

JAUDI-HRS183-Summer15

HRS 183 World Religions and Cultures in Cinema

Summer 2015

Dr. Maria Jaoudi

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Office Hours: MW TBA; TR 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

OPEN BOOK EXAMS

Be sure to have your books and downloaded essays annotated and available for each exam

Understanding Movies. Louis Giannetti. Exam questions are based on the 11th edition or later editions; to keep student costs down

Living Religions. Mary Pat Fisher. Exam questions are based on the 7th or later editions; to save on the cost

Check HRS 183 SacCT for Web Links on Reading and Note-taking Strategies

Required Films

Students are responsible to rent/purchase films assigned

A selection of several films for the class is available at the Library Media Center

Recommended Texts

An Autobiography: My Experiments with Truth. Mohandas Gandhi

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

Confucius: The Secular as Sacred. Herbert Fingarette

Night. Elie Wiesel

The Miracle of Mindfulness. Thich Nhat Hanh

Class Schedule

Lectures

Films

Reading Assignments

Week 1

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

The Meaning of Spiritual Transformation

Seven Years in Tibet
Jean-Jacques Annaud

A Cinematic Masterpiece

Kundun
Martin Scorsese

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

Week 2

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

Religion as Oppression

Water

Deepa Mehta

Legacy of Civil Disobedience

Gandhi

Richard Attenborough

Living Religions, Chapter 3

Recommended reading: An Autobiography: My Experiments with Truth by Mohandas Gandhi

Understanding Movies, Chapter 3

Week 3

First Exam Open Book

TBA

12:30am – 11:00pm

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

After the First Exam: **Living Religions, Chapter 6**

Understanding Moveies, Chapter 4

Confucian Values

Together

Chen Kaige

Living Religions, Chapter 6

Recommended reading: Confucius: The Secular as Sacred by Herbert Fingarette

Understanding Movies, Chapter 5

Sufism and the Complexities of Love

The Color of Paradise

Majid Majidi

Living Religions, Chapter 10

Medieval and Renaissance Spirituality, especially Chapter 7 *Islamic Love Mysticism: Rabi'a and Rumi* by Maria Jaoudi

Week 4

A Star is Born

Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi

Shemi Zarhin

Living Religions, Chapter 8

Understanding Movies, Chapter 6

Midterm Exam Open Book

TBA

12:30am – 11:00 pm

**Midterm Exam includes: Living Religions, Chapters 6, 8, and 10
Films Weeks 3 & 4**

Week 5

Third Exam Open Book

TBA

12:30am – 11pm

Third Exam is only on: Understanding Movies, Chapters 1-6

After the Third 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

“The law changes, conscience doesn’t”

Sophie Scholl: The Final Days

Marc Rothemund

“Love never ends”

The Mission

Roland Joffe

Living Religions, Chapter 9

Recommended reading: Christian Mysticism East & West

Understanding Movies, Chapters 10 & 11

Week 6
Global Spirituality

Speciesism: The Movie
Mark Devries available to rent for
1.99\$ on vimeo.com

Print and study the essays on the link, [A God-Centered Ecology](http://www.gratefulness.org/t/motherearth_links.htm)
http://www.gratefulness.org/t/motherearth_links.htm

Final Exam Open Book

TBA

12:00am - 11:00pm

**Final Exam includes: Living Religions, Chapter 9
Understanding Movies, Chapters 7 - 11
Films Weeks 5-6**

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.

Reminder: An online class demands even more self-motivation and discipline than a face-to-face class. For example, there is no professor standing in person reminding students about an exam; students have to remind themselves of the details of the class conveyed through the syllabus and SacCT. Because many of us are frequently online, there may be an automatic reflex to peruse written instructions. Therefore, be mindful, the online class is different from browsing the net. Enjoy your studies, and be aware of the fact that student success is determined online primarily by student commitment and circumspection.

There are four online exams; see the Syllabus Schedule. The exams are not cumulative. For example, exam #2 begins where the previous exam ends.

Each online 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 is open book and 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 Hstc@csus.edu/telephone (916) 278-2364/Academic Computing Resources building Room 3007.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

Students are required to take exams in a University Computer Lab <http://www.csus.edu/irt/Labs/locations.html> insuring assistance with any technology issues. If a student does not take the exams in a University Computer Lab, he/she takes full responsibility to resolve any technical issues on their own. Keep in mind that this means the student is responsible for following instructions and a reliable Internet connection. If a student's connection fails, there is no second chance to take the exam. To repeat, please take the exams on campus to insure you do not receive a zero on an exam. Do not contact the professor concerning any technological problems - please contact the Service Desk (ARC 2005) at servicedesk@csus.edu or 278-7337.

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

There are no make-up exams; if an exam is not taken, the student is automatically assigned an F grade. Therefore, make sure the exact dates and times of exams are duly noted.

There is no extra credit.

At no time is it appropriate to ask the professor to increase a grade in order to accommodate an individual desire for a higher GPA without matching grade performance.

A student may drop themselves from the class during the official student drop period. After the official drop period ends, any drops, withdrawals, or incompletes, will only be considered for faculty signature, if there is documented evidence of an unforeseen emergency, death, or surgery. Invalid reasons include: Not being able to keep up with the reading, receiving a poor grade on an exam(s), work schedule, moving to an apartment, or going on vacation.

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 1/4 of the grade.

TBA: Link to the HRS Website when syllabi are updated for each semester calendar

<http://www.csus.edu/hum/>