

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2017

Course: RELS 399.5 Religion and Popular Culture (Bible and Film)
Time: 9:00-5:00 daily during Block Week January 2-6, 2017
Instructor: Craig W. C. Ginn, PhD
Office Hours: By appointment during block week; Thursday 3:30-4:30 during winter 2017 term
Office: SS 502
E-mail: cwcginn@ucalgary.ca
Telephone: (403) 220-5612

Required Text(s): Attridge, Harold W., Wayne A. Meeks, and Jouette M. Bassler. 2006. *The HarperCollins study Bible: New Revised Standard Version, including the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical books*. San Francisco, Calif: HarperSanFrancisco.

Readings will include ebooks and online articles available from the University of Calgary library as well as web-based sources. Title and links will be posted on D2L.

Course Description: Film in general and biblical films in particular generate considerable interest in popular culture. The modern movie meets ancient epic is not uncommon, and combination can do well at the box office. Mel Gibson's 2004 *Passion of Christ*, a front-runner, grossed over \$600 million. Adjusting for inflation, AMC Filmsite claims that Cecil B. De Mille's 1956 *The Ten Commandments* starring Charlton Heston and Yul Brynner ranks at #6 of all time. The 'End Times' can also draw a crowd, with apocalyptic themes derived from The Book of Revelation a rich source for plots and titles seen in *Pacific Rim*, *Left Behind*, and most recently *The Remaining*. Why is the biblical narrative of interest? Do Moses and Jesus represent heroes for a post-Christian culture? Is film a didactic source for religion and critical carrier of theology? Do movies displace literature, the Bible not excepted?

This course will explore the role of the Bible in Film. Student will consider commonalities and distinctions between the Bible and Film and be introduced to methods of analysis and interpretation, particularly related to the areas of religious studies, mythology, theology, history, hermeneutics, and cultural studies.

Online elements for this course: Retrieval of online materials for reading and research.

Core Competencies: Upon completion of this course, students will become familiar with:

- academic interest at the intersection of religion and film
- canonical literature in Judaism and Christianity
- biblical mythology and narrative in the context of Judaism and Christianity
- higher criticism in biblical studies
- the place of religion and religious narrative in popular culture
- analytical approaches to the Bible and Film
- evaluation of religious beliefs and practices within social contexts

- hermeneutical approaches to sacred literature and film
- the preparation and presentation of research and analysis

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)	Required to pass the course
January 3	Test 1	10%	Yes
	In-class handout assignment	5%	Yes
January 4	Test 2	10%	Yes
	In-class handout assignment	5%	Yes
January 5	Test 3	10%	Yes
	In-class handout assignment	5%	Yes
January 6	Test 4	10%	Yes
	Group Presentation	15%	Yes
January 13	Take home exam DUE A hard copy must be dropped off to the Department of Classics and Religion by 4:00 pm on January 13.	30%	Yes

*Failure to complete and submit all course assessments will result in a grade of F for the course.

NOTE: There is no final exam for this course.

Important Information per “B.6 Block Week Courses”:

- The last day to drop a Block Week course (without it appearing on the student's transcript) shall be the end of the first day of lectures.
- The last day to withdraw from a Block Week course shall be the final day of lectures during the Block Week.
- Attendance at lectures, tutorials, laboratories, etc. will not be required beyond the duration of the Block Week(s). Students may be required to meet with instructors regarding assignments during the term. Although lectures, etc. are completed during the Block Week, students should be prepared to complete assignments and a final examination during the remainder of the term.
- Final grades for Block Week courses will not be required until the end of the term in which the course is offered.
- In lieu of a final examination, a take-home final examination can be given out on the last day of lectures.

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, usually used within the Department of Classics and Religion:

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

Adjusted Final Grades: The instructor will implement a standard measure of adjustment (.5%) for final grades. For example, a final grade of 64.5% (C) will be rounded up to 65% (C+). Please do not send email inquiries asking the instructor to increase or 'round up' your final grade.

Take Home Exam: Students will choose from a list of questions provided by the instructor. Each student will respond to three questions. Each response must be 400-500 words in length. Do not exceed 500 words in any of the responses. Responses that exceed 500 words will be deducted 5% per 50 excess words. All submissions must include a word count. Sources and citation required.

Writing Assistance: The instructor will not read or evaluate a take home exam in advance of the due date. Do not email a rough draft of the take home exam to the instructor for feedback. For assistance in writing, students are advised to consult Writing and Learning Services.

Group Presentation: Each student will contribute to the content of a group presentation. Group presentations are scheduled for the last day of class.

Penalty for Late Assignments: Late submission of the take home exam will be deducted 15% per day.

Policy with Regard to Missed Assignments/Assessments: If a student misses a test or written assignment deadline due to illness or an emergency, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the absence. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up the test or written assignment and will receive a numerical mark of zero.

Expectations for Student Conduct in this Course: Please be courteous toward other students in the course. Please do not engage in behavior that is distracting to other students. For students who raise questions during class, please contribute to the resourceful use of classroom time by limiting the number of questions you ask in each class. While evaluative inquiries are permitted, students are encouraged to steer inquiries toward objective investigation rather than confessional or adversarial agendas.

Expectations for Email Correspondence in this Course: Please identify the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course you are registered in. Please do not send email inquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and final exam schedule for schedule information. Inquiries related to tests or assignments must be sent no less than 24 hours before a deadline. Do not ask the instructor to preview your test answers.

Electronic Device Policy: Laptops are permitted if used for the purpose of taking lecture notes. Do not use laptops during class for email, Facebook, or other nonacademic activities. Cell phones must be turned off during the entire class time. Texting during class is not permitted. Taking pictures in the classroom is not permitted. This includes taking pictures of data projector images and slides. Students that distract the instructor or other students due to the misuse of electronic devices during class will be requested to leave the classroom.

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to Academic Regulations E.6, “With the permission of the instructor, students may tape record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a Release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered.”

Syllabus: A complete syllabus (class schedule) will be made available the first day of class.

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 (section K, which can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>). If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, or librarian staff.

Academic Accommodation: It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. 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.

Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help: Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

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>.

Classics Student Society: Classics Student Society is the Greek and Roman Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: classsoc@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at ascarts@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 3rd 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.

Freedom of Information and Privacy

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act indicates that assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your express permission. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone else without your permission. As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page.

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 for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at 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. 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.