

Jewish/Film Studies/English 350
The Holocaust in Global Cinema
Online
Dr. Rachel N. Baum
rbaum@uwm.edu

Course description: How can historically traumatic events be remembered and represented in film?

In the first decades after the Holocaust, discourse about Holocaust film centered around the impossibility of representing the event, yet today there are many such films from around the world. This course looks at narrative and documentary films about the Holocaust and its legacy, engaging with such questions as:

- How do the films of different countries work through (or fail to work through) their Holocaust legacy?
- How do filmmakers' technical and narrative choices shape the viewers' confrontation with Holocaust history?
- How do Holocaust films represent power and powerlessness, perpetrators and victims? How does an attention to gender, age, sexuality, and ethnicity help us to engage more meaningfully with these categories?
- How does an attention to genre help us to analyze Holocaust films? How do Holocaust films draw on the genres of horror and melodrama, to name two? Can the genre of comedy ever facilitate a confrontation with Holocaust history?

Films may include: *Night and Fog* (France, 1955), *Au Revoir, Les Enfants* (1987, France), *Schindler's List* (United States, 1993), *Aimee & Jaguar* (Germany, 1998), *Fugitive Pieces* (2007, USA), *Inglourious Basterds* (United States, 2009), *Ida* (Poland, 2013), *The German Doctor* (2013, Argentina), *Demon* (2015, Poland), *Remember* (2015, Canada/Germany), *Son of Saul* (Hungary, 2015), *Past Life* (2016, Israel), *1945* (2017, Hungary), *The Testament* (2018, Israel), *JoJo Rabbit* (United States, 2019)

While the subject is serious, the course is structured in a way that values students' emotional well-being. If you are interested in the topic but concerned about the depressing subject matter, they are encouraged to contact the instructor to discuss.

Assignments will include regular online discussions about films and secondary readings, and short papers. Readings will be delivered electronically via Canvas. Students may be asked to purchase one month of a streaming film service or to obtain some films from their local library.

If you have any questions about the course, don't hesitate to email me! rbaum@uwm.edu