

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: THEOLOGY AND CINEMA
Status: Definitive
Code: **5523MEDCUL** (115077)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: St Helens College

Team	Leader
Clare Horrocks	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ5 **Credit Value:** 12.00 **Total Delivered Hours:** 45.00
Total Learning Hours: 120 **Private Study:** 75

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	15.000
Seminar	15.000
Tutorial	15.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	One 1,500 - 2,000 word essay. (Week 8)	70.0	
Presentation	AS2	Group presentations of 20 minutes.	30.0	

Aims

To introduce students to theological themes as presented in film
To explore representations of religion in film
To explore issues of how religious themes are used in film
To explore the links between film and issues of religion and theology

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Analyse the difference between preferred/oppositional readings of film.
- 2 Discuss and evaluate how theology and religious themes are presented in film.
- 3 Discuss and evaluate the nature of film structure and how theological themes and narratives are used to influence a viewer's perception and interpretation.
- 4 Discuss and evaluate moral and ethical issues that arise from theological concepts and themes as presented in film.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

One 1,500 - 2,000 word essay	1	2	3	4
Group presentation of 20 mins	1	2	3	4

Outline Syllabus

Using a selection of films the student will evaluate the nature of theological issues and narratives and how they are presented in film. Issues of morality, theological perspectives of good and evil along with religious concepts of existence and the human experience as presented in film culture will also be evaluated.

Students will look at a variety of film genres and will be encouraged to discuss the issues that arise from them in an objective fashion. The module will complement the level 1 unit Religion and Culture and will also link to the level 2 unit Communication and the Media. Emphasis will be placed upon issues of Christian theology although there is scope for a wider reading including that of Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist themes and interpretations.

Learning Activities

Taught lessons, seminars, film studies, group discussions.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Abraham, N.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	Studying Film
Subtitle	
Edition	

Publisher	Edward Arnold
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Marsh, C.
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Theology Goes to the Movies: An Introduction to Christian Critical Thinking
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Marsh, C. & Ortiz, G.
Publishing Year	1997
Title	Explorations in Theology and Film
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Blackwell
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	McGrath, A.E.
Publishing Year	1997
Title	Christian Theology: An Introduction
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Blackwell
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Hill, J. (et al)
Publishing Year	1998
Title	The Oxford Guide to Film Studies
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Oxford University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Hunter, I.Q.
Publishing Year	1999
Title	Alien Identities: Exploring Differences in Film and Fiction
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Pluto Press

ISBN	
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Course Material	Book
Author	Marsh, C.
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Theology Goes to the Movies
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Nelmes, J.
Publishing Year	1996
Title	An Introduction to Film Studies
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Smart, N.
Publishing Year	1997
Title	The World's Religions
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Cambridge University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	CD/DVD
Author	
Publishing Year	
Title	Beast of War, Dir. Kevin Reynolds, A&M Films, 1988
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	CD/DVD
Author	
Publishing Year	
Title	Chronicles of Riddick, Dir. David Twohy, Universal Studios, 2004
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	CD/DVD
Author	
Publishing Year	
Title	Dead Poets Society, Dir. Peter Wier, Touchstone Pictures, 1989
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	CD/DVD
Author	
Publishing Year	
Title	Dead Man Walking, Dir. Tim Robbins, Havoc, 1996
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	CD/DVD
Author	
Publishing Year	
Title	East is East, Dir. Damien O'Donnell, Film Four, 1999
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	CD/DVD
Author	
Publishing Year	
Title	Once upon a Time in Iran, Dir. Kevin Sim, Channel Four Films, 2007
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	CD/DVD
Author	
Publishing Year	
Title	Welcome to Sarajevo, Dir. Michael Winterbottom, Channel Four Films, 1997.
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	

ISBN	
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Notes

Module Notes: This module will introduce the student to concepts, film structure and terminology along with a background introduction to the theology of Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Christianity and reading the film. Due to restrictions on time it is intended that no more than 6 films will be examined allowing for one teaching session to watch the film and a second to discuss the issues that arise from it. Sessions will be allocated for personal tutorials. Students will be expected to watch films outside of class contact time and as part of their private study.