

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
Winter 2012**

**Rels 399.05 L01: *Religion and Popular Culture: The Bible and Film***

**COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>Logistics</b>	<b>Prerequisites</b>	<i>None</i>
	<b>Time</b>	Thursday, 6:00-8:45 pm
	<b>Location</b>	SB 146
	<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. David A. Bergen SS 1308 <a href="mailto:dabergen@ucalgary.ca">dabergen@ucalgary.ca</a> 403-220-7063
	<b>Office Hours</b>	Friday, 2:00-3:00 pm or by appointment
	<b>Textbooks:</b>	<i>HarperCollins Study Bible (NRSV)</i>  PDF and HTML materials posted in Blackboard  <i>A schedule of assigned readings will be posted in Blackboard, "Course Documents."</i>

**Course Description**

Truman and Adam share a great escape as cornered Jesuits battle the 18<sup>th</sup> century Church. Audiences cheer solemnly when Karl and Jesus unsheathe swords, then laugh as gun-toting hitmen debate foot massages and divine miracles. Jesus gets a concussion in Montreal, the Logos slips into a computer, and Leonardo DiCaprio descends deep into Plato's Cave. This course weaves between worlds of film and Bible to understand how both serve the human need to transform experiences of the unreal into fresh perceptions of the real. In comparing modern films and ancient (biblical) texts, students should develop an academic understanding of the impact of hermeneutical assumptions on the construction of order and meaning.

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)*

<b>Learning Assessment</b>	Six equally-weighted tests (Jan 26, Feb 9, Mar 1, 15, and 29, Apr 12)	60%
	Five equally-weighted “Cave Critiques” (to be submitted electronically on Fridays, within 24 hours of viewing the scheduled film: Jan 20, Feb 3 and 17, Mar 9 and 23)	40%

Total: 100%

- *the exams will involve typical university testing formats.*
- *a passing grade on any of the assessments is not essential for passing the course.*
- *no external aids will be allowed during any exams in this course.*
- if a student is anticipating a class absence s/he should find a classmate willing to loan his/her notes; lecture notes will not be available from the instructor.
- tests must be written on the dates scheduled. No exceptions will be made, except for death, significant illness, or domestic affliction (corroborated by a valid, original note from a physician or counselor). You must contact the instructor within twenty-four hours of a missed exam or deadline.
  - The University Calendar states: “It is the responsibility of students who have prolonged absences from class because of physical and/or emotional health problems to present to the faculty office offering the course a statement from a physician/counselor attesting to the physical or emotional health of the student.”
- no remedial assignments are available in this course.
- please note that the University of Calgary regulations strictly prohibit the following during examinations (the penalty for which is suspension or expulsion or such other penalty as may be determined):
  - speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever;
  - bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, or document not authorized by the examiner;
  - leaving answer papers exposed to view;
  - attempting to read other student’s examination work.

<b>Grading Scale</b>	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.

<b>Course Withdrawal</b>	Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar
<b>Lecture Recording</b>	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.
<b>Safewalk Program</b>	"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!
<b>Gnosis</b>	Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: <a href="mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca">gnosis@ucalgary.ca</a> or visit <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis">http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis</a> .

### **Blackboard Help**

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/online-services/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQ's about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here: [http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6\\_1/student/bbls\\_r6\\_1\\_student/digital\\_drop\\_box.htm](http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbls_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm).

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

### **Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative**

The Office of the Student Ombuds provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. See [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

### **Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at [www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints). Please check this website and not the nearest assembly point for this course.