

December 17, 2013

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**RELS 399.02 *Religion and Popular Culture:  
The Bible and Film***

WINTER 2014

**Place and Time:** MS 217, Thursday evening - 6:00-8:45

**Instructor:** Dr. David A. Bergen, SS 1308, 403-220-7063, dabergen@ucalgary.ca

**Office hours:** Monday @ 1:00-2:00 (or by appointment)

**Textbook:** *HarperCollins Study Bible (NRSV)*; additional readings posted in Blackboard, Course Documents.

**Content and Objectives:**

Truman and Adam share a great escape while a long-suffering priest lends counsel to a lunatic writer. The audience winces as a misogynist sweet-talks his way to forgiveness, and then laughs as gun-totting thugs debate divine miracles. A magician stages a resurrection, writers plagiarize foreign material, monologic truth fades on the battleground of faith. The Logos of the Greeks slips into a computer as a modern-day thief sinks deeper into sub-conscious espionage. Students of this course will academically engage multiple adventures in(to) cinematic and biblical worlds and in doing so, will analyze the impact that mental assumptions have on one's perception of both virtuality and reality, a postmodern update of Isaiah's *the reader/viewer sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear*" (42:20).

**Assessments:**

*Six Online Tests - 50%*

Non-cumulative and equally-weighted, using a variety of assessment styles from multiple choice to short-answer, available in Blackboard on: Jan 16-17, Jan 31-Feb 1, Feb 14-15, Mar 7-8, Mar 21-22, and Apr 4-5.

*Six Analytical Responses - 50%*

Students will submit electronically (in Blackboard's Digital Dropbox) six analytical responses (maximum length, 600 words), one for each film viewed in this course. The deadlines for these submissions will be at noon on Jan 26, Feb 9, Mar 2, Mar 16, Mar 30, Apr 17.

*Participation Bonus – 1-10% per response*

A bonus rewarding good viewing protocol will be given for each film (up to 10%), to be applied to the respective analytical response.

*There will be no registrar scheduled final exam for this course*

**Grading Scale:**

A+ 100-96	B+ 84.9-80	C+ 69.9-65	D+ 54.9-53
A 95.9-90	B 79.9-75	C 64.9-60	D 52.9-50
A- 89.9-85	B- 74.9-70	C- 59.9-55	F under 50

**Student Expectations:**

Students will be given only one attempt to write each test. Should a University-related problem occur (one that can be confirmed by the IT department), then that student will write in-person a make-up test in the Religious Studies Department between April 15-17 (exam time to be announced).

No remedial assignments are available to students who fail to submit an analytical response. A passing grade on any of the graded components is not essential for passing the course.

**Student Expectations:**

To ensure a successful learning experience in this course, students are advised to:

- *enter* in their personal calendar all deadlines pertinent to the assessments of this course (see schedule in Blackboard);
- *ensure* that their computer and server are fully operational. No exceptions will be made for technical glitches (e.g., server crash, browser freeze-up, battery drain, wi-fi dropout ... in short, anything between the university's system and the student's computer) other than those problems for which the University demonstrates responsibility. *It is therefore the responsibility to the student of an online electronic course to ensure that they possess (or have access to) the stable equipment and secure signal necessary to complete the course.*
  - for information on supported browsers and operating systems most compatible with Blackboard, please review these webpages:  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard>  
<http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=57442326>
  - in the event of a computer problem in the second test attempt, students must contact [Information Technologies](#) to confirm that the university system encountered a glitch while the test was in session. This confirmation must then be forwarded to the instructor, who will be able to reset the test for a third and final attempt.
- *read* the assigned readings (see schedule posted in Blackboard, Course Information) prior to the week's lecture;
- *ask* questions of clarification related to the assigned readings (in class [if time] or via email);
- *attend* the lectures and record detailed notes;
- *engage* the film viewings, mindful of the filmic presentation and the prescribed hermeneutical lens (presented in the preceding week's lecture);
- *review* and *reflect* on lecture notes. Obtain information from a classmate where records are inadequate; confirm or gain understanding of difficult concepts from the instructor;
- *check* email messages and Blackboard postings for updates and announcements;

- *study* hard and smart, allotting sufficient time prior to each test for rereading of text-book and notes.

### **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.

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

### **Blackboard Help**

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/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/bbbs\\_r6\\_1\\_student/digital\\_drop\\_box.htm](http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbbs_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm).

### **Gnosis**

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

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

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The 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 Student Ombuds Office 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.

**Safewalk**

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help phones located throughout campus to request a walk.