

UO Clark Honors College Arts & Letters H221 | Fall 2021 | CRN 12920

Cinematic Religion Course Schedule

Instructor: Dr. Erica Mongé-Greer
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Office: Chapman Hall 306
 Drop-in Hours: Tue/Thur 1pm-2pm

Class Meets in Tykeson 340
 Tue/Thur 10am-11:20am



Course Schedule

Week 1 Introduction	
Tue. 9/28	What is religion?
Thur. 9/30	What is religion? Cont. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Aslan, Introduction & Part One • ST: Voyager, “Blink of an Eye” (shown in class)
Week 2 Portrait of a God	
Tue. 10/5	Tabernacles & Theaters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W. Blizek, “The Future of Religion and Film” • R. Aslan, Part Two • <i>OMG , Oh my God!</i> [Modi, B K, Umesh Shukla, Bhavesh Mandalia, Ashvini Yardi, Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal, Mithun Chakraborty, Poonam Jhaver, Mahesh Manjrekar, and Govind Namdeo. <i>Omg Oh My God!</i>, 2012.]
Thur. 10/7	God in the Past & Future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Aslan, Part Three

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Monty Python & The Holy Grail</i> [Gilliam, Terry, Terry Jones, Terry Gilliam, Terry Jones, Terry Gilliam, Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, and Michael Palin. <i>Monty Python and the Holy Grail</i>. United States: Python Pictures, 1975.] • Instructions for “Personal History of God” Essay (in-class)
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Week 3 Eastern Religions & Indigenous Religions

Tue. 10/12	<p>Eastern Movements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Little Buddha</i> (2015) [link to view: https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3o1fq7] Bertolucci, Bernardo, Jeremy Thomas, Rudolph Wurlitzer, Ruocheng Ying, Mark Peploe, Keanu Reeves, Chris Isaak, Alex Wiesendanger, and Bridget Fonda. <i>Little Buddha</i>. Canada: Lions Gate Films, 2015. • Film of Choice (<i>from Week 3 on list of Films—CANVAS</i>) • W. Blizek, “Buddhism and Film” (pg. 148ff) & “Hinduism and Film” (pg. 157ff) • Cunningham/Kelsay, <i>The Sacred Quest</i>, “Toward a Definition of Religion,” Ch. 1 (pg. 11)
Thur. 10/14	<p>Indigenous Roots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Whale Rider</i> (2002) [view at Kanopy (sign in with UO credentials): https://uoregon.kanopy.com/video/whale-rider] Barnett, John, Frank Hübner, Niki Caro, Keisha Castle-Hughes, Rawiri Paratene, Cliff Curtis, and Witi Ihimaera. <i>Whale Rider</i>. New Zealand: South Pacific Pictures, 2002. • W. Blizek, “Indigenous Religions and Film” (pg. 188ff); “Imagining God in the Movies” by C. Haunton (pg. 260ff)
Fri. 10/15	<i>Personal History of God</i> Paper Due (see CANVAS for specifics)

Week 4 God & Gods & God’s Family

Tue. 10/19	<p>Who or What is God?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Brand New Testament</i> (2015) [view on Prime] Dormael, Jaco , Thomas Gunzig, Olivier Rausin, Daniel Marquet, Benoît Poelvoorde, Catherine Deneuve, François Damiens, Yolande Moreau, Pili Groyne, and An Pierlé. <i>The Brand New Testament</i>, 2015. • Film of Choice (<i>from Week 4 on list of Films—CANVAS</i>) • W. Blizek, on Abrahamic Religions: “Christian Movies” (pg. 123ff), “Catholic Movies” (pg. 137ff), “Judaism and Jewishness in Film” (pg. 167ff) “Muslim in the Movies” (pg. 177ff) [Choose One] • Cunningham/Kelsay, <i>The Sacred Quest</i>, “The Nature of the Sacred,” Ch. 2 (pg. 25)
Thur. 10/21	God’s Family a.k.a. Divine Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clash of the Titans (2010)</i> [view on HBOMax] Leterrier, Louis, Basil Iwanyk, La N. K. De, Travis Beacham, Phil Hay, Matt Manfredi, Sam Worthington, Gemma Arterton, and Mads Mikkelsen. <i>Clash of the Titans</i>. United States: Warner Bros. Pictures, 2010. • Reading Excerpt Online (available on Canvas) • W. Blizek, “Part I: The Study of Religion and Film” [Choose two articles]
Fri. 10/22	<i>Analytical Mini-Essay #1</i> Due (see CANVAS for specifics)

Week 5 Messianic Figures “the Jesus”

Tue. 10/26	<p>Jesus, the essential “Messiah”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jesus of Montreal (1989)</i> or <i>Mary Magdelene (2018)</i> Arcand, Denys, Guy Dufaux, Yves Laferriere, Lothaire Bluteau, Catherine Wilkening, Johanne-Marie Tremblay, Remy Girard, and Robert Lepage. <i>Jesus of Montreal (1989)</i>. Place of publication not identified: Max films Productions/Union Generale Cinematography, 1989. • Film of Choice (from Week 5 on list of Films—CANVAS) • W. Blizek, “Jesus Movies” by A. Reinhartz (pg. 211ff) • Cunningham/Kelsay, <i>The Sacred Quest</i>, “The Appearance of the Sacred,” Ch. 3 (pg. 37)
Thur. 10/28	<p>Messiah archetypes & their roots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Life of Brian (1979)</i> [view on Netflix] Gilliam, Terry, Terry Jones, Terry Gilliam, Terry Jones, Terry Gilliam, Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, and Michael Palin. <i>Monty Python Life of Brian</i>. Chatsworth, CA: Image Ent Criterion, 1979. • W. Blizek, “The Saviour Figure” by M. McEver (pg. 270ff)

Week 6 Priests, Monks, Nuns, Pastors, and Rabbis

Tue. 11/2	<p>People who speak for God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fleabag Season 2</i> [6 episodes] (Netflix) Waller-Bridge, Phoebe, Sian Clifford, Olivia Colman, Bill Paterson, Brett Gelman, Hugh Skinner, Hugh Dennis, Ben Aldridge, Jo Martin, Jenny Rainsford, Andrew Scott, Fiona Shaw, Kristin Scott-Thomas, and Ray Fearon. <i>Fleabag: Season 2</i>, 2020. • Film of Choice (from Week 6 on list of Films—CANVAS) • Cunningham/Kelsay, <i>The Sacred Quest</i>, “The Language(s) of the Sacred,” Ch. 4 (pg. 55)
Thur. 11/4	Colonialism, Conversion, and Corruption

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Mission (1986)</i> [Prime Video] De, Niro R, Jeremy Irons, Roland Joffé, and Ray McAnally. <i>The Mission</i>. Leipzig: Arthaus, 1986. • TBA
Fri. 11/5	<i>Analytical Mini-Essay #2</i> Due (see CANVAS for specifics)

Week 7 The Devil, Evil & Horror

Tue. 11/9	Retribution Theology and a History of Horror <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>BBC's Dracula (2020)</i> <u>Episode ONE</u> [view on Netflix] Bang, Claes, Dolly Wells, and Morfydd Clark. <i>Dracula</i>. United States: Bbc Us / Canada, 2020. • Film of Choice (<i>from Week 7 on list of Films—CANVAS</i>) • W. Blizek, “Satan in the Movies,” K. Wyman (pg. 300ff) & “Evil on Film,” B. Stone (pg. 310ff) • Cunningham/Kelsay, <i>The Sacred Quest</i>, “The Problem of Evil,” Ch. 7 (pg. 101)
Thur. 11/11*	VETERAN’S DAY :: Thanks to all those in the service—Celebrate the Day!

Week 8 Angels & Demons

Tue. 11/16	Godlike, but not God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOGMA (1999)</i> Smith, Kevin, Scott Mosier, Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Linda Fiorentino, Salma Hayek, Jason Lee, Jason Mewes, Alan Rickman, Chris Rock, and George Carlin. <i>Dogma</i>. , 1999. • Film of Choice (<i>from Week 8 on list of Films—CANVAS</i>) • Cunningham/Kelsay, <i>The Sacred Quest</i>, “Ritual,” Ch. 5 (pg. 71); “Sacred Communities,” Ch. 6 (pg. 85)
Thur. 11/18°	God’s Enemies (online) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Good Omens Miniseries (2019)</i> Gaiman, Neil, Douglas MacKinnon, Tim Bradley, Phil Collinson, Josh Dynevor, Paul Frift, Mike Treen, Rob Wilkins, Chris Sussman, Simon Winstone, David Tennant, Michael Sheen, Adria Arjona, Frances McDormand, Michael McKean, Jack Whitehall, Nick Offerman, Mireille Enos, Benedict Cumberbatch, Sam T. Buck, Jon Hamm, Daniel Mays, Sian Brooke, Terry Pratchett, and Neil Gaiman. <i>Good Omens</i>. , 2019.
Fri. 11/19	<i>Analytical Mini-Essay #3</i> Due (see CANVAS for specifics)

Week 9 Consults & Catch-Up

Tue. 11/23	Individual Consultation Meetings will take place via Zoom & in-person to help you prepare your final written assignment.
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Thur. 11/25*	THANKSGIVING—Enjoy the Holiday!
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Week 10 Afterlife & Immortality	
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Tue. 11/30	<p>What happens when we die?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Good Place (2016-2020)</i> [view on Netflix] Schur, Michael, Kristen Bell, William J. Harper, Jameela Jamil, D'Arcy Carden, Manny Jacinto, and Ted Danson. <i>The Good Place</i>. 2016-2020. • Film of Choice (from <i>Week 10 on list of Films—CANVAS</i>) • Cunningham/Kelsay, <i>The Sacred Quest</i>, “Religion and Morality,” Ch. 8 (pg. 117)
Thur. 12/2	<p>Future of God & Humanity’s Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Along with the Gods: The Two Worlds (2017)</i> Ch'oe, Chi-són, Yong-hwa Kim, Chǒng-u Ha, T'ae-hyǒn Ch'a, Chi-hun Chu, Hyang-gi Kim, and Ho-min Chu. <i>Along with the Gods: The Two Worlds</i>, 2017.

Week 11 FINALS WEEK	
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12/8	Final Cumulative Project Due (see CANVAS for specifics)