

Calendar of Learning & Teaching Activities

Hollywood and History: Nazi Germany (History 270-04)

Spring 2024

Meeting Room: 018 AAB

Meeting Times: 9:30-10:45 AM Tu/Th

(12020)

Syllabus updated 15 Feb 2024

[Hollywood & History Webpage](#)

Dr. Stallbaumer-Beishline

Office: 251 AAB

Phones: 570-389-4979 (AAB)

Email: lstallba@commonwealthu.edu

Student Drop-in Hours (251 AAB)

Mondays: 2:00-3:00 PM

Tuesdays: 3:30-5:00 PM

Wednesdays: 2:00-3:00 PM

Thursdays: 3:30 PM-5:00 PM

Happy to schedule appointments outside these times as well; just contact me.

Email Etiquette:

- Always include in which course you are enrolled
- Always include the topic of your email in the memo line
- Never assume that I read my email more than once a day, or that I will respond immediately when you send a message
- The lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part

According to the schedule below, you should have studied, not just read, by the date of the class meeting the assigned readings to be discussed. Please note when assignments are due. Any revisions that I make on the calendar will be made in the Content modules, placed in announcements, and sent to your school email. It is your responsibility to check for these notifications. If in doubt, please do not hesitate to contact me.

All assignment guidelines are explained in the document entitled "Syllabus Details," and located in BRIGHTSPACE Content Modules. A brief overview of everything is explained in an infographic.

If we are forced online, our scheduled class meetings will be held via Zoom. If we were to watch a film or listen to a lecture, you will be asked to complete those before class, and we will discuss in class. If we already were planning to have a discussion, this can easily occur via Zoom.

Estimated Reading or Study Times (ERT or EST) are just that – an estimate. When we encounter people, places, and concepts that are unfamiliar to us, reading takes longer. What is more, the reading times do not account for short breaks or time taken to make notes.

"...knowing how to read something results almost automatically from knowing why we are reading, and without some purpose, reading is an aimless activity." ~ Katherine Gottschalk and Keith Hjortshoj¹

So, be sure to look ahead at assignments



This Syllabus is subject to Change

Class Meeting Dates

Schedule of Assignment Deadlines, Readings, Class Meetings

- All readings are in the photocopy packet, purchased at the University Store
- All page numbers are inserted into top right corner of the PDF.
- Skeletal Lecture Outlines are found in section 2 of the Photocopy Packet

Copyright 2023-24 Lisa M. Stallbaumer-Beishline as to this syllabus and all lectures. During this course students are prohibited from selling notes to or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course. The syllabus is subject to change.

Tues, 23 Jan	<p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are the course expectations? ▪ How might this course contribute to your education?
Between classes do the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Review syllabus and bring questions to class. <input type="checkbox"/> Begin reading Robert Rosenstone, <i>Visions of the Past</i>, PDF p. 9-39 (Original page numbers: pp. 19-37, 45-61, 64-79) (ERT: 3 hours)
Thu, 25 Jan	<p>Lecture: Working Assumptions about Hollywood and History PDF p. 215-222</p> <p>Discussion: Questions about syllabus? Assignments? Deadlines? Submission?</p>
Between classes do the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Be reading Robert Rosenstone, <i>Visions of the Past</i>, PDF p. 9-39 (Original page numbers: pp. 19-37, 45-61, 64-79) (ERT: 3 hours) <input type="checkbox"/> Preview WTL 1 due on 8 February <input type="checkbox"/> Before 8 February, screen either <i>Hitler: The Last Ten Days</i> (1 hr, 48 min, 1973, starring Alec Guinness) or <i>The Bunker</i> (2 hr, 34 min, 1981, starring Anthony Hopkins) and compose WTL 1.
Tue, 30 Jan	<p>Lecture: Historians and Hollywood: The Clash of Professional Ethos? PDF p. 223-246</p>
Between classes do the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Finish reading Robert Rosenstone, <i>Visions of the Past</i>, PDF p. 9-39 (Original page numbers: pp. 19-37, 45-61, 64-79) (ERT: 3 hours) <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 1 opens Thursday, 1 February, 11 AM; Closes on Thursday, 8 February, 11 AM <input type="checkbox"/> Before 8 February, you need to screen either <i>Hitler: The Last Ten Days</i> (1 hr, 48 min, 1973, starring Alec Guinness) or <i>The Bunker</i> (2 hr, 34 min, 1981, starring Anthony Hopkins)
Thu, 1 Feb	<p>Discussion of Rosenstone:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why might historians, especially "Draught historians," dislike Hollywood's versions of history? 2. According to Rosenstone, what should historians understand about how movies get made? What are specific techniques discussed by Rosenstone that filmmakers use to make movies out of history? 3. What is a historical film? 4. Can history be told through film? Can we learn history through film? 5. What are "true" and "false" inventions? Does evaluating films by how well they achieve authenticity provide sufficient criteria (see lecture notes)? 6. What does Rosenstone mean by "discourse of history"? 7. What is the "Hollywood tradition" and how does it affect filmmakers and their work?
Between classes do the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Before 8 February, screen either <i>Hitler: The Last Ten Days</i> (1973, starring Alec Guinness) or <i>The Bunker</i> (1981, starring Anthony Hopkins) and be composing WTL 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Begin Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Syd Field, "Screenplay" and "Adaptation" (chapters from <i>Screenplay</i>), PDF p. 41-55 (original page numbers pp. 7-16, 204-216) (ERT 60 minutes)

Tue, 6 Feb	Lecture: Making Movies through the Eyes of Historians: The Screenwriters and Directors PDF p. 247-254
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Read and make notes: Syd Field, "Screenplay" and "Adaptation" (chapters from <i>Screenplay</i>), PDF p. 41-55 (original page numbers pp. 7-16, 204-216) (ERT 60 minutes)
Thu, 8 Feb	Discussion of Syd Field: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In learning about the structure of a screenplay, how do you imagine that this will shape the contents of a historical screenplay? 2. Given Field's advice on adapting novels, historical events, biographies etc., how will that impact accuracy and authenticity in historical films? 3. We have now studied filmmaking from two professional perspectives: professional historians and a screenwriter. What are the causes of the clash between their professional ethos? 4. What are your opinions about how well Hollywood might be able to do history given Syd Field's advice to screenwriters?
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 2 opens Thursday, 15 February, 11 AM; Closes on Thursday, 22 February, 11 AM
Tue, 13 Feb	No class meeting because of delayed opening-inclement weather
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit hard copy of WTL 1 in class Thursday, 15 February, PLUS upload to BRIGHTSPACE by 9:30 PM <input type="checkbox"/> Read and make notes: Joachim Fest's <i>Inside Hitler's Bunker</i> , PDF p 58-118 (ERT: 3 hours) <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 2 opens Thursday, 15 February, 11 AM; Closes on Thursday, 22 February, 11 AM
Thu, 15 Feb	Finish Lecture: Making Movies through the Eyes of Historians: The Screenwriters and Directors PDF p. 247-254 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the pitfalls of only portraying Hitler as evil, all-powerful, monstrous, dictator? 2. In humanizing Hitler, do we risk normalizing monstrous crimes against humanity?
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Read and make notes: Traudl Junge, <i>Hitler's Last Secretary</i> , PDF p. 123-151 (ERT: 2 hours)
Tue, 20 Feb	Discussion Traudl Junge: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are limits and possibilities of a historical interpretation of Hitler's last days from an eyewitness account? 2. What impressions are you left with about Hitler from Traudl Junge? 3. How should Hitler be portrayed in film? If necessary, finish lecture Hitler in Movies and History
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 3 Opens at 11 AM on Thursday, 22 February; closes Thursday, 29 February at 11 AM
Thu, 22 Feb	Begin Screening: <i>Downfall</i>

Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 3 Opens at 11 AM on Thursday, 22 February; closes Thursday, 29 February at 11 AM <input type="checkbox"/> You are welcome to continue watching <i>Downfall</i> on your own time.
Tue, 27 Feb	Continue Screening: <i>Downfall</i> We will not be able to complete our screening of <i>Downfall</i> in class, so expect to finish watching it on your time.
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz 3 Opens at 11 AM on Thursday, 22 February; closes Thursday, 29 February at 11 AM <input type="checkbox"/> Be working on WTL-Downfall
Thu, 29 Feb	Finish Screening <i>Downfall</i> Answer questions about WTL-Downfall
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Contemplate Normalization in <i>Downfall</i> PDF p. 279-280
Tue, 5 Mar	Lecture: Hitler in Movies and History PDF p. 267-277
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit hard copy of WTL-Downfall in class on Thursday 7 Mar, PLUS upload to BRIGHTSPACE Coursework by 9:30 PM
Thu, 7 Mar	Lecture: Why are films about Nazi Germany popular? PDF p. 281-294
11-15 Mar	Spring Break 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸
Tue, 19 Mar	Begin Screening: <i>Eichmann</i>
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Begin Reading: <i>Eichmann: A Source</i> , PDF p.151-175 (ERT: 2 hours) <input type="checkbox"/> Review and consult with professor about strengths and weaknesses of History Film Essay 1 and discuss strategies for composing History Film Essay 2
Thu, 21 Mar	Continue Screening: <i>Eichmann</i>
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Finish Screening: <i>Eichmann</i> (if we have not completed in class) <input type="checkbox"/> Preview WTL 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Read: <i>Eichmann: A Source</i> , PDF p.151-175 (ERT: 2 hours)
Tue, 26 Mar	Discussion <i>Eichmann: A source:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do we learn about Eichmann from Avner Less and the Interrogation records? 2. What are challenges that we face interpreting <i>Eichmann</i> from the textual sources?
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit hard copy of WTL 2 in class Thursday, 28 March PLUS upload to BRIGHTSPACE by 9:30 PM <input type="checkbox"/> Review and consult with professor about strengths and weaknesses of History Film Essay 1 and discuss strategies for composing History Film Essay 2

Thu, 28 Mar	Lecture: Ordinary Germans, Consent, & Resistance PDF p. 295-303
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Read: Sophie Scholl: The Sources, PDF p. 175-206 (ERT: 2 hours) <input type="checkbox"/> Review: WTL-Sophie Scholl
Tue, 2 Apr	Discussion of Sophie Scholl: The Sources <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the limits and possibilities of trying to learn what happened to Sophie Scholl from the time she was caught distributing pamphlets until her murder? 2. How would you tell her story if you were a filmmaker?
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Review: WTL-Sophie Scholl
Thu, 4 Apr	Begin Screening: <i>Sophie Scholl</i>
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Be contemplating and writing WTL-Sophie Scholl <input type="checkbox"/> Feel free to watch the entire film outside of class.
Tue, 9 Apr	Finish Screening: <i>Sophie Scholl</i>
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Be composing History Film Essay #2: <i>Sophie Scholl</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Consult WALES for help o Consult professor for help <input type="checkbox"/> Read: Coming Attractions "My family resisted the Nazis'...Vince Perez (Director of <i>Alone in Berlin</i> , <i>The Guardian</i> , 6 February 2016), PDF p. 207-211 (ERT: 10 min)
Thu, 11 Apr	Demonstration: Coming Attractions PDF p. 305-309
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit hard copy of WTL-Sophie Scholl in class Tuesday, 18 April PLUS upload to BRIGHTSPACE by 9:30 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o
Tue, 16 Apr	Begin Screening: <i>Alone in Berlin</i>
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Ponder: how is the film meeting expectations created by the "coming attractions"? <input type="checkbox"/> Preview WTL 3
Thu, 18 Apr	Finish Screening: <i>Alone in Berlin</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does the film compare to <i>Sophie Scholl</i> and the expectations created by the trailer and Vince Perez interview? 2. Be prepared to submit ticket out.
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> WTL 3 assignment requires that you watch films outside of class <input type="checkbox"/> Screen: <i>Valkyrie</i> (2 hours, 2008, dir. Bryan Singer) on your own time (if you have seen the movie before, watch it again.)
Tue, 23 Apr	Begin Screening: Operation Valkyrie (1 hr, 32 min, 2004, dir. Jo Baier) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What motivated Claus von Stauffenberg?

Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Finish watching <i>Operation Valkyrie</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Submit hard copy of WTL 3 in class Thursday, 25 April PLUS upload to BRIGHTSPACE by 9:30 PM
Thu 25 Apr	Lecture: Germans as Victims, Collective Guilt, and Responsibility PDF p. 310-324
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Be studying for the final exam.
Tue, 30 Apr	Begin Screening: <i>Labyrinth of Lies</i> (2 hrs, 4 min, 2014, dir. Giulio Ricciarelli) (You may be asked to finish watching this film on your time.)
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Be studying for the final exam
Thu, 2 May	Finish Screening: <i>Labyrinth of Lies</i> Discuss final exam
Between classes do the following	<input type="checkbox"/> Be studying for the final exam
Tuesday, 7 May 8:00-10:00 AM	Final Exam In Class, Tuesday, 7 May, 8:00-10:00 AM