

The College of the Humanities, Religion

**RELI 2842B, Topics in Judaism:
"Jewish Culture & History through Film"**

Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30 - 9:55 A.M.
Location: 3328 Mackenzie Building

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Bernard

Office: 2A60 PA

Office hours: Wednesdays, 10:30 - 12:00

Phone: (613) 520-2600, ext. 7029

Email: Daniel.Bernard@carleton.ca

Course Description:

While Judaism has existed for millenia, the motion picture medium is relatively new. What can films tell us about Jewish experience? How do they reflect people and communities, and how do they affect them? In this course we will critically examine depictions of Jews and Jewish culture in narrative films, from the Golden Age of filmmaking until today.

Classroom Conduct:

Respectful personal conduct is fundamental to a healthy and productive learning environment. As such, you are asked not to use networked phones, tablets, laptops, or any electronic devices for communication during class time. It is perfectly acceptable to use such devices for note-taking or reading your texts, so long as they are set to "airplane mode." Most importantly, always remember to listen to your fellow classmates, and to respect their experiences and opinions. Likewise, you're asked to allow your own opinions or beliefs to be shared with but not imposed upon your fellow classmates. Together, our goal is to engage each other as colleagues in reflective and critical conversation.

Assignments:

- Four bi-weekly 2-4-page film reviews (40%)
- Midterm 6-8-page research paper (25%)
- Final 7-9-page take-home critical essay (35%)

Texts:

- Textbook: Nathan Abrams, *The New Jew in Film: Exploring Jewishness and Judaism in Contemporary Cinema* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2012)

Films:

- *The Golem* (Wegener & Boese, 1920) Y
- *The Jazz Singer* (A. Crosland, 1927) I G
- *The Dybbuk* (M. Waszynsky, 1937) Y
- *Gentleman's Agreement* (E. Kazan, 1947) I N G
- *Murder, Inc.* (Balaban & Rosenberg, 1960) I G
- *Exodus* (O. Preminger, 1960) Y
- *Funny Girl* (W. Wyler, 1968) I G
- *Goodbye, Columbus* (L. Peerce, 1969) I G
- *Fiddler on the Roof* (N. Jewison, 1971) I N G
- *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* (T. Kotcheff, 1974) I
- *Hester Street* (J. Micklin Silver, 1975) Y
- *The Chosen* (J. Kagan, 1981) L
- *Yentl* (B. Streisand, 1983) I G
- *King David* (B. Beresford, 1985) I G
- *Radio Days* (W. Allen, 1987) L
- *Schindler's List* (S. Spielberg, 1993) I G
- *Pi* (D. Aronofsky, 1998) L
- *The Hebrew Hammer* (J. Kesselman, 2003) L
- *Everything Is Illuminated* (L. Schreiber, 2005) I G
- *Inglourious Basterds* (Q. Tarantino, 2009) I G
- *A Serious Man* (Coen & Coen, 2009) I G
- *Zero Motivation* (T. Lavie, 2014) *

* *Viewing options TBA*

Y = available on YouTube

I = available on iTunes

N = available on Netflix

G = available on Google Play

L = available in the library

Timetable:

January	Viewings	Assignments
Week 1: Motion Picture Narrative Theory	N/A	January 5: N/A January 7: N/A
Week 2: Judaism in the Era of Film	January 12: <i>The Dybbuk</i> January 14: <i>Funny Girl</i>	January 12: Textbook, "Introduction" January 14: Textbook, Ch. 6, "Religion"
Week 3: The Jewish Past	January 19: <i>King David</i> January 21: <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	January 19: N/A January 21: N/A
Week 4: The Immigrant Experience	January 26: <i>Hester Street</i> January 28: <i>The Jazz Singer</i>	January 28: Film Review #1

February	Viewings	Assignments
Week 5: The Holocaust	February 2: <i>Schindler's List</i> February 4: <i>Inglourious Basterds</i>	February 2: Textbook, Ch. 4, "Passivity" February 4: Textbook, Ch. 5, "Agency"
Week 6: Zionism & The State of Israel	February 9: <i>Exodus</i> February 11: <i>Zero Motivation</i>	February 11: Film Review #2
Week 7: Jews and North American Acculturation	February 23: <i>The Chosen</i> February 25: <i>Gentleman's Agreement</i>	February 23: Research paper

March	Viewings	Assignments
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Week 8: Gender & Sexuality	March 2: <i>Yentl</i> March 4: <i>The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz</i>	March 2: Textbook Ch. 1, "The Jew"; Textbook, Ch. 2, "The Jewess"; March 4: Textbook, Ch. 3, "Sex"; Film Review #3
Week 9: Family	March 9: <i>Radio Days</i> March 11: <i>Everything Is Illuminated</i>	March 9: Textbook, Ch. 7, "Food" March 11: N/A
Week 10: The Sacred	March 16: <i>The Golem</i> March 18: <i>Pi</i>	March 16: TBA March 18: Film Review #4
Week 11: The Jewish Other	March 23: <i>Murder, Inc.</i> March 25: <i>Goodbye, Columbus</i>	March 23: Textbook, "Conclusion"
Week 12: Jewish Humour	March 30: <i>A Serious Man</i>	

April	Viewings	Assignments
Week 12: Jewish Humour	April 1: <i>The Hebrew Hammer</i> April 6: N/A	April 1: Textbook, Ch. 8, "Bathrooms" April 6: N/A
		April 23: Take-Home Final

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 8, 2014**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2015**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **Nov. 7, 2014** for the Fall term and **March 6, 2015** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment.

If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library