German Cinema: National Socialism

Winter 2013
GER 355
Tuesday/Thursday 1600-1750
in 229 McKenzie
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Cinema played a crucial role in the life of Nazi Germany. Between 1933 and 1945 over a thousand feature films were released in Germany, including infamous propaganda pieces like *Triumph of the Will* and *Jud Süss* and entertainment films by influential directors such as Douglas Sirk.

How did cinema participate in the framework of everyday fascism and how did it figure within the larger contexts of state terror, world war, and mass murder? In this course we will analyze seminal films of the Third Reich as ideological constructs, popular commodities, and aesthetic artifacts. We will examine the complex interplay of politics and culture in Nazi Germany, while simultaneously reflecting on how lessons from the past continue to be of significance for the present.