day free trial subscription) or YouTube ([Part 1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuA7uydNnmU) & [Part 2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuA7uydNnmU))
- **The Diary of Anne Frank** (US, 1959; 180 mins.), ASIN: B001XJBE1Q: available via Amazon Prime ([http://www.amazon.com/Diary-Anne-Frank-Millie-Perkins/dp/B00DX9MHEM/ref=sr_1_17?ie=UTF8&qid=1462564790&sr=1-1&keywords=dairy+of+anne+frank](http://www.amazon.com/Diary-Anne-Frank-Millie-Perkins/dp/B00DX9MHEM/ref=sr_1_17?ie=UTF8&qid=1462564790&sr=1-1&keywords=dairy+of+anne+frank)) (with a membership or free 60 day trial), or YouTube ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40PdTvNyQsmw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40PdTvNyQsmw)) $3.99+.
- **Schindler's List** (USA, 1993; 196 mins) available via FIU Libraries ([http://ezproxy.fiu.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2Ffiu313969%2Fwatch%3Ftoken%3D09128896ce77d51290f1d42445f4aca9668009918e807f9514c95483c3ee9aaf](http://ezproxy.fiu.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2Ffiu313969%2Fwatch%3Ftoken%3D09128896ce77d51290f1d42445f4aca9668009918e807f9514c95483c3ee9aaf))
- **Life is Beautiful** (Italy, 1997; 116 mins.), ASIN: B0033AI48Y: [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1ggoumYi0) $3.99+ or [Amazon Prime](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00BB8VRPM?ref_=imdbref_tt_wbr_aiv) $2.99+.
- **The Grey Zone** (US, 2001; 108 mins.), ASIN: B00008EYX: [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKcUJPzn8k) $2.99+.
- **Defiance** (US, 2008; 137 mins.), ASIN: B00AEFRM0: [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tnb8DiHo&oref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2F&has_verified=1) $2.99+.  

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**Notes:**

- Films are available for free streaming via [SundanceNow Doc Club](https://www.sundancenow.com/series/watch/shoah/4308141?utm_source=google&utm_medium=paid-search&utm_campaign=dynamic&utm_content=5922068676&utm_term=&gclid=Cj0KCQjwhuvlBRCeARlsAM720HorqKL_74zjRIVP6HFG7YpIFwQaFcQSzVpalPNwWHJuPJr) (via 7-day free trial subscription).
- Amazon Prime offers free streaming of films such as *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Shoah*.
- YouTube offers free streaming of some films, but some require a rental charge.

Aftermath (Poland, 2012; 107 mins.); ASIN: B00MI72SA8: available on Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/Aftermath-English-Subtitled-Maciej-Stuhr/dp/B00O1SGVRS/ref=tmm_aiv_swatch_1?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=) for rent, $3.99

Ida (Poland, 2014; 80 mins.), ASIN: B00L0DKRCM: available via FIU Libraries (https://search.alexanderstreet.com/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cvideo_work%7C3593113)

Note:
- If you decide to sign up for a free trial, time it to coincide with the availability of the assignment to ensure you will have access to the film during the trial.
- Amazon Prime (https://www.amazon.com/gp/student/signup/info?ie=UTF8&*Version*=1&*entries*=0) offers a 6-Month free trial using the link provided.

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:
- Review the how to get started information located in the course content
- Introduce yourself to the class during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate blog
- Interact online with instructor and peers
- Review and follow the course calendar
- Log in to the course at least 3 times per week
- Respond to blogs postings within 3 days
- Respond to messages within 2 days
- Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline

The instructor will:
- Log in to the course at least 3 times per week
- Respond to blogs within 7 days
- Respond to messages within 2 days
- Grade assignments within 7 days of the assignment deadline

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the Canvas Conversations Tutorial (https://vimeo.com/canvaslms/212en) or Canvas Guide (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

Discussion Forums

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Introduce Yourself Video Discussion

Record your “Introduce Yourself” video, upload it to YouTube, and select the automatic captioning setting as per the instructions in the links below.

- Tell your classmates a little about yourself, including:
  - Your major;
  - Your particular interest in this course;
  - At least one thing you hope to learn from this course.
  - Also, talk about at least one Holocaust film you have seen and what you find most memorable about that film

Review the discussion rubric to see how you will be evaluated.

Review the websites provided below to assist with this assignment.

- Use your FIU Google Account with YouTube (https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/69961?hl=en&ref_topic=3024170)
- How to upload a video to YouTube (https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/57407)
- How to use automatic captioning in YouTube (https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/6373554?hl=en&ref_topic=3014331)

Course Discussions
There will be four discussions topics posted within the discussions. Students are required to post thoughtful and well-reasoned comments of at least 200 words each, based on the prompts and supported with well-chosen and relevant images. Each of these will require reflection on an analysis of the films covered in each weekly unit. Be specific and engaging! Grading will be based on a rubric.

All discussions assignments will be graded based on this Rubric.

Assignments

Shoah Essay

This assignment, due at the end of week 2, will involve reflection on a portion of the 9 ½ hour film and the published text of the film in light of an essay prompt. Details will be provided in the assignment submission page.

Analytical Essay

Each student will select one of the six themes of the course as described in the course calendar, and each student will then choose one film (your selection is due in week 2) not already included in the course syllabus that reflects that theme, subject to instructor approval. Students will write analytical essays consisting of a first draft (due in week 3) and a revised final draft (due in week 5). For the first draft of at least 400 words, students must identify the film and theme selected, provide a synopsis of the film, and list at least two published reviews of the selected film to be used as resources for the analysis. For the revised draft of at least 1000 words, students will respond to the professor’s feedback on the first draft and will complete the essay, utilizing material from the reviews selected to analyze the chosen film against the background of the selected theme. In what ways does your film reflect the selected theme? In what ways might it augment or complicate the selected theme?

Reflective Essay

For week 6, the final week of the course, each student will submit a reflective essay, responding to the final two films, both from Poland and paired under the theme of “coming to terms with the past,” using the films as springboards to discuss the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust and the particular contributions the issues raised by these two films make to that issue of relevance. Detailed instructions will be provided in the assignment submission page.

Please note that the following information applies to this course as it requires the use of Turnitin to submit your assignments.

Review the How to submit a Turnitin Assignment page on how to submit your assignments and how to review the Grademark comments (feedback) from your professor.

All essay assignments will be graded based on the Essay Rubric.

Late Policy

As this is a compressed time summer course, it is imperative that students submit assignments on time. As a courtesy to late registrants, the Week One Discussion will remain open until Monday, May 13; the other 3 discussions will remain open for one day past the due date (i.e., until 11:59 pm Saturdays) as a courtesy.

The Shoah, Analytical Essay Draft, and Final Revision Assignments are due as indicated by 11:59 pm on the appropriate Friday as noted in the syllabus; following that, these assignments will be accepted for up to two more days with a 10 point per day penalty. These assignments will not be accepted more than three days past their due dates.

The Reflective Essay assignment is due no later than 11:59 pm on Friday. There can be no extensions on this assignment.

Grading

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<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
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<td>Week 1 Discussion</td>
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<td>Week 5 Discussion</td>
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<td>Shoah Essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical Essay Final Revision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflective Essay</td>
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Course Summary:

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<td>Mon May 13</td>
<td>Introduce Yourself (<a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/444345">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/444345</a>) due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Week 1 Discussion (<a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/426070">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/426070</a>) due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Wed May 15</td>
<td>Film Selection for Analytical Essay (<a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/426718">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/426718</a>) due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Introduce Yourself (<a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/444345">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/444345</a>) (1 student) due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Week 1 Discussion (<a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/426070">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/426070</a>) due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Fri May 17</td>
<td>REVISED Film Selection for Analytical Essay (<a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/479000">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/479000</a>) due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Shoah Essay (<a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/426720">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/426720</a>) due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Fri May 24</td>
<td>Analytical Essay Draft (<a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/426722">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/426722</a>) due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Fri Jun 7</td>
<td>Analytical Essay Final Revision (<a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/426723">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/38586/assignments/426723</a>) due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri Jun 14</td>
<td>Access your Course Calendar for course topics and assignments.</td>
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Letter Grade Distribution Table:

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