Fall 2026 Course Description

COURSE TITLE: First-Year Seminar 1000.10 Childhood in International Cinema
COURSE SECTION/DAYS: Tu 4.30-7.50
INSTRUCTOR: Aine O'Healy
Office: UNH 3947
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Childhood in International Cinema

This seminar introduces students to critical writing through an exploration of international cinema. Our particular focus is the representation of childhood in approximately twelve feature films produced around the world since the 1940s. To engage critically with these films, drawn from different national contexts and historical periods, we apply the tools of audiovisual analysis to identify the symbolic function of the figure of the child on screen. The body of work we examine is organized into groups of two or three films linked by a common theme (childhood in wartime; childhood and disability; dilemmas of the transgender child; border-crossing children; and so on). We thus explore how the construction of children in cinema intersects with discourses of nation formation and with the representation of gender, sexuality, national identities, and social class. The assigned readings, drawn for the most part from cinema studies, will guide our explorations, allowing us to place the filmic analyses in a broader context that encompasses issues of historical memory, globalization, social conflict and cultural diversity.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successfully completing this course

- Students will understand and appreciate the intellectual rigor and academic excellence that defines an LMU education,
- Students will be able to engage critically and reflectively in scholarly discourse.
- Students will interpret audiovisual images with appropriate critical tools.
- Students will understand the capacity of cinema to encode cultural and ideological values.
- Students will be able to evaluate research sources for quality (e.g., by learning to differentiate between scholarly and popular sources).
- Students will acquire research skills including use of library catalog and electronic databases to retrieve books or articles, whether in print or online.

WORK REQUIRED

Weekly reading assignments; short essays; final research paper; formal oral presentation.

TEXTS

All assigned readings are available on Brightspace**.**

TERM:	**FALL 2026**	
COURSE TITLE:	**FYS HOLOCAUST LITERATURE AND FILM**	
COURSE NUMBER:	**FFYS 1000.11**	**CRN 41236**
SECTION TIMES/DAYS:	**3:40 PM – 5:20 PM**	**MW**
INSTRUCTOR:	**DR. PAULINE EBERT**	

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

The Holocaust has often been described as something that lies at the limits of representation, an event that is difficult, if not impossible, to fully describe or understand. At the same time, there is a strong need to pass on knowledge about it to future generations. This creates a tension between the limits of expression and the responsibility to remember and communicate what happened.

There have been many attempts to represent the Holocaust across different media, including literature, film, photography, art, music, and memorials, as well as in different genres such as documentary, drama, comedy, and even science fiction. As the number of survivors and witnesses continues to decline, these representations play an increasingly important role in shaping how we understand the Holocaust.

This course looks at literary, filmic, and artistic representations of the Holocaust, with a focus on questions of ethics, aesthetics, and history. We will examine key debates and controversies around representing the Holocaust and engage with important theoretical texts in Holocaust Studies.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- to provide an overview of key issues in the study of the Holocaust and 20th-century German history, as well as their representation in literature and film
- to explore how imagination and genre shape the representation of memory
- to understand ongoing debates about the historicization of the Holocaust
- to develop and sharpen skills in literary and film analysis
- to offer a challenging space for practicing critical reading, thinking, analysis, writing, presentation, and discussion
- to learn how to write concise, focused, and well-argued papers
- to build research skills, including the use of library catalogs and electronic databases
- to develop the ability to present research clearly to an audience of peers

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Art Spiegelman, *Complete Maus*
Elie Wiesel, *Night*
Readings on Brightspace

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

Weekly reading assignments; short papers; final research paper; oral presentation.