



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

GERM 357.4
Topics in Film (The Holocaust on Film)

Fall 2021

Block Week: August 30-September 3 (8:00-11:50 am and 1:00-4:50 pm; synchronous via Zoom)

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Martin Wagner

OFFICE HOURS: Remotely, by appointment via email.

E-MAIL: martin.wagner@ucalgary.ca (You may expect a response within 48 hours, weekends excluded.)

TELEPHONE NUMBER: I don't have regular access to my office phone. Phone calls and Zoom meetings can be arranged via email.

DESCRIPTION What are the moral implications of representing violence and suffering in art? This course approaches this question through an in-depth study of the representation of fascism, anti-Semitism, and the Holocaust in European and American films from the time of the Nazi regime to the present.

OBJECTIVES

- Students gain familiarity with the historical outlines of the Holocaust and current research on the Holocaust.
- Students gain familiarity with the ways in which fascism and Holocaust have been depicted in film from the 1930s to the present.
- Students will be introduced to fundamental moral questions concerning the representation of violence and suffering.

OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to explain key facts as well as dominant questions and controversies surrounding the Holocaust.
- Students will be able to detect—and comment on—common tropes, trends, and problems in the representation of the Holocaust.
- Students will have the conceptual toolset to reflect and comment on the moral implications of the depiction of violence and the representation of victimhood in art.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

(All required readings are either available online through the library or will be made available on D2L.)

RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

Henry Gonshak, *Hollywood and the Holocaust*. Rowman and Littlefield, 2015.

COURSE NOTES

- Please see the **detailed Class Schedule on D2L** (under Content). Students are asked to follow all activities (lectures, screenings, synchronous group work, synchronous class discussions) in the sequence—and at the time—stated in the schedule.
- Links to the synchronous meetings are made available on D2L (under News).
- Synchronous Zoom meetings will NOT be recorded.



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- To simulate a regular classroom atmosphere and improve communication, students are encouraged to keep their video turned on during class meetings. Please keep your microphone muted unless you decide to speak.
- Please see detailed information on the assessment and all assignments below.

Technology Requirements:

As per the requirements, students need to have reliable access to technology, as follows:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection.

Additionally, a webcam/camera (built-in or external) is highly recommended.

ASSESSMENT

- **Creative assignment: 10%**
- **Analysis paper (1,000 words): 40%**
- **Quizzes: 30 % (5 x 6 %)**
- **Participation during class discussions: 20 %**
- **Creative assignment (500 words [+/- 10 %])**: Students choose *one* historical or fictional character from one of the films screened in class. They write a fictional letter to the director of the film in which they complain about the representation of that character in the film. Students can choose (but must make explicit) from what perspective they write the letter (for instance, from the perspective of that character, or from that of another character in the film etc.). The letter has to lay out the complaint in clear and precise terms: what aspect of the representation of the character is complained about, and why? In what other manner should the character have been shown instead—and why? To achieve a perfect score, the letter will answer the questions here listed clearly (what character; from whose perspective; which aspect is complained about and why; how else should the character have been shown and why so?), be of the required length, and be in letter form. The creative assignment is due on September 10, 2021 (11:59 pm).
- **Analysis paper (1,000 words [+/- 10 %])**: Students write a paper in which they analyse Holocaust films by answering one question from a number of provided essay questions (see D2L for details). Essays are due on September 24, 2021 (11:59 pm). The paper will be assessed based on the following criteria:
 - Completion of the task (10/20): Does the entire paper remain focused on one of the provided questions and does the paper provide a clear answer to all aspects of the chosen question (10)?
 - Construction of argument (13/40): Does the paper have a clear introduction with a specific thesis statement (5)? Does the paper have a clear and productive conclusion (2)? Does the paper productively discuss counterarguments (3)? Are the transitions between sentences and paragraphs clear (3)?
 - Productive and nuanced work with primary and secondary sources (7/40): Does the paper provide evidence for its claims by clear references to primary and/or secondary sources (5)? Does the paper include a nuanced discussion of the cited texts and films (2)?
 - Clarity of writing and form (10/40): Is there a consistent and transparent citation system (2)? Does the essay comply with standard English grammar and spelling (2)? Is the paper



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stylistically appropriate (2)? Does the paper have a descriptive and well-suited title (2)? Is the paper correctly formatted (a Word document, using 12 point Times New Roman and double-spacing) (2).

Please note: The grade will be lowered by 2 points for every 100 words that the paper deviates from the required word count.

- **Quizzes:** The quizzes consist of multiple-choice questions and will test knowledge and understanding of the lectures, films, and required readings of the respective day. Students complete quizzes on D2L. Quizzes have to be completed by September 10, 2021 (11:59pm).
- **Participation during class discussions:** On each day, the class will come together for a discussion of the films. During these discussions, students will be presented with two questions to which they have to post brief answers. Answers can be posted during discussions sessions, and they must be posted by the end of the day on which they are assigned. Answers will be graded based on completion only (a complete answer directly and clearly responds to the question in at least two grammatically complete sentences). Students are encouraged to discuss their answers among them, but each student must formulate and submit their own answer.
- **All written assignments must be UPLOADED TO D2L. Please use WORD DOCUMENTS for all written assignments, and please include your full name in the name of the file.**
- **For each 24 hours that an assignment is late, one point will be deducted. Please reach out to the instructor prior to the due date to arrange accommodations if appropriate.**
- **Any assignment that is not submitted will be graded at zero points.**

GRADING SCALE

A+ (97-100%), **A** (92-96%), **A-** (86-91%)

B+ (81-85%), **B** (76-80%), **B-** (71-75%)

C+ (67-70%), **C** (62-66%), **C-** (58-61%)

D+ (54-57%), **D** (50-53%), **F** (0-49%)

INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

Academic misconduct

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>, and <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright



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(<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.



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SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.