<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.) DATE:</th>
<th>04/02/2010</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.) COMMUNITY COLLEGE:</td>
<td>Maricopa Co. Comm. College District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.) COURSE PROPOSED:</td>
<td>Prefix: REL Number: 200 Title: Religion and Film Credits: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSS LISTED WITH: Prefix: Number: ; Prefix: Number: ; Prefix: Number: ;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4.) COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATOR:</td>
<td>JUDY CHRISTENSEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHONE:</td>
<td>480-461-7661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAX:</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

ELIGIBILITY: Courses must have a current Course Equivalency Guide (CEG) evaluation. Courses evaluated as NT (non-transferable are not eligible for the General Studies Program.

MANDATORY REVIEW:

☐ The above specified course is undergoing Mandatory Review for the following Core or Awareness Area (only one area is permitted; if a course meets more than one Core or Awareness Area, please submit a separate Mandatory Review Cover Form for each Area).

POLICY: The General Studies Council (GSC-T) Policies and Procedures requires the review of previously approved community college courses every five years, to verify that they continue to meet the requirements of Core or Awareness Areas already assigned to these courses. This review is also necessary as the General Studies program evolves.

AREA(S) PROPOSED COURSE WILL SERVE: A course may be proposed for more than one core or awareness area. Although a course may satisfy a core area requirement and an awareness area requirement concurrently, a course may not be used to satisfy requirements in two core or awareness areas simultaneously, even if approved for those areas. With departmental consent, an approved General Studies course may be counted toward both the General Studies requirements and the major program of study.

5.) PLEASE SELECT EITHER A CORE AREA OR AN AWARENESS AREA:

Core Areas: Humanities and Fine Arts (HU) Awareness Areas: Select awareness area...

6.) On a separate sheet, please provide a description of how the course meets the specific criteria in the area for which the course is being proposed.

7.) DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

☐ Course Description
☐ Course Syllabus
☐ Criteria Checklist for the area
☐ Table of Contents from the textbook required and/or list of required readings/books
☐ Description of how course meets criteria as stated in item 6.

8.) THIS COURSE CURRENTLY TRANSFERS TO ASU AS:

☐ DEC prefix
☐ Elective

Current General Studies designation(s):

Effective date: Course Equivalency Guide

Is this a multi-section course? ☑ yes ☐ no

Is it governed by a common syllabus? ☑ yes ☐ no

Chair/Director: Keith J. Crudup Chair/Director Signature: [Signature]

AGSC Action: Date action taken: ☑ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Effective Date:
Proposer: Please complete the following section and attach appropriate documentation.

**ASU - [HU] CRITERIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Syllabus Weeks</th>
<th>Text:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Emphasize the study of values, of the development of philosophies, religions, ethics or belief systems, and/or aesthetic experience.</td>
<td>1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, Text: Introduction,</td>
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<td>![ ]</td>
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<td>2. Concerns the comprehension and interpretation/analysis of written, aural, or visual texts, and/or the historical development of textual traditions.</td>
<td>1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15.</td>
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<td>3. Concerns the comprehension and interpretation/analysis of material objects, images and spaces, and/or their historical development.</td>
<td>1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16</td>
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<td>![ ]</td>
<td>![ ]</td>
<td>4. In addition, to qualify for the Humanities, Fine Arts and Design designation a course must meet one or more of the following requirements:</td>
<td>1, 2, 4, 3, 4, 7, Text: emphasis on analysis of philosophical and/or religious systems of thought.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>![ ]</td>
<td>![ ]</td>
<td>a. Concerns the development of human thought, including emphasis on the analysis of philosophical and/or religious systems of thought.</td>
<td>1-16 Text: Introduction, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>![ ]</td>
<td>![ ]</td>
<td>b. Concerns aesthetic systems and values, literary and visual arts.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>![ ]</td>
<td>![ ]</td>
<td>c. Emphasizes aesthetic experience in the visual and performing arts, including music, dance, theater, and in the applied arts, including architecture and design.</td>
<td>1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>![ ]</td>
<td>![ ]</td>
<td>d. Deepen awareness of the analysis of literature and the development of literary traditions.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE:**

- Courses devoted primarily to developing a skill in the creative or performing arts, including courses that are primarily studio classes in the Herberger College of the Arts and in the College of Design.
Course Prefix | Number | Title | Designation
--- | --- | --- | ---
REL | 200 | Religion and Film | HU

Explain in detail which student activities correspond to the specific designation criteria. Please use the following organizer to explain how the criteria are being met.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria (from checklist)</th>
<th>How course meets spirit (complete with specific examples in next column)</th>
<th>Please provide detailed evidence of how course meets criteria (i.e., where in syllabus)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course is designed to emphasize the study of values, of the development of philosophies, religions, belief systems, and aesthetic experience.</td>
<td>This course includes several films that serve as examples for the study of religion and film. There is an emphasis on how films can be understood in the context of American history, religion and belief systems. Analysis using film criticism and religious studies methodologies play a central role in this course.</td>
<td>Course Comps: 2,5,6. Syllabus Weeks: 1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16. Text: Introduction, 1.2.4.5.6, 7,8,9,11,12,13,15.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course concerns the comprehension and interpretation/analysis of material objects, images and spaces and their historical development.</td>
<td>The class is a survey of the role of film and religion. Comprehension and insight into the relationship between religion, film and culture is explored extensively throughout the course. Techniques for analysis of imagery and symbols and are developed.</td>
<td>Course Comps: 1,2,4,6,7. Syllabus weeks: 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16. Text: Introduction, 1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course concerns the development of human thought with an emphasis on religious systems of thought.</td>
<td>This course traces the development of religious thought in (mostly) American films beginning in the 1950's. Of importance is the connection of religious thought and the circumstances and context of American life. The course reveals to students that &quot;religious&quot; films also have sensibilities that are contextual as regards secular understanding which play an important role in a film's acceptance by the public.</td>
<td>Course comps: 1,2,3,4,7, Syllabus weeks: 1-16. text: Introduction, 1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Official Course Description: MCCCD Approval: 12/11/07

REL200 20086-99999

Religion and Film

A course examining the relationships between religion and film, with particular attention to representations of religious beliefs, institutions, and practices in film and their reception by various audiences.

Prerequisites: None.

MCCCD Official Course Competencies:

REL200 20086-99999 Religion and Film

1. Identify basic elements of traditional film study, including the technical components of a film and past and contemporary film genres. (I, II, III)
2. Explore specific interests of religious studies in film analysis. (IV)
3. Analyze significant roles of religion in film narrative. (V)
4. Explore relationships between film style and aesthetics and religious imagery. (VI)
5. Describe cultural and religious contexts of film production and reception. (VII)
6. Examine audience reception and interpretation of films with religious motifs. (VIII)
7. Discuss film as potential site of religious experience. (IX)

MCCCD Official Course Outline:

REL200 20086-99999 Religion and Film

I. Technical Components of Film
   A. Screenplay
   B. Cinematography
   C. Acting
   D. Mise-en scene
   E. Directing
   F. Editing

II. Film Genres
   A. Comedy
   B. Drama
   C. Western
   D. Action/Adventure
   E. Mystery
   F. Horror / SciFi

III. Film Theory Approaches
   A. Formalism
   B. Psychoanalytic
   C. Marxist
   D. Sociological / Anthropological
   E. Cultural studies
   F. Gender theory

IV. Religious Studies Interest in Film
   A. Film as documentary or ethnography
   B. Film as site of theological and/or philosophical reflection
   C. Film as site of religious/spiritual biography
   D. Film as site of mythmaking or remaking
   E. Film as site of religious experience
   F. Film as reflection of trends in religious identities and practice
G. Film as a religious consumer good
H. Film as site of religious critique or critique of religion
I. Film as site of secularization
V. Religion and Narrative
   A. Role of religion in story and plotting
   B. Role of religion in character formation and dynamics
   C. Role of religion in theme
VI. Religion and Style
   A. Religious imagery and aesthetic choices
   B. Religious influence on audio-visual dimensions
      1. Mise-en-scène
      2. Cinematography
      3. Editing
      4. Sound
VII. Religion and Context of Film Production/Reception
   A. Historical contexts
   B. Religious contexts
   C. Economic contexts
   D. Social contexts
   E. Role of above contexts in religious representational practices
VIII. Religion, Film, and Audience Reception
   A. Reviews
   B. Film criticism
   C. Fan activities
   D. Box office receipts
   E. Government documents
   F. Church campaigns and lobbying efforts
IX. Film and Religious Experience
   A. Site of proselytization / conversion
   B. Site of mystical / transcendent experience
   C. Site of contemplation
   D. Filmic and religious experience compared with institutional knowledge and doctrine
REL 200 RELIGION and FILM (3 credits)

Instructor: Judy Christensen; 480-461-7661. BPO-10 at Southern & Hobson

Use WebCT email (preferred) or christensen@mesacc.edu


Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the study of (mostly) American films and religion since the 1950's. You will learn how to identify technical elements of film study and religious studies in film. In addition, the textbook draws from the culture of American society (topics, fears, hopes, etc.) and discusses how culture and religious films influence each other.

Course Game Plan:

This course is "divided" into 5 sections:

The Introduction and the 1st Chapter (The search for meaning). This section relates the methods for film criticism and the methods specific to religious studies.

Section 1: Ultimate Destruction and the Cold War in the 1950's. Here we will consider fear: destruction and tyranny. Who knew that Cecil B. DeMille’s 1956 “The Ten Commandments” has both religious and political points of view.

Section 2: Filming Jesus. Not a simple task. We will learn how “Jesus” films relate to cultural times and how to critique elements of religiosity, authenticity and theology within the films.

Section 3: The Varieties of Religion in American Film. In this section we will reflect on films that have religious implications but are not directly "pious" in content. Thus, we will analyze films on sin, evil, the Devil, and baseball (The Religion of Baseball).

Section 4: World Religions in Film. The last section deals with films about Americanization and modernity in world religions. The subjects of our analysis will be Buddhism, Judaism and Islam.

Course Requirements:

1. One in class exam covering the Introduction and Chapter One. 100 points.

2. Four film critiques: one critique for each section. 50 points each.

3. One Take-Home Midterm. 100 points.

4. One Take-Home Final: 100 points.

Grand Total: 500 points possible. A= 450-500; B= 400-449; C=350-399; D= 300-349; F= below 300. NO EXTRA CREDIT
Attendance:

"Being here" matters. College policy dictates that you may be dropped from a class for too many absences. Technically, for this course you may be dropped after missing for the 3rd time. Remember that you are responsible for withdrawing from the class (if asked, I will withdraw you).

NOTE: be certain to check the dates for all your courses concerning the last day to withdraw AND receive a refund. Do not count on the purge!

Official Statement of Approach:

The Philosophy & Religious Studies Department at MCC offers courses in religious studies, as distinguished from religious education. Whereas religious education seeks to strengthen a person in his/her particular tradition, religious studies seek a perspective from outside all traditions in pursuit of an understanding of the historical, cultural, political, and economic dimensions of various traditions. While the beliefs of religions are taught in our classes, our instructors do not evaluate the truths claims of these traditions, nor do we privilege or denigrate any particular religion.

Student Responsibilities:

The syllabus is our contract for this course. You are responsible for knowing the information in the syllabus. You are accountable for knowing the college policies included in the college catalog and the student handbooks. These policies inform you of your rights and responsibilities as a student.

Do NOT engage in any form of cheating (copying, lying, plagiarism, dishonesty, etc.) Do your own work. Do not do anyone else’s work. If you have questions, consult the catalog or student handbook. Cheating = zero pts for the assignment.

Student Disabilities:

If you have, or think you might have disabilities, including learning disabilities, you may receive help and support from the Disabilities Resource Services. The DRS is located on the Southern and Dobson campus east of the Kirk Student Center. Call: 480-461-7447. Open M-Th from 8 am-8pm and Fridays from 8am-5pm. Your instructor will gladly assist you in any way she can. I’m here to help!

EARS:

Mesa Community College is committed to the success of all our students. Numerous campus support services are available throughout your academic journey to assist you in achieving your educational goals. MCC has adopted an Early Alert Referral System (EARS) as part of a student success initiative to aid students in their educational pursuits. Faculty and Staff participate by alerting and referring students to campus services for added support. Students may receive a follow up call from various campus services as a result of being referred to EARS. Students are encouraged to participate, but these services are optional. Early Alert Web Page with Campus Resource Information can be located at:
http://www.mesacc.edu/students/ears

Lastly: Your instructor reserves the right to change the course syllabus, etc. The instructor will notify students of any changes in course requirements or policies.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Introduction/Approach/Context/Analysis of Scriptural Films</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Ch. 1. Search for Meaning “Targum” as a method of analysis</td>
<td>Biblical Translation/Modern Film Interpretation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Film clips + discussion</td>
<td>In-class Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>SECTION 1: Ch. 2 Film clips: Science Fiction/the Bomb = Discussion/Methodologies</td>
<td>Film clips: Science Fiction/the Bomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>Discussion/Analysis/Context</td>
<td>Ch. 4 The Ten Commandments/Tyranny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6</td>
<td>Film clips/Analysis/Context</td>
<td>SECTION 2: Filming Jesus = Discussion/Methodologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td>Ch. 5 &amp; 6 Clips: King of kings/Jesus Christ Superstar</td>
<td>Discussion/Analysis/Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8</td>
<td>Ch. 7 Tormenting Christ. Film clip: The Last Temptation of Christ</td>
<td>Discussion/Analysis/Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#9</td>
<td>Ch. 8 Violence &amp; Redemption. Film clip: The Passion of the Christ</td>
<td>Discussion/Analysis/Context</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Midterm Exam given out</td>
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<tr>
<td>#10</td>
<td>SECTION 3: Varieties of Religion in American Film = Discussion/Methodologies</td>
<td>Take Home Midterm Exam due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#11</td>
<td>Analysis/Context/Discussion</td>
<td>Ch. 9 The Devil. Film clip: The Exorcist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#12</td>
<td>Analysis/Context/Discussion</td>
<td>Ch. 11 Scandal. Film Clip: The Apostle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#13</td>
<td>Discussion/Analysis/Context</td>
<td>Ch. 12 The Religion of Baseball. Film Clip: The Field of Dreams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#14</td>
<td>Why is baseball a religion?</td>
<td>SECTION 4: World Religions in Film= Methodology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#15</td>
<td>Ch 13 American Dharma. Film Clip: The Legend of Bagger Vance</td>
<td>Discussion/Analysis/Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#16</td>
<td>Ch 15 Islam and Fanaticism Film Clip: Destiny</td>
<td>Discussion/Analysis/etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finals</td>
<td>Take home final due</td>
<td>Take home Final given out</td>
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FILM & RELIGION

An Introduction

PAUL V. M. FLESHER
ROBERT TORRY
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