

*Dr. Maria Jaoudi*

Tuesday: 5:30-8:20PM Mendocino 4004

Office: Mendocino 2018

E-mail: jaoudim@csus.edu

Telephone: (916) 278-7483

Office Hours: TR 9:00-10:00am; T 4:15-5:15pm; and by appointment

### **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**

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

### **Required Texts**

*Used books will help you defray the cost.*

Understanding Movies. Louis Giannetti

Older editions are fine, but no further back than the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. There are too many important recent films.

Living Religions; 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Mary Pat Fisher

Only as far back as the 5<sup>th</sup> edition.

### **Recommended Texts**

Christian & Islamic Spirituality. Maria Jaoudi

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

Film as Religion. John Lyden

Guns, Germs, and Steel. Jared Diamond

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

Living Religions, pages 1-32; 134-181

#### **Week 2**

**Seasons of Spiritual Maturation**

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

Living Religions, pages 134-181

#### **Week 3**

**The Power of the Mind**

The Matrix

Andy & Larry Wachowski

Living Religions, pages 134-181

#### **Week 4**

**Religion as Oppression**

Water  
Deepa Mehta

Living Religions, pages 72-119

**Week 5**  
**From Confucian Storytelling to Excess**

The Curse of the Golden Flower  
Zhang Yimou

Living Religions, pages 182-213

**Week 6**  
**Bridging Two Cultures**

Bend It Like Beckham  
Gurinder Chadha

Living Religions, pages 434-454

**Week 7**

**14 October 2008**

**IN-CLASS WRITING REVIEW**

(Remember: Do not be late)

**Week 8**  
**The Complexities of Love**

Yes  
Sally Potter

Living Religions, pages 376-433

Recommended reading: Christian & Islamic Spirituality by Maria Jaoudi

**Week 9**  
**A Star is Born**

Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi  
Shemi Zarhin

Living Religions, pages 235-294

**Week 10**  
**“The law changes, conscience doesn’t”**

Sophie Scholl: The Final Days  
Marc Rothemund

Living Religions, pp. 235-294; 295-375  
Recommended reading: Night

**Week 11**  
**No class – campus closed**

**Week 12 & 13**

**Mystic and Political Activist**

Karol: The Man Who Became Pope  
Giacomo Battiato

Living Religions, pages 295-375

Recommended reading: Christian & Islamic Spirituality; Night

**Week 14**

**The Depiction of Christianity in the Cinema**

The Mission  
Raoul Joffé

Living Religions, pages 295-375

Recommended Reading: Christian & Islamic Spirituality; Guns, Germs, and Steel

**Week 15**

**9 December 2008**

**IN-CLASS WRITING REVIEW**

**(Remember: Do not be late)**

**Research Paper Due**

**Research Study Paper – See Course Policy**

Please read carefully the California State University's Advisory Standards for Writing.

[www.csus.edu/acaf/manual/advstndrds.htm](http://www.csus.edu/acaf/manual/advstndrds.htm)

Utilizing your text, Understanding Movies, explain each of the following assigned films according to the specified chapters in Understanding Movies.

Be sure to have at least 2 quotations from EACH Chapter assigned.

Each film assigned is to have **three** typed pages, double-spaced. Additional pages are optional and encouraged to voice your own opinions.

Amistad  
Steven Spielberg

Chapters 2, 6, and 8

The New World  
Terrence Malick

Chapters 1, 3, 5, and 10

The Color of Paradise  
Majid Majidi

Chapters 4, 7, and 9

