



Courses

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Course Atlas (Semester)

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REL 369-000: Religion And Film (Spring 2011)

Time	Days	Location	Instructor	GER	Credit	OPUS Class Number	Syllabus (Tentative)
2:30pm-5:00pm 6:00pm-8:00pm	Tu M	1462 Clifton Rd 100A White Hall 111	Paul Courtright.	HSC.	4	2584	TBA.

*January 12, 2011- April 25, 2011***Catalog Description:** Narrative films concerned with religious issues and experience; commonalities between the film medium and the performative religious imagination.**Semester Details:**

The course examines religious themes and issues in the genre of popular cinema from American and South Asian traditions. The U.S. and India are the largest producers, consumers, and exporters of films. In some films religion is close to the surface, in others it is more implicit, even disguised. The course begins with a brief look at film as a medium, popular culture as a category of interpretation, and religion in a comparative context.

Films to be studied include: *Song of Bernadette*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Shane*, *Blade Runner*, *Tender Mercies*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Mother India*, *Amar Akbar Anthony*, *Jai Santoshi Ma*, *Devi*, *Bombay*, *Lagaan*, *The Clay Bird*.

Each week begins on Monday evening with a screening. The class session will be devoted to discussion of the film for the week, reviewing clips of key scenes, and individual students called upon to contribute their interpretations and raise questions.

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources

1. Khilnani, Sunil. *The Idea of India*.
2. Dwyer, Rachel. *Filming the Gods*.
3. Rushdie, Salman. *The Wizard of Oz*.
4. Chatterjee, Gayatri. *Mother India*.
5. Joel Martin and Conrad Ostwalt. *Screening the Sacred*.

Grading

Assignment/Exam	Details	% of Total Grade
Course requirements	Oral presentation of at least one film in class; one review of a South Asian film and one review of an American film (8-10 pp each), and a final class presentation and paper taking up comparative themes in at least two (no more than three) films studied in the course.	

The schedule of courses on [O.P.U.S.](#) is the official listing of courses, including days and times they meet and the General Education Requirements they satisfy. Students should use course descriptions as general guidelines. Course requirements, grading details, book lists, and syllabi are subject to change.