For seven decades American writers and filmmakers have faced a representational dilemma: how to depict an event whose significance continues to grow, even being termed a metaphor of our times, yet one which challenges the imagination’s very limits? How to confront the Holocaust?

This course will explore the history of American literary and cinematic engagement with Auschwitz, what has been called the Americanization of the Holocaust. We will study the entire sweep of this response, from the immediate post-war years to the present, giving particular attention to the complex cultural dynamics which have affected these works and their receptions.

And because I will be teaching an Honors/Film seminar on Hollywood treatments of the Holocaust, students will have the opportunity to attend a series of weekly film screenings.

**TEXTS**
Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett, *The Diary of Anne Frank* (1955)
Cynthia Ozick, *The Shawl* (1981-83)