



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Global Holocaust Memory and Popular Cinema - 50987

Last update 22-10-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Communication & Journalism

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann

Coordinator Email: tobias.ebbrecht-hartmann@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Mondays, 12:00-14:00

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Tobias Ebbrecht Hartmann

Course/Module description:

The representation of the Holocaust became a central topic in global visual culture over the last decades. Besides certain generic forms how to present the tragic events of the past, especially films communicated particular narrative and stylistic concepts of visual memory. This online course focuses on intersections between Holocaust memory and visual media. It discusses films from various countries and decades in relation to present challenges of commemorating the Holocaust in the 21st century and various concepts of cultural and collective memory.

Disclaimer: this course deals with sensitive topics and contains graphic and disturbing imagery!

Course/Module aims:

The online course will provide interdisciplinary knowledge in cinema studies, media studies and memory studies. The aim of the course is enabling the students to analyze visual culture in relation to social and historical discourses and to situate current visual culture in context of global memory cultures and within the historical context of visual media.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- learning about the history of Holocaust cinema and other visual representations of the Holocaust
- engaging into contemporary discourses on Holocaust memory
- analysing films and other visual and digital media, and applying knowledge of narrative and stylistic conventions in order to understand media of memory as social and historiographical mediators in the global age
- using and applying theoretical and empirical concepts of Holocaust memory (including memory conflicts) on popular visual and digital culture
- conducting independent research on different films, digital culture products and platforms

Attendance requirements(%):

100 %

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The course is a self-learning online course, which is divided in three modules, an introduction and a conclusion. The sessions are synchronized with the weeks of the semester. However, the course lets you choose the time when you want to learn and how fast you want to go. Each

module consists of 3-4 topics and a key text (a theoretical article connecting more generally with the theme of the module). Each topic will be subject of online forum discussions. The key texts are subject of a short review essay. The modules are reflected in the final essay.

Course/Module Content:

Week 1 | Introduction: Migrating Images of the Holocaust

MODUL 1: VISUAL AFTERLIVES

Week 2 | Beyond the Image

Week 3 | Palimpsests of Witnessing

Week 4 | Imagined Past

MODUL 2: EVIDENCE, DOCUMENT, ICON

Week 5 | Exploring the Archive

Week 6 | Gazes and Traces

Week 7 | Memories of the Camps

MODUL 3: CINEMATIC MEMORY OF THE HOLOCAUST

Week 8 | Representing the Unimaginable

Week 9 | The Present of the Past

Week 10 | The Construction of Testimony

Week 11 | From Holocaust to Eva Stories

Week 12 | Conclusion: The Limits of the Limits of Representation

Required Reading:

Assmann, Aleida. "Transformations of Holocaust Memory: Frames of Transmission and Mediation." In: *Holocaust-Cinema in the Twenty-First Century: Memory, Images, and the Ethics of Representation*. Ed. Oleksandr Kobrynsky and Gerd Bayer. New York: Wallflower, 2015. 23-40.

Ebbrecht, Tobias. "Migrating Images: Iconic Images of the Holocaust and the Representation of War in Popular Film." *Shofar*, 28:4 (2010). 86-103.

A full reading list will be provided at the beginning of the seminar.

Additional Reading Material:

A full reading list will be provided at the beginning of the seminar.

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 60 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 20 %

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 20 %

Additional information:

Course requirements:

- 1. Active participation in weekly forum discussions and quizzes on video lectures and reading material – 20%*
- 2. Short review essay (2-3 pages) on one of the key texts, submission date: 5 January 2025 – 20%*
- 3. Final essay on a topic related to one or more of the course modules, submission date: 9 March 2024 (10 pages, 12 pt. Double Space including references and bibliography) – 60%*

It is also possible to write Seminar papers (25-30 Pages, 12 pt., Double Space) in this course; an abstract, research question and draft bibliography has to be submitted until 7 January 2025. Final submission deadline for the seminar paper is 30 March 2025.