

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Amy Guess Humanities Discipline: Art History Date: 11-13-15
Meeting
World Religion: Judaism Teaching Module Title: Mass Media and Judaism in America

Teaching Module Goals:

- Be able to discuss Jewish contributions to the development of American culture through mass media such as film, music, and television
- Learn about the connections between American Jews and the golden era of film as well as the involvement of Jews in contemporary American film

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

- [Jewish Film 101](#)
- Abrams, Nathan, "From Jesus to Jeremy: The Jewish Male Body on Film, 1990 to Present." In: **Mysterious skin : male bodies in contemporary cinema** / edited by Santiago Fouz-Hernández. London ; New York : I.B. Tauris ; New York : Distributed in the USA by Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.
- Anklewicz, Larry. **Guide to Jewish films on video** Hoboken, NJ: KTAV Pub. House, 2000.
- Bial, Henry, **Acting Jewish : negotiating ethnicity on the American stage & screen** Ann Arbor : University of Michigan Press, c2005.
- Buhle, Paul, **From the Lower East Side to Hollywood: Jews in American popular culture**. London ; New York: Verso, 2004.
- Carr, Steven Alan, **Hollywood and anti-semitism: a cultural history up to World War II** / Steven Alan Carr. Cambridge [England]; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001. Series title: Cambridge studies in the history of mass communications.
- Cripps, Thomas, "African Americans and Jews in Hollywood; antagonistic allies." In: **Struggles in the promised land : toward a history of Black-Jewish relations in the United States** / edited by Jack Salzman & Cornel West. pp: 257-274. New York : Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Desser, David. **American Jewish filmmakers** / David Desser and Lester D. Friedman. 2nd ed. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, c2004.
- Erens, Patricia, **The Jew in American Cinema** / Patricia Erens. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, c1984.

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

- Explain how the acceptance of Jews in mass media has evolved in America over the past 100 years.

-Do you think Jewish practices/teachings have affected mass media and how it is perceived? Are there examples of films, music, or television shows that have Jewish ideals?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

-Watch a film made by a Jewish film maker/company, or one that includes a Jewish actor. Are there any allusions to Jewish ideals in the film? If so, in what context? If not, does this affect your view of the film? Would you have known the actor/director/company had Jewish connections?