FIL3838: Holocaust Cinema; Section RVAA

Instructor Information Table

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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

Course Time Zone | Eastern Standard Time (EST). Course due dates are according to this time zone.

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, discussion 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.

**Important Information**

**Policies**

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- Policies
- Netiquette  ([https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/](https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/))
- 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**

**Textbook Table**

**Indelible Shadows: Film and the Holocaust**

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 (https://www-cambridge-org.ezproxy.fiu.edu/core/books/indelible-shadows/1AC7969A2A8B95868D938599363C37B6#) 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 in DVD format 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 trial or paid 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 [The Jew Süss]** (Germany, 1940; 98 mins.), **ASIN:** B0017ZGYR0: this title is no longer available in streaming format; stay tuned for further information (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIvaBOxHDj0&bpctr=1462565903)
- **A Film Unfinished** (Israel, 2010; 88 mins.), **ASIN:** B004E12NWM: available via **FIU Libraries** (https://fod-infobase-com.ezproxy.fiu.edu/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=86471)
- **Death Mills** (USA, 1945; 22 mins.), **ASIN:** B004E12NWM (on disc with **A Film Unfinished**): available via **YouTube** (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zC8fcjLvid8&has_verified=1)
- **Nuit et Brouillard [Night and Fog]** (France, 1955; 32 mins), **ASIN:** B000093NQZ: available for rent or purchase on **iTunes** or **Amazon Prime** (https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B002R2JK9G?tag=reelgood06-20) $2.99+
- **Shoah** (France, 1985; 566 mins.), **ASIN:** B00BX49B6G: available via **YouTube** (Part 1 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_n7_gSUVCwc) & Part 2 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fj2pj6Mt-0A))
- **The Diary of Anne Frank** (US, 1959; 180 mins.); **ASIN:** B001XJBE1Q: available for rent or purchase via **Amazon Prime** (https://www.amazon.com/Diary-Anne-Frank-Millie-Perkins/dp/B00DX9M73S/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=dairy+of+anne+frank+1959&qid=1588621109&s=instant-video&sr=1-1) or **YouTube** (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40PdTnyQsmw) $3.99+
- **Schindler's List** (USA, 1993; 196 mins) available for rent or purchase via **Amazon Prime** (https://www.amazon.com/Schindlers-List-Liam-Neeson/dp/B00BEN0V8S/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1V5NHPJWANFGZ&dchild=1&keywords=schindler%27s+list&qid=1588621405&s=instant-video&sprefix=schindler%27s+list%2Cinstant-video%2C173&sr=1-1), **iTunes**, and others $3.99+
- **La vita è bella [Life is Beautiful]** (Italy, 1997; 116 mins.), **ASIN:** B0033AI48Y: **YouTube** (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1qggoumYi0), **Amazon Prime** (https://www.amazon.com/Beautiful-English-Subtitled-Roberto-Benigni/dp/B00B3EJ0OY/ref=sr_1_1?crid=35FAV2A03E36S&dchild=1&keywords=life+is+beautiful&qid=1588621689&s=instant-video&sprefix=life+is+beautiful%2Cinstant-video%2C181&sr=1-1), and others $3.99+
- **The Grey Zone** (US, 2001; 108 mins.), **ASIN:** B000087EYX: available for streaming via
**Tubi** ([https://tubitv.com/movies/469604/the_grey_zone](https://tubitv.com/movies/469604/the_grey_zone)) and IMDbTV or for rent via **Vudu** $3.99+

- **Defiance** (US, 2008; 137 mins.), **ASIN**: B00AEFXRMO: available for streaming via **Netflix** ([https://www.netflix.com/watch/70101696](https://www.netflix.com/watch/70101696)) or for rent via **YouTube** ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wI3tb8lDiHo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wI3tb8lDiHo)), **Amazon Prime** and others $2.99+


- **Pokłosie [Aftermath]** (Poland, 2012; 107 mins.); **ASIN**: B00MI72SA8: available for rent or purchase via **Vudu** ([https://www.vudu.com/content/movies/details/content/575757]), **Amazon Prime** ([https://www.amazon.com/Aftermath-English-Subtitled-Maciej-Stuhr/dp/B00O1SAX8G/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=aftermath+2012&qid=1588623433&s=instant-video&sr=1-1] and others $2.99+

- **Ida** (Poland, 2014; 80 mins.), **ASIN**: B00L0DKRCM: available via **FIU Libraries (Alexander Street streaming)** ([https://video-alexanderstreet-com.ezproxy.fiu.edu/watch/idawutm_source=aspresolver&utm_medium=MARC&utm_campaign=Video]) or for rent via **Amazon Prime** ([https://www.amazon.com/Ida-English-Subtitled-Agata-Trzebuchowska/dp/B00N1Q3S0E/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=ida&qid=1588623874&s=instant-video&sr=1-1] and others $1.99+

**Note:**

- **If you decide to sign up for any free trials**, time them to coincide with the availability of the assignment to ensure you will have access to the film during the trial.

  - **Amazon Prime Student** ([https://www.amazon.com/amazonprime?_encoding=UTF8%2AVersion%2A=1%2AEntries%2A=0&planOptimizationId=WLPStudentMonthlyEligiblePlans&primeCampaignId=studentWlpPrimeRedir&ref_=st_wlp_pr_redir]) 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 themselves to the class during the first week by posting a self-introductory video to the "Introduce Yourself" assignment
- 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 messages within 2 days
- Submit assignments by the required deadlines

**The instructor will:**

- Log in to the course at least 3 times per week
- Respond to messages within 2 days
- Grade assignments within 7 days of the assignment deadline (excluding Sabbaths and Jewish holidays)

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**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.

**Assignments**

**Course Discussions**

There are a total of five required Discussion posts totaling 40% of the course grade: the first is a video post in which students will introduce themselves to the other course participants (see the assignment itself for more details); the remaining four are written responses to
assignment prompts that will be graded according to a rubric. Keep in mind that your discussion postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

For the written Discussion assignments, students must write thoughtful and well-reasoned posts of at least 350 words each, responding to the assignment prompts and supported with well-chosen and relevant embedded images and other materials. Each post will require reflection on and analysis of the films covered in each weekly unit. Be specific and engaging! Click here for a more detailed guide to the written Discussion posts with tips for success.

**Shoah Essay**

This assignment, due at the end of week 2, will involve following detailed instructions, leading to a written reflection on a portion of the 9 ½ hour film and the published text of the film. Details are provided in the assignment submission page.

**Analytical Essay**

Each student in the course will select one of the six themes of the course as noted in the course calendar and will then choose one film reflecting that theme **not already included** in the course syllabus; following **instructor approval**, each student will write a 1000 word essay on that film due in week 5 of the course. See the assignment submission pages for more details.

**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 essay assignments.**

- Review the How to submit a Turnitin Assignment page on how to submit your assignments and how to review the Paper Feedback comments from your professor.
**All essay assignments will be graded based on the Essay Rubric** [Link](http://cpbucket.fiu.edu/1165-fil3838vaa1165-56600%2Ffil3838_stier_essay-rubric.pdf).

**Late Policy**

As this is a compressed time summer course, it is imperative that students submit assignments on time. As a courtesy to potential late registrants, the Week 1 assignments will remain open until **Tuesday, May 19**, just after the add/drop deadline.

All remaining assignments, with the exception of the Film Selection for the Analytical Essay (which is due on **Tuesday, May 26**), are due by **11:59pm on Friday nights**. However, as a courtesy, these remaining assignments will stay open for 24 hours, one day past the due date, until Saturday nights, for late submissions with no late penalty. *This grace period will not be extended.*

Students who are unable to submit assignments by the conclusion of the grace period, for any reason, must contact the instructor *prior to the deadline*; late assignments will be accepted on a case-by-case basis, with a penalty, at the discretion of the instructor.

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Introduce Yourself&quot; Discussion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Nazi Propaganda&quot; Discussion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;And the Winner Is...&quot; Discussion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The Limits of Representation&quot; Discussion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The Turn Towards Revenge&quot; Discussion</td>
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<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shoah Essay</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film Selection for Analytical Essay</td>
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<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical Essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflective Essay</td>
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<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Course Summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri May 15, 2020</td>
<td><img src="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/69173/assignments/786814" alt="Introduce Yourself" /> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td><img src="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/69173/assignments/786814" alt="FIL3838 Discussion Posts: Guidelines and Tips for Success" /> to do: 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Tue May 19, 2020</td>
<td><img src="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/69173/assignments/786813" alt="&quot;Nazi Propaganda&quot; Discussion" /> due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td><img src="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/69173/assignments/786820" alt="Shoah Essay" /> due by 11:59pm</td>
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Access your Course Calendar for course topics and assignments.

Letter Grade Distribution Table

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range (%)</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range (%)</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 and above</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 87</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 76</td>
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<td>90 - 92</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88 - 89</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>Tue May 26, 2020</td>
<td>Film Selection for Analytical Essay (<a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/69173/assignments/786817">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/69173/assignments/786817</a>) due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td>Fri May 29, 2020</td>
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<td>Tue Jun 2, 2020</td>
<td>REVISED Film Selection for Analytical Essay (if required by instructor) (<a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/69173/assignments/786819">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/69173/assignments/786819</a>) due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Extra Credit Discussion (<a href="https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/69173/assignments/786809">https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/69173/assignments/786809</a>) due by 11:59pm</td>
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