

HNRS 2021

How Jewish is Hollywood? Jews and Race on Film

Fall 2019 TTHU 1:30-2:50pm French House 220



This course explores cinematic representations of Jewishness, and Jewish culture in American cinema since the silent era. The class will also analyze the symbiotic relationship between Jewish minority culture and American culture – and how historical changes, such as racism, anti-Semitism, conservatism and liberalism have influenced the representation of Jews in film. We will examine many movies through clips in class as our primary sources aided by the reading of secondary sources of books and articles that will help us in the critical and systematic analysis of the topics. Students will contribute weekly to the class by questions posted on Moodle, complete one in-class presentation, and by facilitating a discussion. The purpose of the course is to deepen our knowledge of minority representations on film and its influence on the general public. By the end of the course, students will broaden their worldview of film, Judaism and gain skills in media literacy.

Course Instructor: Mari Rethelyi
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, mrethelyi@lus.edu