REL 3111: Religion and Philosophy through Film
Department of Philosophy
University of Central Florida
COURSE SYLLABUS

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Course Overview

In this course we use film as a medium to explore different concepts in philosophy and religion. We will consider issues related to metaphysics, ethics, temporality, the "death of God," feminism, the portrayal of religion in culture, the understanding of religious traditions through practice, and the representation of religion.

Course Objectives

   i.   Students will discover, identify, and explain issues related to religion and philosophy in both critical texts and film.
   ii.   Students will actively engage in dialogue by critically discussing and evaluating important arguments in both religion and philosophy.
   iii. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of and critical thinking about philosophical and religious concepts.
   iv.   Students will be able to identify theoretical and critical principles in philosophical and religious thinking from diverse historical and cultural contexts.
   v.   Students will have a greater awareness of issues of religious and philosophical importance that are displayed in popular cinematic culture.

Required Texts and Materials: Articles accessed online through Canvas.

Basis for Final Grade: After the introduction, we will spend two weeks on each unit. In the first week, we will discuss the assigned readings in the discussion forum, and in the second week you will watch the assigned film, complete a quiz, and on 2 weeks of your choosing you will write a response paper.

Discussion Posts (20 points each): You will respond to the discussion topic (listed below in Course Schedule) for each unit. Discussion posts should be at least 350-400 words, interacting with the assigned texts and properly cited using APA format. After you make your initial post (15 points and due on Thursdays), you should respond to the posts of at least two of your classmates, raising substantive questions or challenging their assertions (5 points and due by Sunday of each week of discussion). **The discussion forums close on Sundays and no additional posts will be accepted.** Your responses must go beyond "nice post" or "good work." Ask a probing question of your classmate or make observations based on the readings to help further the discussion.

See http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/ for information on APA citation format for both discussion posts and papers.

Please remember that policies regarding plagiarism and academic honesty apply to these posts. All ideas must be your own when responding to the prompt, and any sources used in your work must be cited using APA or a similar accepted academic format. I am less worried about the style of citation and more interested that sources are cited. Your initial post must also be your original response to the assigned prompt and without influence by others' work. Remember that all of your activity in the discussion forum is trackable. **You should think of these posts like dropping an envelope in the mailbox: once you post your initial response, you cannot modify it or delete and start over.** If you would like time to edit your post, you can always work on it in a separate document and then paste your work as a new post. ***You will not receive credit for your work if you fail to follow these guidelines.*** Please also see additional information regarding academic conduct below.

When making your initial post in the forum (responding to the question), please start a new thread. When responding to your classmates' posts, please select the specific post, address the original author by first name in your response, and hit "REPLY". This makes the discussion easier for all of us to follow in the forum.

Paper Assignments (25 points): You will write 2 papers out of 7 possible assignments (you have 5 weeks to "skip.") Papers will be 2-3 pages, 12 pt Times New Roman font (approximately 750 words) responding to the paper topics found below in Course Schedule. I will return the papers to you with comments as soon as possible, but please allow up to 2 weeks to receive grades and feedback. Papers will be due on **Sundays** immediately following film screening weeks. You must turn the paper in on time when you choose to write. ***Late papers will not be accepted. The dropbox will time out after the due date.***

Movie Quizzes (5 points): There will be a short quiz on each week of the movie screening, accessible through Webcourses. The quizzes will have a 15-minute time limit for completion. You must complete the quizzes on or before the day the papers are due that week (the Sunday immediately following the week of the film assignment).

Syllabus Quiz (5 points): The Registrar's office needs to document student activity the first week of class in order for financial aid to be disbursed on time. Please review the syllabus and complete the brief syllabus quiz in order to satisfy this requirement no later than Friday, January 13 at 5:00 pm. If you complete the quiz after this time you will still receive your financial aid but it may be late. Even if you are not receiving financial aid you should complete this quiz in order to receive credit for the 5 points.

Please print out the syllabus and take note of the due dates and plan accordingly. Do not rely only on Webcourses reminders for the assignment due dates. This syllabus is ALWAYS your first point of reference for due dates and class policies.

You cannot make up an assignment if you forget the due date. This is a fast-paced, self-directed course and it is your responsibility to keep up with the assignments and when they are due*. **Extensions are granted in rare, documented, emergency situations for the discussion posts only.** If you have a week that you are unable to write a paper that will count as a "skip" week.** You cannot write extra papers for extra credit.

Discussion Posts =	160 points
Paper Assignments =	50 points
Quizzes=	35 points
Syllabus Quiz=	5
TOTAL =	**250 points possible**