

SPRING 2016  
REL 3938

## **JESUS ON TV**

(and movies and news)  
T 5-6/R 6  
Turlington 2349

Instructor: James R. Mueller  
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Office Hours: T – 4<sup>th</sup> period  
R – 5<sup>th</sup> period  
or by appointment

### **Course Description:**

Welcome to the experiment. The course title makes it look like it's all about visuals, but it's really about texts. No film theory here – just using the visuals to see how films and documentaries and modern newsmakers use, misuse, adapt, ignore, invent, repurpose, etc., the gospel texts (with perhaps an occasional glance at the rest of the New Testament).

### **Required Texts:**

Aland, K., Synopsis of the Four Gospels In English

Gibson/McKinley, Finding Jesus: Faith, Fact, Forgery

Tatum, W. Barnes, Jesus at the Movies: A Guide to the First Hundred Years and Beyond

Brown, Peter, The Cult of the Saints: Its Rise and Function in Latin Christianity (enlarged ed.)

### **Course Grade:**

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 20% | Class Participation/Attendance   |
| 10% | “Jesus in the News” – student found material for discussion  |
| 20% | Two (2) Book Summaries (scholarly books [min 150 pp.] on “The Social World of the New Testament” [one book] and “The Historical Jesus” [one book]) Due <b>FEB 4, MAR 15</b> (minimum 750 words each) |
| 10% | Short Take-home exam on <u>The Cult of the Saints</u> readings – Due <b>APR 19</b>   |
| 15% | Group Oral Presentation  |
| 25% | Individual Paper (7-9 pages on portrayal of single pericope in Jesus films – <u>Jesus at the Movies</u> , pp. 295-310) – Due <b>APR 29</b>   |

## **Grading Scale:**

Final letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A	93-100	C+	77-79
A-	90-92	C	73-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-72
B	83-86	D	60-69
B-	80-82	E	0-59

For UF policies on grading, please see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## **Attendance:**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

## **Course Evaluations:**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

## **Classroom Accommodations:**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

# ASSIGNMENTS

- JAN 5** General Introduction to the Course
- 7 Biblical Studies: Using the Synopsis of the Four Gospels  
Finding Jesus, pp. 1-9
- 12, 14 Birth, Infancy, and Childhood  
King of Kings (movie, 1927) – first 8.5 minutes  
King of Kings (movie, 1961) – first 33 minutes  
Greatest Story Ever Told (movie, 1965) – first 26 minutes  
Synopsis, p. 341, #'s 1-12  
Jesus at the Movies, pp. xi-xiii, 1-21, 49-62, 79-92
- 19 Birth, Infancy, and Childhood  
Jesus of Nazareth (made for TV mini-series, 1977) – first 72 minutes  
Jesus at the Movies, pp. 93-108, 143-156
- 21 Finding Jesus: John the Baptist (Documentary, 2015)  
Finding Jesus, pp. 13-44  
The Cult of the Saints, pp. xiii-xxxv, 1-22
- 26 Baptism and Temptation  
Jesus at the Movies, pp. 189-204  
Synopsis, p. 341, #'s 13-20
- 28 Jesus in the News
- FEB 2** Sermon on the Mount/Teachings  
Synopsis, pp. 343-44, #'s 50-83

- 4 Mary Magdalene: Prostitute, Apostle, Saint – or Jesus' Wife  
Finding Jesus, pp. 77-126
- 9 Women/Woman Caught in Adultery/Woman with a Hemorrhage/Others  
Synopsis, pp. 346, 350, #'s 138[cf. 95], 242, and others
- 11, 16 Healings  
Synopsis, TBA
- 18, 23 Exorcisms  
Synopsis, TBA
- 25 Jesus in the News
- MAR 8** The Final Week: Entry to Jerusalem  
Synopsis, pp.351-353, #'s 269-307 [selections]
- 10 The James Ossuary  
Finding Jesus, pp. 45-76  
The Cult of the Saints, pp. 23-50
- 15 The Final Week: The Last Supper  
Synopsis, p. 353, #'s 308-316 [selections]
- 17 The Gospel of Judas  
Finding Jesus, pp. 127-168  
The Cult of the Saints, pp. 50-85
- 22 The Final Week: Gethsemane to Judas' Death  
Synopsis, pp. 354, #'s 330-331, 335 [see Acts 1:16-20]
- 24 Jesus in the News

- 29 Musical Jesus: Jesus Christ Superstar (1973)  
Jesus at the Movies, pp. 125-141 (incl. Godspell)
- 31 The True Cross: Enough to Fill a Ship  
Finding Jesus, pp. 169-198  
The Cult of the Saints, pp. 86-105
- APR 5 The Tortured Jesus (graphic): The Passion of the Christ (2004)  
Jesus at the Movies, pp. 255-273
- 7 The Shroud and the Sudarium  
Finding Jesus, pp. 199-234  
The Cult of the Saints, pp. 106-127  
Synopsis, #'s 350, 352
- 12 **Student Presentations –**  
Trials, including Barabbas episode – (may be split depending on enrollment)  
King of Kings (1927) – 1:39-1:59  
King of Kings (1961) – 2:16-2:32  
Greatest Story (1965) – 2:39-2:57  
Jesus of Nazareth (1977) – 2:04-2:34  
Last Temptation (1988) – 1:53-1:58  
Synopsis, p. 354, #'s 332-342
- Death of Jesus, including Centurion remark (note which scenes missing in each)  
King of Kings (1927) – 2:01-2:22  
King of Kings (1961) – 2:06-2:12  
Greatest Story (1965) – 2:57-3:10  
Jesus of Nazareth (1977) – 2:35-2:53  
Last Temptation (1988) – 1:58-2:39  
Synopsis, p. 354, #'s 343-351

14            **Student Presentations – Burial to Empty Tomb to Ascension**

King of Kings (1927) – 2:22-end

King of Kings (1961) – 2:41-end

Greatest Story (1965) - 3:11-end

Jesus of Nazareth (1977) – 2:53-3:10

Synopsis, p. 355, #'s 352-367

19            “Life of Brian” and Conclusions

Jesus at the Movies, pp. 157-172, 295-310

**FINAL PAPER DUE – APRIL 29**