

The Bible and Film, Spring 2015

Instructors: Robert Kawashima and Dragan Kujundzic

JST3930 section 064g

REL3938 section 037e

Tu Period 8-9, FAB 103

Th Period 9, FAB 105

Office Hours

Kawashima Tu. 11:45-12:45, Th. 12:45-1:45

Kujundzic Th. 1-2PM

The course will offer a survey of major Biblical texts, and some of the most prominent films about them. It is meant to bring out most relevant motifs in both the Old Testament (Tanakh or Hebrew Bible) and the New, and discuss how these motifs were interpreted in films. The class aims at cultivating student appreciation for the cinematic interpretation of the Bible. The film screenings are thus part of the course. The students will be assigned collective presentations and reports after each film, based on the screenings and the material and critical literature handed out in class. These reports will constitute 50 percent of the grade. Another 30 percent will be calculated for the final paper of three single space page, due on the date on the syllabus, in print in class. 20 percent of grade is attendance. The UF Code of Honor will be observed. The student may miss 3 periods without excuse. Any other absence need to be excused in writing and submitted at the end of the semester with the final paper. The syllabus schedule may be adjusted during the course to benefit the students' needs. Any such adjustment will be announced via course listserve in due time. Students will be required to watch one film (Exodus) out of class.

Week 1

1/6 The Bible in Jewish History, Life and Film

1/8 Excerpt from Tevye the Milkman, Fiddler on the Roof

Week 2

1/13 Fiddler on the Roof

1/15 Fiddler on the Roof, discussion, presentation

Week 3

1/20 Exodus 1-15

1/22 Prince of Egypt --- Exodus 1-15

Week 4

1/27 Exodus and Prince of Egypt, discussion

1/29 Exodus the film, Discussion, presentation

Week 5

2/3 Genesis 6-9, 22; 1 Enoch excerpts

2/5 Noah the film

Week 6

2/10 Noah discussion, presentation

2/12 Exodus 19-24 (Mount Sinai)

Week 7

2/17 Ten Commandments

2/19 Exodus and Ten Commandments, discussion, presentation

Week 8

2/24 1-2 Samuel; 1 Kings 1-2, Godfather, selection

2/26 Serious Man, the film, and relevant excerpts from Job

Week 9

3/3 SPRING BREAK

3/5 SPRING BREAK

Week 10

3/10 Serious Man, the film, and relevant excerpts from Job

3/12 Serious Man, discussion and presentation

Week 11

3/17 Serious Man, presentation

3/19 Matthew, Mark, Last Temptation of Christ, the film

Week 12

3/24 Last Temptation of Christ, discussion

3/26 presentation

Week 13

3/31 The Bible's Others: Dracula

4/2 Bram Stoker's Dracula, the Film

Week 14

4/7 Bram Stoker's Dracula discussion

4/9 Course REVIEW, class discussion

Week 15

4/14 Life of Brian

4/16 Life of Brian, final paper due

Week 16

4/21 Concluding remarks, graded papers returned to students