

ENGL 5388-110 Religion and Film
Spring 2023
16 Weeks, Synchronous Online, Thursday 6:00-9:00

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Mode of Instruction and Course Access

This course is a 100% online course, which means that all required interactions will occur in the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. The latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers are strongly recommended. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.

To access our course, logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal: Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953. Contact me for issues related to course content and requirements.

Student-Instructor Interaction

Our primary interaction will occur during our synchronous class meetings. Should we need to talk outside of class, the best way to arrange that is by email (allen.redmon@tamuct.edu). You can expect any email sent to my TAMUCT email to receive a response within 24 hours, if not much sooner. I will not use email in Canvas. Neither will I check my office phone. Email is the best way to contact me.

Course Overview and Description

This course examines the ways film and religion construct worlds to represent lived experience. This course is most especially interested in considering the ways in which these constructions invite spectatorial participation and introspection rather and the ways this participation and introspection can be situated in specific cultural moments, if not more “universal” conditions as well.

Course Objectives

During this course, students will develop the ability to...

- 1) Demonstrate the ways in which films and religion function in similar ways
- 2) Examine the ways in which films create a representative form that can transcend specific cultural constraints
- 3) Appraise the ways in which repeated filmic patterns can provide spectators an opportunity to

- participate in a ritualized performance of specific world views
- 4) Investigate the ways in which remakes mark and address cultural fears and anxieties

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

I request that each student purchase four books:

- 1) *Religion and Film: Cinema and the Recreation of the World, second edition*, by S. Brent Plate, 2017, Columbia University Press (ISBN: 9780231176750)
- 2) *Transcendental Style in Film: Ozu, Bresson, and Dreyer*, by Paul Schrader, 2018, University of California Press (ISBN: 9780520296817)
- 3) *Film as Religion: Myths, Morals, and Rituals, second edition*, by John C. Lyden, 2019, New York University Press (ISBN: 9781479811991)
- 4) *Apocalyptic Dread: American Film at the Turn of the Millennium*, by Kirsten Moana Thompson, 2007, State University of New York Press (ISBN: 9780791470442)

I will also assign some films that are required viewing. There may also be some other required materials. Links to these materials and any other required material will be provided in Canvas. Students should also expect to secure primary and secondary materials that directly support their independent projects and research, especially as they add to the final paper assignment.

Course Assignments

This course has five types of “assignments”:

- 1) **Class Discussions:** our class discussions are a critical part of the course. Full participation is required for those wanting to earn an A in this course. Please come to each class prepared to engage readings and the ideas each other have to those readings.
- 2) **Class Responses:** some part of each class will be reserved for you to write a written response to the idea you will leave the class thinking or looking to explore. These responses will be submitted on the discussion board in Canvas. These assignments will not be graded in the traditional sense. Those who submit a thoughtful response will earn full credit. Those who miss two or more of these response assignments will forfeit one letter grade on their final grade.
- 3) **Midterm Reflections:** the first half of our class will focus on our first two objectives (demonstrate the ways in which films and religion function in similar ways and examine the ways in which films create a representative form that can transcend specific cultural constraints). Students will write a 6-8 page essay that reconciles some aspect of our first two required books and the associated films to articulate the most useful part of the first half of our class. Specifics for this assignment will be posted in Canvas at least two weeks before the due date, which will be on or soon after March 9.
- 4) **End-of-term Reflections:** the second half of our class will focus on the last two objectives (appraise the ways in which repeated filmic patterns can provide spectators an opportunity to participate in a ritualized performance of specific world views and investigate the ways in which remakes mark and address cultural fears and anxieties). Students will write a 6-8 page essay that reconciles some aspect of our last two required books and the associated films to articulate the most useful part of the second half of our class. Specifics for this assignment will be posted in Canvas at least two weeks before the due date, which will be on or soon after April 27.
- 5) **Final Paper:** the final paper will be a 10-12 page argument-driven essay. This essay will draw on your reflection essays and/or your own research. Specifics for this assignment will be posted in Canvas at least two weeks before the due date, which will be on or soon after May 11.

Posting of Grades and Grading Policies

Students will earn the letter grade that results when they average the three main assignments (midterm reflection, end-of-term reflection, and final paper) unless they have forfeited a letter grade for having failed to participate in class discussions or to submit two or more class responses. The grades for the three major assignments will be posted in the gradebook in Canvas.

Course Calendar

Jan 19:	Introductions and opening discussions (links posted under first class tab)
Jan 26:	Plate, Parts 1 and 2
Feb 2:	Plate, Part 3 and discuss <i>The Wonder</i> , 2022
Feb 9:	Schrader and Ozu (discuss <i>Autumn Afternoon</i>)
Feb 16:	Schrader and Bresson (discuss <i>A Man Escaped</i>)
Feb 23:	Schrader and Dreyer (discuss <i>Day of Wrath</i>)
Mar 2:	Schrader's Conclusion and <i>Nope</i> , 2022
Mar 9:	Midterm Reflections
SPRING BREAK	
Mar 23:	Lyden 1-4
Mar 30:	Lyden 5-8 (discuss <i>Dolores Claiborne</i>)
Apr 6:	Lyden 9-12 (discuss <i>Candymans</i>)
Apr 13:	Thompson, 1-3 (discuss <i>Cape Fears</i>)
Apr 20:	Thompson, 4-6 (revisit <i>Dolores Claiborne</i> and discuss <i>Signs</i> and <i>Seven</i>)
Apr 27:	Thompson, 7 (discuss <i>War of the Worlds</i>)
May 4:	End of Term Reflections
May 11:	Submit Final Papers

Important University Dates

Classes begin on 17 January

Deadline to Drop 16 Week classes with no record is 1 February

Deadline for Spring Graduation for Ceremony Participation is 31 March

Registration opens for summer classes on 3 April

Spring Classes end on 12 May

The complete academic calendar can be found at this link:

https://catalog.tamuct.edu/undergraduate_catalog/general-information/academic20calendars20and20final20exam20schedule/

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the Drop Request Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerIdpId=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlssso&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fSubmit%2fStart%2f53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit

the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

In some circumstances, students will face life-altering circumstances after the deadline. When this happens, students may request an *incomplete*. Such a request may be granted if the student is in good standing and has only the last remaining assignments to complete before satisfying the requirements of the course. Students who face life-altering circumstances before the drop date, or who simply fall behind in their coursework, should consider dropping the course rather than requesting an incomplete.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University-Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the student conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

University Writing Center

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas (A&M-Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M-Central Texas students. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WCOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce

Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

University Library & Archives

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 350 electronic databases containing approximately 631,525 eBooks and 75,149 journals, in addition to the 97,443 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments)

[<https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments>]. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](https://tamuct.libguides.com/index)

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Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required)

[<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more

information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](#) online

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/bit]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

SAFEZONE. SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](http://www.safezoneapp.com) website [www.safezoneapp.com].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
 - [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756]
 - [Android Phone / Tablet](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp)
[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp]
2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

For updates on COVID information, please monitor the University [website](https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/)
[https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/]

Copyright Notice

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