

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

RELS 399.05 L20 – Spring 2011

Religion and Popular Culture: The Bible and Film

COURSE OUTLINE

Logistics

Prerequisites: *None*

Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00-12:45

Location: SB 148

Instructor: Dr. David A. Bergen
dabergen@ucalgary.ca
403-220-7063

Office Hours (SS 1308): 1:00-2:00, Tuesday and Thursday

Textbooks: *HarperCollins Study Bible (NRSV)*

PDF and HTML materials posted in Blackboard

A schedule of assigned readings will be posted in Blackboard, "Course Documents."

**Course
Description**

In this course we will compare the constructions of the Bible and modern cinema within ancient and contemporary cultures. In comparing and analyzing the Bible and film, students will be introduced to a series of interpretive frameworks which the hermeneutical importance of the *pretext* in understanding humanly-constructed productions. The course will also examine the human ability to transform experienced virtuality into perceived reality, thereby enabling readers and viewers to commune and persevere in a cosmos largely inhospitable and non-purposive.

This course will adopt as its primary objective and *modus operandi* the following statement by Lincoln:

*When one permits those whom one studies to define the terms in which they will be understood, suspends one's interest in the temporal and contingent, or fails to distinguish between 'truths,' 'truth-claims,' and 'regimes of truth,' one has ceased to function as a historian or scholar. In that moment, a variety of roles are available: some perfectly capable (amanuensis, collector, friend and advocate) and some less appealing (cheerleader, voyeur, retailer of import goods). None however should be confused with scholarship. ("Theses on Method," *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 8, 225-7; 1996)*

**Learning
Assessment**

Five equally-weighted midterm test (May 19, 36 and June 2, 9, 16)	90%
Final in-class essay exam (June 23)	10%

- *the exams will involve typical university testing formats.*
- *each of the six exams will consist of in-class short-answer questions and a take-home long-answer question. The take-home portion of the exam must be submitted electronically in Blackboard's "Digital Dropbox" no later than 1:00 pm the day following (i.e., twenty-four hours after the short-answer portion of the test).*
- *a passing grade on any of the exams is not essential for passing the course.*
- *no external aids will be allowed during any exams in this course.*

Grading Scale

A numerical grade is assigned for each course requirement. Following the final graded component, a letter grade is assigned, using the department-approved table of equivalencies:

A+ 100-96	B+ 84-80	C+ 69-65	D+ 54-53
A 95-90	B 79-75	C 64-60	D 52-50
A- 89-85	B- 74-70	C- 59-55	F under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

Important Dates

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the current University Calendar.

Academic Accommodation

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor **two weeks** before the scheduled date.

**Course Withdrawal
Lecture Recording**

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar
Recording any part of any lectures in any form must be first approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

Safewalk Program

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 403-220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!

Gnosis

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.