

RELIGION AND FILM PHI 202

INSTRUCTOR: Jan Briel
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to examine the variety of religious experience and expression that is found in the leading modern art form. This will be accomplished by examining films which have either/both an overtly religious subject matter, or a religious subtext in their style. The basic concepts, ethics and symbolism of religion systems will be applied to the study of film in order to show how film itself may serve as religious experience.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the technical and historical background necessary to examine the symbolic and metaphoric connection between film and religious expression; to expose students to religious and cultural expressions which may be unfamiliar; to open the students' film-going experience to the possibilities of a symbolic/religious dimension.

TEXTS

Myth and the Movies, Stuart Voytilla. (Michael Wiese Productions, 1999.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and participation in all classes and activities.
2. Reading and/or viewing all assigned material.
3. Completion of 2 papers.

GRADING

Attendance/Participation: 60%

A=90-100

B= 80-89

Paper I: 20%

C=70-79

D=60-69

Paper II: 20%

F=below 60

Religion and Film Reading Schedule

11/20 Introduction

Film as Hierophany

"Myth and the Movies"

11/21 Visual Story and Religious Interpretation of Film

Cinematic Transfigurations of Jesus

12/4 The Demonic in American Cinema

Analogy of Action in Film

12/5 Cinema, Religion, and Popular Culture

Film and the Quest for Meaning

12/11 Field Experience

12/12 Non-Western Films

Students are responsible to meet all deadlines for the course unless serious and unforeseen events can be documented for the instructor.

Make copies of all material sent through the mail; the instructor is not responsible for undelivered assignments. Students will be required to resubmit any missing material.

Under extreme circumstances, the grade of "Incomplete" may be assigned. The grade requires that the student make up the coursework, on their own, by the end of the following semester. To receive an "Incomplete" the student must be in good standing in the course at the time that the Incomplete is requested. If the Incomplete is not resolved by the end of the following semester, the grade will revert to "F".

RRCC Syllabus Disability Statement

ADAAA (Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Red Rocks Community College is committed to access for students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and need assistance or are interested in requesting accommodations, please contact Accessibility Services. Faculty are not obligated to provide accommodations without proper notification by Accessibility Services and accommodations are not retroactive. Students may contact the Access staff by telephone or email to make an intake appointment at 303-914-6733 or access@rrcc.edu. Accessibility Services is located in Suite 1182 at the Lakewood campus. More information is available at www.rrcc.edu/accessibility-services.