



**RSOC 121 Online (RTC 3):
Representing Religion in World Cinema
Summer Session 2 Online**



Prof. Joe Morris, Ph.D.

**Summer Session 2: Online
COURSE SYLLABUS
Course Description:**

RSOC 121: Representing Religion in World Cinema

A great deal of our information about our own and other religions is communicated in contemporary films from around the world. This course will examine various films from various cultures and the ways religion is portrayed, stereotyped and represented in this powerful visual medium. Investigating both sacred texts and traditions of specific religions and the ways film enhances, provokes or misrepresents various religious themes and motifs will foster a dialogue and insight around the diverse and common features of contemporary lived religion.

Course Objectives:

1. Viewing films selected from world cinema, this course will introduce several of the categories and themes of religious inquiry through the medium of film. To examine closely, and think, write and discuss critically about film from a religious studies perspective.
2. Using the lens of “representation,” we will examine how specific films from around the world represent religious belief, practices, rituals, individuals, communities and institutions and how these films interface with the construction of identity, spirituality, nation, gender, race, sexuality, belonging and ethics.
3. For religions to persist throughout history they require being translated into new lived experiences, languages and cultures (“transmediated”). We will look closely at how this takes place in film and the effects and consequences of this translation. Our readings and discussions will draw deeply on the fields of anthropology, media studies, religious studies, cultural studies, and film studies as they assist us in critically examining the familiar and unfamiliar in these mediated worlds represented on film.
4. An introduction to the ways film can be used to examine religion and the ways religion can assist in the study of film.

Cinema Studies Pathway:

This course is associated with Pathway(s) in the *Cinema Studies Pathway*. If you declare a Pathway in this area, you may use a representative piece of work from this course in the

Pathway Portfolio you will complete during your senior year. Recommendation: Please keep electronic copies of your work.

Texts and other Course Resources: All texts and reading/viewing materials will be posted online at our Camino course site. There is no specific required text for this course. However, you may be asked to rent film(s) we will watch offline and then discuss online. Some films will be accessed free online. This information and available websites for renting the film will be posted on Camino.

Assessment and Grading

Because this is an online course there is both an individual role in participating and a group role. For this reason, when it comes to assessment, there are basically two types of assignments: *individual assignments* and *group assignments*.

Individual Assignments

There are two types of individual assignments - *individual assignments posted in each Module* (25%) based on the readings or films and due in the designated drop box each Tuesday and Friday by midnight during the course. The other individual assignment is the *individual final project* (25%). The information on this final project is in the "Final Project" Module on Camino and will be accessible during the first week of the class so you can begin thinking about what you would like to do. There are three options available for the individual final project and you can get information on them in the Final Project Module: "Guidelines for the final project."

Group Assignments

There are also two types of *group assignments*. One of the group assignments is the *group discussions* (25%) that are part of Modules 1 through 10. Each discussion has a prompt or project online and each student is required to make at least one contribution to the discussion and also to respond to at least one other student in a discussion thread. This requirement is for each of the 10 discussions. The other group assignment is the *Group Project* (25%). Early in the course we will divide into groups and for the group project you are asked to work with your other group members investigating a specific religion and its representation in film. There are guidelines for this group project in Module 10 folder and it will be available the first week of class. All work on the group project and its presentation will take place online.

Thus, course credit is assessed in the following way:

Individual Assignments (9)	25%
Group Discussions (10)	25%
Group Project	25%
Individual Final Project	25%

Grading Scale

94%-100%	A
90%-93%	A-
87%-89%	B+

83%-86%	B
80%-82%	B-
77%-79%	C+
73%-76%	C
70%-72%	C-
67%-69%	D+
63%-66%	D
60%-62%	D-

OTHER INFORMATION:

Disabilities Syllabus Statement

If you have a disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Disabilities Resources, Benson 216, www.scu.edu/disabilities as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through Disabilities Resources, please discuss them with me during my office hours. Students who have medical needs related to pregnancy or parenting may be eligible for accommodations.

While I am happy to assist you, I am unable to provide accommodations until I have received verification from Disabilities Resources. The Disabilities Resources office will work with students and faculty to arrange proctored exams for students whose accommodations include double time for exams and/or assisted technology. (Students with approved accommodations of time-and-a-half should talk with me as soon as possible). Disabilities Resources must be contacted in advance to schedule proctored examinations or to arrange other accommodations. The Disabilities Resources office would be grateful for advance notice of at least two weeks. For more information you may contact Disabilities Resources at 408-554-4109.

Title IX Syllabus Statement

Santa Clara University upholds a zero tolerance policy for discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct. If you (or someone you know) have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence or stalking, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. For more information, please go to www.scu.edu/studentlife and click on the link for the University's [Gender-Based Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or contact the University's EEO and Title IX Coordinator, Belinda Guthrie at [408-554-3043](tel:408-554-3043) or by email at bguthrie@scu.edu. Reports may be submitted online through www.scu.edu/osl/report or anonymously through Ethicspoint: www.ethicspoint.com

Academic Integrity Policy

The University is committed to academic excellence and integrity. Students are expected to do their own work and to cite any sources they use. A student who is guilty of a dishonest act in an examination, paper, or other work required for a course, or who assists others in such an act, may, at the discretion of the instructor, receive a grade of F for the course. In addition, a student found guilty of a dishonest act may be subject to sanctions up to and including dismissal from the University as a result of the student

judicial process as described in the Community Handbook. A student who violates copyright laws, including those covering the copying of software programs, or who knowingly alters official academic records from this or any other institution is subject to similar disciplinary action.