

SPRING 2017
REL 3938

JESUS ON TV
(and movies and news)
T 5-6/R 6
Turlington 2336

Instructor: James R. Mueller
131 Anderson Hall
Tel. - 392-1625
Email – jmueller@ufl.edu

Office Hours: T – 4th period
R – 5th period
or by appointment

Course Description:

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

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

Course Grade:

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 10% | Class Participation/Attendance |
| 30% | 13 Daily Assignments (see class schedule below) |
| 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 March 2 and April 13 (minimum 750 words each) |
| 15% | Group Class 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 APR 27 |

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

1/5 General Introduction to the Course

10 King of Kings (movie, 1927)
Tatum, pp. 1-21, 49-62

Assignment (due Jan 12): Pick a scene from the movie, find it in the Synopsis, describe what elements the film emphasized/ignored/changed from the gospels, and which gospel the film seemed to rely on.

12 Biblical Studies: Using the Synopsis of the Four Gospels

17 Gospel of Mark
Commentaries on Reserve (Library West), read introductory sections in one commentary on Mark

Assignment (due Jan 17): Describe five interesting things (or ask five questions) that you found in the reading.

19 Gospel of Matthew
Commentaries on Reserve (Library West), read introductory sections in one commentary on Matthew

Assignment (due Jan 19): Describe five interesting things (or ask five questions) that you found in the reading.

24 Gospel of Luke
Commentaries on Reserve (Library West), read introductory sections in one commentary on Luke

Assignment (due Jan 24): Describe five interesting things (or ask five questions) that you found in the reading

26 Gospel of John
Commentaries on Reserve (Library West), read introductory sections in one commentary on John

Assignment (due Jan 26): Describe five interesting things (or ask five questions) that you found in the reading

- 31 Birth, Infancy, and Childhood
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. 79-108

- 2/2 Birth, Infancy, and Childhood
Commentaries on Reserve, read relevant sections in one commentary (only Matthew and Luke apply)

Assignment (due Feb 7): What do the gospels have in common about these "events," and what did the films do to harmonize the narratives?

- 7 Birth, Infancy, and Childhood
Jesus of Nazareth (made for TV mini-series, 1977) – first 72 minutes
Son of God (TV, 2014) – first 4:30 minutes
Jesus at the Movies, pp. 143-156

Assignment (due Feb 9): What are differences you noticed between the earlier movies (Jan 31) and these last two, especially in the way they deal with the texts?

- 9 Finding Jesus: John the Baptist (Documentary, 2015)

- 14 Baptism and Temptation
Commentaries on Reserve, read relevant sections in one commentary
Jesus at the Movies, pp. 189-204
Synopsis, p. 341, #'s 13-20

Assignment (due Feb 16): Describe the differences in the portrayals of John the Baptist in the films, and note the correspondences (or lack thereof) with the gospels.

- 16 Baptism and Temptation - Discussion

- 21 Sermon on the Mount
Commentaries on Reserve, read relevant sections in one commentary on MT 4.24-5.48 or LK 6.17-36
Synopsis, pp. 343-44, #'s 50-83

Assignment (due Feb 23): Describe the differences between the films' portrayal of the Sermon, especially noting which gospel they tend to favor.

- 23 Sermon on the Mount - Discussion
- 28 Women/Woman Caught in Adultery/Woman with a Hemorrhage/Others
Synopsis, pp. 346, 350, #'s 138[cf. 95], 242, and others

3/2 Mary Magdalene: Prostitute, Apostle, Saint – or Jesus' Wife

7, 9 SPRING BREAK

14 Greatest Story Ever Told (1965) – 39:30-2.02

16 Son of God (2014) – 4:30-50:30

Assignment (Due Mar 21): Pick a scene from “Greatest Story” and “Son of God” (not in Infancy/Baptism/Temptation OR Passion Narrative), find it in the Synopsis, and compare the two films treatment of the text (may also use relevant sections from the commentaries on reserve)

21 The Final Week: Entry to Jerusalem
Synopsis, pp.351-353, #'s 269-307 [selections]

Assignment (Due Mar 23): Compare Synopsis pericopes #269-274 with the film versions – what did they emphasize/ignore/embellish/etc., and which gospel(s) did each seem most aligned with?

23 The Final Week: The Last Supper
Synopsis, p. 353, #'s 308-316 [selections]

Assignment (Due Mar 28): Compare Synopsis pericopes #305-312 with the film versions – what did they emphasize/ignore/embellish/etc., and which gospel(s) did each seem most aligned with?

28 The Final Week: Gethsemane to Judas' Death
Synopsis, pp. 354, #'s 330-331, 335 [see Acts 1:16-20]

Assignment (Due Mar 30): Compare Synopsis pericopes #330-331, 335 with the film versions – what did they emphasize/ignore/embellish/etc., and which gospel(s) did each seem most aligned with?

- 30 The Gospel of Judas (documentary)
- 4/4 Musical Jesus: Jesus Christ Superstar (1973)
Jesus at the Movies, pp. 125-141 (incl. Godspell)
- 6 **Student Presentation --**
Trials, including Barabbas episode (choose 2 of 4 below)
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
Son of God (2014) --
Synopsis, p. 354, #'s 332-342 (and appropriate sections of commentaries)
- 11 **Student Presentations –**
Death of Jesus, including Centurion remark (choose 2 of 4 below)
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
Son of God (2014) --
Synopsis, p. 354, #'s 343-351 (and appropriate sections of commentaries)
- Burial to Empty Tomb to Ascension (choose 2 of 4 below)
King of Kings (1961) – 2:41-end
Greatest Story (1965) - 3:11-end
Jesus of Nazareth (1977) – 2:53-3:10
Son of God (2014) --
Synopsis, p. 355, #'s 352-367 (and appropriate sections of commentaries)
- 13 The Shroud and the Sudarium (documentary)
- 18 “Life of Brian” and Conclusions
Jesus at the Movies, pp. 157-172, 295-310

FINAL PAPER DUE – APRIL 27