

The University of Calgary  
Faculty of Arts  
Department of Religious Studies

Religious Studies 399.06 L10

Spring 2010

Religion and irreligion: the filmmaker's search for meaning  
Block Week, May 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>: MTWRF 9:00 – 17:00  
SB 144

Instructor	Dr. Tinu Ruparell
Office	SS1320
Office Hours	by appointment for block week
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**Texts:**

Readings will be available on the Blackboard site for the course. All readings will be downloadable in PDF format. It is important that you read each article/chapter in advance of the lecture in which it or its themes are discussed.

**Block Week Course Description:**

This course will run for 5 days: May 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to approximately 5 pm daily. Success in this block week course requires full attendance, thorough preparation and engagement with the material and, of course, prompt submission of all assessed requirements. **Failure to complete and submit all assessed course requirements will result in a grade of F for the course. NO extensions will be permitted and NO late papers will be accepted without a medical certificate.**

Students should be aware of the following important regulations concerning Block Week courses: The last day to **drop** a Block Week course (without the course appearing on the student's transcript) is the **end of the first day of lectures**. The last day to **withdraw** from a Block Week course is the **final day of lectures during the Block Week**.

This is a mid-level course aimed at examining how religious, non-religious and anti-religious perspectives have been expressed through the medium of film – and how film has forced us to interrogate the nature of religion. We will be interested in exploring various philosophical issues arising out of the filmmaker's interaction with culture and the way in which these interactions relate to wider religious traditions, themes, practices and concerns. Through an examination of certain key philosophical writings as well as careful analyses of a selection of films, we will interrogate the notion of religion as a system of meaning production as well as the uses to which film has been put in expressing these meanings.

**Core Competencies:**

Committed students in this class will have the opportunity to reflect on some key issues in the study of religion and film and in so doing will gain critical reading, interpretive and analytic skills. Additionally, students will begin to acquire abilities in forming clear, concise and cogent arguments, develop their writing and communication skills and broaden their perspectives on the place of religion in contemporary visual culture. Skills acquired in this course will have relevance in upper level courses in the humanities as well as in wider social settings. Knowledge acquired in this course will help students reflect more clearly and critically on the relationship between religion and culture and on their own religious or irreligious narratives.

**Assessment:**

	Date	Description	Weight
Presentation	May 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> , morning session	Each morning from the 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> of May, 10-15 students will each present a 10 minute oral analyses of previous films in the light of questions/issues arising from readings and lectures* These presentations will be the basis of discussion, in the light of which students are expected to revise their presentations and submit them in written form by the due date, May 17 <sup>th</sup> .	20%
Revised presentation paper	<b>May 17<sup>th</sup></b> Noon, SS1301, Department drop box– no exceptions, no extensions**	After discussion of your presentation, you are to submit a 1000 word (revised) paper of your presentation topic. No emailed papers will be accepted.	30%
Essay	<b>May 21<sup>st</sup></b> , Noon, SS1301, Department drop box – no exceptions, no extensions**	A 2000 word paper is due on questions to be handed out May 14 <sup>th</sup> immediately following the film. Details of expectations will accompany the questions. No emailed papers will be accepted.	50%

**There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam in this course.**

NB: \* Failure to present in class will result in an F in this part of the assessment. No exceptions or rescheduling will be allowed without extremely extenuating circumstances and must be accompanied by relevant medical certificates, etc. This is to help ensure that the course is completed in the required time. On the first day of class a presentation

schedule will be distributed.

\*\* Due to the nature of these block week courses, no papers will be accepted after 12 noon on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010. No extensions will be granted without extremely extenuating circumstances and must be accompanied by relevant medical certificates etc. Failure to submit the paper on time will result in an F in that assessment.

Please note: No Emailed papers will be accepted. Hard copy is required or you will receive an F in your paper or revised presentation.

**Grading:**

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

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

**Syllabus:**

A full Syllabus will be made available on the first day of class and posted to blackboard shortly prior to that date.

**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.

**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>.