

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **JEWISH STUDIES 3790G: SPECIAL TOPICS IN JEWISH STUDIES: JEWISH MOVIES**

Course Number and Section:

JEWISH

3790G 550

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

In the introduction to her recent book *Movie-made Jews: An American Tradition*, Helene Myers introduces us to “Jewhooing,” a practice defined by David Kaufman as “the naming and claiming of famous ‘members of the tribe’—and the consequent projection of group identity onto them.” But is this all there is to Jewish film? Is a Jewish film just a movie that shows Jews onscreen? Or is it something more?

In this course we will attempt to arrive at an answer to this question, and by the end of the term create a definition for Jewish film based on the feature films we will be watching, discussing, and learning about.

Learning Outcomes:

In this course, students will become acquainted with the general history of Jewish film and some of the key Jewish films created over the past century and beyond

In so doing, students will better understand some of the most important themes in Jewish history and life and how artists have negotiated key moments in the Jewish world.

Students will also learn the basics of movie criticism and analysis.

In general, students will develop analytical, written, and verbal skills necessary to clearly and concisely communicate their thoughts and ideas.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Movies available via Western Libraries or the internet.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Class Attendance and Participation20%		
Movie Reviews (x2, 1000 words each, due anytime before end of term)20%		

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Term Paper/Project Proposal (500 words, due February 4)10%		
Term Project (10-12 pages double spaced, 12 pt. font, or equivalent, due March 20)30%		
Final Take Home Exam (Due, details tbd)20%		

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Monday, January 27, 2025