**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**
- *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
- *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**

**Reading Assignments**

**Film**

(Films selected may vary)

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 11:00 pm

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