Dr. Maria Jaoudi
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Office Hours: TU 12-1:30pm; TH 12-1:00; M & W 3:00–5:00pm online; 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
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.

In this online learning course students practice reading and study skills and, with assistance from the professor, improve critical thinking and questioning abilities. With face-to-face and online contact with the professor, and with testing, students will be able to interact, understand and integrate the reading, research, and films for the course into a lifetime of intellectual exploration.

Required Texts

Understanding Movies, 11th edition. Louis Giannetti

Living Religions, 7th edition. Mary Pat Fisher

Required Films

Students are responsible for Films assigned. Available to purchase/ rent through Netflix, e.g.
Check HRS 183 SacCT for Weblinks on Reading and Notetaking Strategies

Lecture and Study Guides are available on SacCT on a prearranged schedule for the weeks the film is studied. The Lecture and Study Guides will no longer be accessible after that time. Be sure to make a copy insuring that you will be able to have the material in conjunction with the schedule listed on the syllabus and for each of the exams.

**Recommended Texts**

*Christian & Islamic Spirituality.* Maria Jaoudi
*Christian Mysticism East & West.*
*Medieval and Renaissance Spirituality.*

*Confucius: The Secular as Sacred.* Herbert Fingarette

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

*Film as Religion.* John Lyden

*Freedom in Exile: The Autobiography of the Dalai Lama.* His Holiness the Dalai Lama

*An Autobiography: My Experiments with Truth.* Mohandas Gandhi

*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 Miracle of Mindfulness.* Thich Nhat Hanh

*The Story of Film: A Worldwide History.* Mark Cousins

**Class Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture &amp; Discussion</th>
<th>Film</th>
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**Reading Assignments**
Weeks 1 & 2

**Principle Concepts in the Study of Religion and Film**  Seven Years in Tibet

**Cinematic Elements of Film Study**  Jean-Jacques Annaud

Living Religions, Chapters 1, 5
Understanding Movies, Chapter 1

Week 2

**Why a Taboo?**  ●Departures

Yōjirō Takita

Week 3

**Seasons of Spiritual Maturity**  Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter, . . . and Spring

Kim Ki-duk

Living Religions, Chapter 5
Recommended reading:  The Miracle of Mindfulness by Thich Nhat Hanh
Understanding Movies, Chapter 2

Weeks 4 & 5

**Religion as Oppression**  Water

Deepa Mehta

Living Religions, Chapter 3
Recommended reading:  An Autobiography: My Experiments with Truth by Mohandas Gandhi
Understanding Movies, Chapter 3
Weeks 6 & 7

First Exam Thursday 7 October 12:30am - Friday 8 October 11:00pm

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

After the First Exam: Living Religions, Chapter 6

Confucian Values Together
Chen Kaige

● The Curse of the Golden Flower
Zhang Yimou

Living Religions, Chapter 6
Recommended reading: Confucius: The Secular as Sacred by Herbert Fingarette

Week 8

Sufism and the Complexities of Love The Color of Paradise
Majid Majidi

Living Religions, Chapter 10
Recommended reading: Christian & Islamic Spirituality and Medieval and Renaissance Spirituality, especially Chapter 7 Islamic Love Mysticism: Rabi’a and Rumi
by Maria Jaoudi
Understanding Movies, Chapter 4
Weeks 9 & 10

The Color of Paradise
Turtles Can Fly
Bahman Ghobadi

A Star is Born

Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi
Shemi Zarhin

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

Second Exam
Thursday 4 November 12:30am – Friday 5 November 11:00 pm

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

After the Second Exam:
Living Religions, Chapter 9
Recommended reading: Night by Elie Weisel; Medieval and Renaissance Spirituality, especially Chapter 6 The Jewish Mystical View: The Kabbalah by Maria Jaoudi
Understanding Movies, Chapters 7, 8, 9

Weeks 11, 12, & 13

The Cost of Miracles
Ushpizin
Giddi Dar

True Stories
Joyeux Noël
Christian Carion

“The law changes, conscience doesn’t”
Sophie Scholl: The Final Days
Marc Rothemund
Weeks 14 & 15

“Love never ends”  The Mission  Roland Joffe

Living Religions, Chapter 9
Recommended reading: Christian Mysticism East & West
Understanding Movies, Chapters 10 & 11

Week 16

Final Exam  Thursday 16 December 12:30am – Friday 17 December 11:00pm

Final Exam includes: Living Religions, Chapter 9
Understanding Movies, Chapters 7 - 11
Films Weeks 11-15

Course Policy for Dr. Jaoudi’s HRS Courses

Intellectual exploration is encouraged: The professor is available for additionally scheduled Office Hours for student reflections, discussions, and questions on the reading and film assignments.

Students are responsible for reading assignments, lecture materials, exams, and films, depending on the class syllabus.

There are three on-line exams; see the Syllabus Schedule. The exams are not cumulative. For example, exam #2 begins where the previous exam ends.

Each on-line exam contains multiple choice and true/false questions based on ideas and vocabulary obtained from notes on lectures, class discussions, hand-outs, reading assignments, and films, depending on the course content. Each exam contains 30-35 questions. Please check your Syllabus on SacCT for the exact on-line exam times and dates.
For one-on-one walk-in and by appointment tutoring help with **SacCT**, contact the Student Technology Center at stc@csus.edu/telephone (916) 278-2364/Academic Computing Resources building Room 3007.

Students are required to take the Exams in the Student Technology Center insuring assistance with any technology issues. If a student does not take the Exams at STC, he/she takes full responsibility to resolve any technical issues on their own.

It is the student’s responsibility to remember answers given to the online test questions, in order to benefit from the responses after the exam.

**There are no make-up exams.**

There is no extra credit.

Students with disabilities who require special accommodation must provide disability documentation at SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008 (916) 278-6955. **Students with special testing needs must provide the appropriate forms at least two weeks prior to an exam in order to schedule with the Testing Center.**

In **HRS 152, HRS 155, and HRS 183**, each exam is 1/3 of the grade.