

Dr. Maria Jaoudi

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Office Hours: T 12:00-1:30pm, MW 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

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

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, Chapters 1

Week 2

Living Religions, Chapter 5
Understanding Movies, Chapter 1

Seven Years in Tibet

Week 3

Seasons of Spiritual Maturity

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

Living Religions, Chapter 5

Understanding Movies, Chapter 2

Weeks 4 & 5

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

Religion as Oppression

Water

Deepa Mehta

Living Religions, Chapter 3

Understanding Movies, Chapter 3

Weeks 6 & 7

Confucian Values

Together

Chen Kaige

Living Religions, Chapter 6

First Exam

Thursday 4 March 12:30am - Friday 5 March 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**

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

Weeks 9 & 10

The Color of Paradise

A Star is Born

Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi
Shemi Zarhin

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

Second Exam

Thursday 15 April 12:30am –Friday 16 April 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

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

Week 16

Final Exam

Monday 17 May 12:30am - Tuesday 18 May 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, the research paper, 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 is 50 minutes long with 30 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.

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 140**, each exam is 20% of the grade. Exams comprise 60% of the final grade and the research paper and class participation 20% each. In **HRS 152, HRS 155, and HRS 183**, each exam is 1/3 of the grade.