

050:301:02

Race, Politics, and Culture: Blacks & Jews in America

Race, Politics, and Culture: Blacks and Jews in America originated as the product of an international partnership awarded by the American Studies Association to promote cooperation between the Rutgers American Studies Department and that of the Hebrew University. The course examines the complexities of how black and Jewish political and cultural identities have evolved in relationship to one another. Readings may include Philip Roth's *Goodbye, Columbus*, Alice Walker's *Meridian*, Saul Bellow's *Mr. Sammler's Planet*, James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*, Anna Deveare Smith's *Fires in the Mirror*, James McBride's *The Color of Water*, and Philip Roth's *The Human Stain*. Films to be examined may include *Black Israel* (a film about black Jews living in both the United States and Israel, 2003), *The Jazz Singer* (Al Jolson in the first commercial "talkie" film, 1927), *From Swastika to Jim Crow* (2000): <http://imdb.com/title/tt0231617/plotsummary>, *Brownsville Black and White* (2000): <http://imdb.com/title/tt0305337/>, and *The Human Stain* (2003). This course is cross-listed with Jewish Studies and Africana Studies.