

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Religious Studies

Religious Studies 399.06 L01

Winter 2011

Religion and irreligion: the filmmaker's search for meaning
Block Week, Jan^{3rd} - 7th 2011, MTWRF 9:00 – 17:00
SB 146

Instructor	Dr. Tinu Ruparell
Office	SS1320
Office Hours	by appointment for block week
Telephone	403-220-7069
Email	ruparell@ucalgary.ca

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: Jan 3-7, 2011 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 arts 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	Jan 5 th – 7 th morning session	Each morning from the 5 th – 7 th January, 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, Jan 10 th .	20%
Revised presentation paper	January 10th 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	January 17th Noon, SS1301, Department drop box – no exceptions, no extensions**	A 2000 word paper is due on questions to be handed out January 7 th 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 January 17th 2011. 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 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 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. 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 (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.

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.

Block Week course regulations

- 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.
- Although lectures, etc. are completed during the Block Week, students should be prepared to complete assignments 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.