Course Description
In this course, we will explore cinematic portrayals of Nazi perpetrators in 21st century cinema as well as in popular culture. We will historically and politically contextualize the aesthetics and ethics of ‘Nazi films,’ and examine broader questions of how these productions represent National Socialism and the Third Reich in the contemporary imagination. In the second half of the course, we will focus on cinematic and TV portrayals of war crime trials against Nazi-era defendants as well as on films that represent the search for Nazi offenders who had been in hiding post-1945.

Note: No knowledge of German required. May count towards a Minor in Film Studies
Since this print outline and schedule is subject to revision and updating, coursespaces.uvic.ca will be the portal for all updated course information, including topics and readings; please check it regularly for posted readings, powerpoints and study questions.

Evaluation: Students’ grades will be based on the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>ONGOING</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>ONGOING</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>MARCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Take-Home</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>APRIL</td>
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Grading: Grades will be issued in a numerical form and then converted into a final letter grade according to the grading scale from the University Calendar (p. 64).

**EVALUATION**

**Attendance (10%):**

Attendance shall be taken by your instructor and will count for 10% of your final grade. Although this percentage represents a relatively small portion of your final grade, it is an expected and mandatory course requirement. Please be aware of the academic regulations cited on page 52 in the University Calendar: “... [S]tudents may be assigned a final grade of N or debarred from writing final examinations if they have failed to satisfy a minimum attendance requirement set by an instructor ... in the course outline." The following policy will apply:

Students missing more than eight classes in this course may either receive an N grade for failing to meet course requirement or be debarred without notice from writing the final examination. Students may ask for an academic concession regarding missed or late work upon providing proper documentation of a personal or medical affliction.

“Evil is unspectacular and always human.”
– W.H. Auden
Participation (10%): 
This class expects students to have read the material before each class and be prepared to participate in discussions and to demonstrate their engagement with the questions at hand.

Short Reflective Essay (10%): 
You are expected to write a reflective essay (four pages or approx. 1,000 words) in response to an assigned reading or film viewing. This essay is intended for students to personally and critically engage with the issues and themes covered in class. A detailed rubric outlining the evaluation criteria will be provided. This short essay is due on February 9th.

Midterm (25%): 
This test (90 minutes) is scheduled on February 23rd and will examine your knowledge of the material covered up to February 9th. In addition, the midterm will test your knowledge of the reading week’s viewing and reading assignments. The midterm has a brief answer section as well as multiple-choice questions and also includes a 350-word essay.

Presentation (10%): 
This requirement involves a 10-15-minute presentation, depending on the size of the group (minimum of two members, maximum of three). Suggested topics and a grading rubric will be posted on CourseSpaces.

Final Take-home Examination - due on April 13 (35%): 
The final take-home examination is an opportunity for students to synthesize their knowledge of the course material. There will be a strict word limit and a wide choice of topics; a grading rubric will be posted on CourseSpaces.

A Note on Due Dates: 
All due dates are fixed as they stand. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, late submissions will receive a 5% penalty per day, including weekends.

COURSE POLICIES

Accessibility Statement: 
Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Center for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. RCSD staff members are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Commitment to Inclusivity and Diversity: 
The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.
Absences and Incomplete Work:

Regular attendance, completion of in-class tests and the punctual submission of work are important and mandatory components of completing the course successfully.

Concessions and Documentation:

Students may ask for an academic concession, such as the rescheduling of a quiz or test or an extension for an assignment, upon providing proper documentation of a personal or medical affliction or of a time conflict. Proper documentation would include a doctor’s note or a memo from Counseling Services, or a memo from a coach, employer or faculty member. It must be dated before or close to the time of the missed work or classes.

Add/Drop Deadlines:

It is the student’s responsibility to attend to ADD/DROP dates as published on page 6 in the Calendar and the Undergraduate Registration Guide and Timetable. You will not be dropped automatically from a class that you do not attend.

Withdrawals and Deferrals:

Students who miss substantial amounts of class and assignments without documentation will be asked to withdraw, or will receive an N at the end of the semester. Students who miss more than six classes for documented medical or personal reasons may still be asked to apply for a backdated withdrawal. Even when the reasons for failing to meet course requirements are valid, it is not academically sound to allow students missing significant amounts of work to continue in the course. Students are to familiarize themselves with the withdrawal dates on page 6 of the academic calendar. Students may only apply for a course deferral if a) they have serious and documented medical or personal reasons for not completing the final exam and b) they have already completed practically all the course requirements at the time of their application.

A Note on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

Actions such as plagiarism, multiple submissions, falsifying materials used in academic evaluations, cheating or aiding others to cheat violate University policies on academic integrity and are considered serious offences. You must inform yourself about the university regulations (see the UVic Policy on Academic Integrity on pages 55-58 of the University Calendar).

Classroom Conduct:

The film narratives of Nazism and the Third Reich illustrate the extremes of human behaviour, of hatred and cruelty but also of courage and humanity. Learning about Nazism and the Holocaust through film and literature might evoke powerful emotions and raises important moral, theological and ethical questions (http://www.hmh.org/ed_teaching_guidelines.shtml). Be mindful that we all might express these emotions in different, and sometimes, contradictory ways. GMST 452 is a safe and respectful learning environment that encourages open and constructive dialogue.

Students are asked to turn off their cell phones and mp3 players during class. The appropriate use of laptops or tablets is for taking notes only.
## COURSE SCHEDULE

Your instructor may provide you with additional material if necessary. Materials are either posted on the course reserves (for which you would need to log in) or linked through CourseSpaces. All required texts are available on CourseSpaces.

### WEEK I

#### THURSDAY (January 5th)

**Introduction to GMST 452**  
**Topic:** “Film Nazis”: Movies, Metaphors, Memes and Counterfactual Histories

**Excerpts** from *Iron Sky* and *The Man in the High Castle*

**Background Readings:**  
Gavriel D. Rosenfeld, *Nazis that never were; new alternate histories of the Third Reich / Between tragedy and farce: Nazism on the Internet* (2015)

### WEEK II

#### THURSDAY (January 12th)

**Topic:** German Portrayals of National Socialism and WWII: “Vergangenheitsbewältigung” and the “Second Guilt”

**Excerpts** from *The Murderers are Among Us / Die Mörder sind unter uns* (Wolfgang Staudte, 1946) and *The Bridge / Die Brücke* (Bernhard Wicki, 1959)

**Readings:**  

**Film Viewing:** *Jew Süss: Rise and Fall / Jud Süss - Film ohne Gewissen*. Directed by Oskar Roehler, performances by Moritz Bleibtreu and Tobias Moretti, Thimfilm, 2010.
WEEK III

THURSDAY (January 19th)

Topic: Heinrich Himmler, Einsatzgruppen and Reserve Battalions

Excerpts from The Decent One / Der Anständige (2014); Claude Lanzmann’s unedited interviews with Herbert Schubert and Karl Kretschmer (Steven Spielberg Film and Video Archive)

Readings:
1. Sue Vice, Claude Lanzmann’s Einsatzgruppen Interviews (2013)
2. Transcripts of the Shoah Interviews with Heinz Schubert and Karl Kretschmer
3. Christopher Browning, Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland (excerpts; 1992)
4. Stefan Kühl, Ordinary Organizations (excerpts; 2016)

WEEK IV

THURSDAY (January 26th)

Topic: Children of Nazi Perpetrators: the Second Generation

Film Viewing: Lore. Directed by Cate Shortland, performances by Saskia Rosendahl and Philip Wiegratz, Roh Film, 2012.

Readings:
1. Nick James, Children of the Damned (2013)
2. Susanne Baackmann, Between Victim and Perpetrator Imaginary: The Implicated Subject in Works by Rachel Seiffert and Cate Shortland (2016)

“The metaphysical category of absolute evil distracts attention from our everyday experience, leaving us safe from the distress that might be caused by examining the genocidal potential latent in every modern society, and all its members.”
WEEK V

◆ THURSDAY (February 2nd)

Topic: Descendants of Nazi Perpetrators: the Second and Third Generation

Excerpts from Harlan - In the Shadow of Jew Süss (2008), Hitler’s Children (2011), and The Ghosts of the Third Reich (2012)

Readings:
1. Dan Bar-On, Legacy of Silence: Encounters with Children of the Third Reich (excerpts; 1989) / Descendants of Nazi Perpetrators: Seven Years after the First Interviews (1996)

WEEK VI

◆ THURSDAY (February 9th)

RESPONSE PAPER DUE

Topic: “What is Nazi propaganda doing in my grandparents’ flat?”

Reading:

WEEK VII

THURSDAY (February 16th)

READING BREAK


Reading Assignment:

WEEK VIII

THURSDAY (February 23rd)

MIDTERM EXAM (90 MIN.)

The Reader - Film Discussion

WEEK IX

THURSDAY (March 2nd)

Topic: The ‘Nazi Law Problem’ and the Hart-Fuller Debate
Guest Lecture by Keith Cherry (Faculty of Law)

Readings:
3. Lon L. Fuller, *Positivism and Fidelity to Law: A Reply to Professor Hart* (1958)

**WEEK X**

◆ MONDAY (March 9th)

Topic: The Trial of Adolf Eichmann

Excerpts from Eichmann’s trial in Jerusalem (Yad Vashem); excerpts from *Hannah Arendt* (2012)

Readings:
WEEK XI

THURSDAY (March 16th)

Topic: Visualizing Atrocity: ‘The Eichmann Show’

**Film Viewing:** *The Eichmann Show.* Directed by Paul Andrew Williams, performances by Martin Freeman and Anthony LaPaglia, BBC, 2015.

**Readings:**

WEEK XII

THURSDAY (March 23th)

Topic: The Elusiveness of Justice

**Film Viewing:** *Remember.* Directed by Atom Egoyan, performances by Christopher Plummer and Bruno Ganz, Egoli Tossell Film, 2015.

**Reading:**
1. Nathan Englander, “Camp Sundown” (*What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank*, 2012)

WEEK XIII

THURSDAY (March 30th)

**GROUP PRESENTATIONS**

The final take-home examination will be due on Thursday, April 13th, by 4 pm, in the Departmental Office (CLE D 243). No electronic submissions please.