

HISTORY 4394: HISTORY THROUGH FILM: RACISM AND ANTI-RACISM IN CINEMA

Professor Horne, W 1-4 p.m.

rac-ism

noun \ˈrā-,si-zəm also -,shi-\

Definition of **RACISM**

1

: a belief that **race** is the primary **determinant** of human traits and capacities and that **racial** differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race

2

: racial **prejudice** or discrimination

— **rac-ist** \-sist also -shist*noun or adjective*

Anti-racism: opposition to the above

This course involves weekly screenings of documentary films and/or Hollywood blockbusters—along with weekly readings and class discussions—that will investigate the history of racism and anti-racism in the U.S. particularly, as manifested on the silver screen. Topics include e.g. history & representation of anti-Black sentiment and the explosion of ‘race riots’ in the 1960s; anti-Mexican, anti-Asian and anti-Native American sentiment and the attempt by Japan during World War II to parlay this into a victory over the U.S.; the unique role of anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish fervor. There will be a mid-term and a final exam and a paper due on the last day of class.