

Dr. Maria Jaoudi Tuesday & Thursday: 10:30-11:45am Mendocino 4004
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Telephone: (916) 278-7483
Office Hours: TR 1:30-2:30am, on-line, and by appointment

Special Note: The information in this syllabus is subject to change as issues related to furlough planning are updated and resolved.

Course Description

An examination of the religious and spiritual dimensions of selected films from around the world. The cinematic arts are examined in relationship to religious and spiritual concerns, concepts, and values.

Course Content and Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to analyze cultural, spiritual, and religious themes in the global selection of films. Students will examine films by learning to interpret the cinematic elements of character, gender, dialogue, image, *mise en scène*, lighting, and music. Students will identify and critique religious perceptions in film and interpret the cultural significance of each represented world religion and spiritual theme.

Required Texts

Understanding Movies, 11th edition. Louis Giannetti
Living Religions, 7th edition. Mary Pat Fisher

Recommended Texts

Christian & Islamic Spirituality. Maria Jaoudi

Explorations in Theology and Film. Edited by C. Marsh & G. Ortiz

Film as Religion. John Lyden

Night. Elie Wiesel

Seeing and Believing: Religion and Values in the Movies. Margaret Miles

Screening the Sacred: Religion, Myth, and Ideology in American Film. J. Marin & C. Ostwalt, Jr.

The Story of Film: A Worldwide History. Mark Cousins

No electronics: This includes cell phones and laptops which must be Off and out of sight during class.

Class Schedule

Lecture & Discussion

Film

(Films selected may vary)

Reading Assignments

Week 1

**Principle Concepts in the Study of Religion and Film
Cinematic Elements of Film Study**

Seven Years in Tibet
Jean-Jacques Annaud

In-class Tuesday and Thursday, 1 and 3 September

Living Religions, Chapters 1

Week 2

Seven Years in Tibet

In-class Tuesday, 8 September

On-line Thursday, 10 September

Living Religions, Chapter 5
Understanding Movies, Chapter 1

Week 3

Seasons of Spiritual Maturity

Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter. . . and Spring
Kim Ki-duk

In-class Tuesday and Thursday, 15 and 17 September

Living Religions, Chapter 5
Understanding Movies, Chapter 2

Week 4 & 5

Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter. . . and Spring

Religion as Oppression

Water
Deepa Mehta

On-line Tuesday, 22 September

In-class Thursday, 24 September

In-class Tuesday, 29 September

On-line Thursday, 1 October

Living Religions, Chapter 3
Understanding Movies, Chapter 3

Weeks 6 & 7
Confucian Values

Together
Chen Kaige

Living Religions, Chapter 6

In-class Tuesday, 6 October
On-line Thursday, 8 October

On-line First Exam

Thursday 8 October 12:30am -
Friday 9 October 11:00pm

First Exam includes: Living Religions, Chapters 1, 3, and 5
Understanding Movies, Chapters 1, 2, 3

After the First Exam:
Living Religions, Chapter 6

In-class Tuesday, 13 October
On-line Thursday, 15 October

Week 8
Sufism and the Complexities of Love

The Color of Paradise
Majid Majidi

Living Religions, Chapter 10
Recommended reading: Christian & Islamic Spirituality by Maria Jaoudi
Understanding Movies, Chapter 4

In-class Tuesday and Thursday, 20 and 22 October

Weeks 9 & 10

The Color of Paradise

A Star is Born

Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi
Shemi Zarhin

On-line Tuesday, 27 October
In-class Thursday 29 October
In-class Tuesday 3 November
On-line Thursday 5 November

Living Religions, Chapter 8
Understanding Movies, Chapters 5 & 6

Weeks 11, 12, & 13
“The law changes, conscience doesn’t”

Sophie Scholl: The Final Days
Marc Rothemund

In-class Tuesday, 10 November

On-line Thursday, 13 November

Second Exam

**Thursday 12 November 12:30am –
Friday 13 November 11:00 pm**

**Second Exam includes: Living Religions, Chapters 6, 8, and 10
Understanding Movies, Chapters 4, 5, 6**

In-class Tuesday, 17 November

On-line Thursday, 19 November

No class Tuesday 24 November

After the Second Exam:

Living Religions, Chapter 9

Recommended reading: Night

Understanding Movies, Chapters 7, 8, 9

Weeks 14 & 15

Mystic and Political Activist

Karol: The Man Who Became Pope
Giacomo Battiato

Living Religions, Chapter 9

Recommended reading: Christian & Islamic Spirituality; Night

Understanding Movies, Chapters 10 & 11

In-class Tuesday and Thursday, 1 and 3 December

In-class Tuesday, 8 December

On-line Thursday, 10 December

Final Exam

**Thursday 10 December 12:30am -
Friday 11 December 11:00pm**

**Final Exam includes: Living Religions, Chapter 9
Understanding Movies, Chapters 7 - 11**