

Chaminade University of Honolulu
Fall DAY
August 26, 2002 - December 12, 2002
Henry Hall 107

COURSE: RE 38002 **ST: Film, Myth and Social Ethics**

TIME: Mondays 2:00 - 4:50

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Poranee Natadecha-Sponsel

OFFICE HOURS: Thursday 9:30-10:30 AM
Friday 2-4 PM

EIBEN HALL 118

Telephone: 735-4822

Email: psponsel@chaminade.edu

TEXTBOOKS:

Johnston, Robert K., 2000, **REEL SPIRITUALITY: Theology and Film in Dialogue**, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

Kung, Hans, 1998, **A GLOBAL ETHIC FOR GLOBAL POLITICS AND ECONOMICS**, New York, NY: Oxford University Press

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION:

This course will explore the different myths and social ethical issues presented in selected films. The focus is on the application of analytical thinking skills in explaining the purpose and representation of myths. The class discussion will guide students to understand the relations of reality, fantasy, entertainment and education.

Students are expected to be able to identify the various components of social ethics depicted in movies. They will be encouraged to develop different styles of film criticism based on varied experiences and religious faiths.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

- *to survey how films represent faith and cultural values.
- *to critically review the impact of experience on the viewing and critiquing of movies.
- *to understand and apply different approaches to the study of social issues depicted in various films.

*to analyze factors related to the presentation of myths in films.

*to develop critical thinking skills to be able to apply ethical theories in explaining the social ethics and myths seen in films.

CLASS FORMAT:

This class will be an interactive, cooperative learning experience for the students and the instructor. The format integrates lectures, small group discussions, student presentations, role plays, and debates. Students are encouraged and expected to actively participate in class activities. They are required to come to class with intensive reading to contribute to extensive discussion of the basic textbooks and relevant videos.

Controversial issues identified by the students and the instructor will be critically analyzed from all points of view through class discussion and student debates. In all of this the instructor will apply perspectives from philosophy (critical thinking), religious studies, and ethical theories to guide students to understand and develop the ability to decipher the myths and social ethical issues in the films.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students are required to be open minded and courteous in class discussion and to participate regularly in all class activities. Each student is expected to carefully read the assigned chapter in the textbook and be prepared to discuss it for the class period of the assignment.

All students will be graded on the following requirements:

- *come to class on time and stay for the whole period.
- *be courteous and professional in class discussions i.e. take turns in speaking, allowing others to express their ideas without interruption, communicate with positive, constructive verbal and non-verbal language.
- *show respect and an open mind to different ideas and opinions from class members.
- *turn in assignments on time.
- *be responsible to cooperate and complete class/team projects on time.

GRADING:

The grading will be based on

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| 1. Class attendance | 100 pts. |
| 2. Class participation | 100 pts. |
| 3. Book chapter reports | 200 pts. |
| 4. Reflection papers | 200 pts. |
| 5. Mid-term position paper | 200 pts. |
| 6. Final Research project report
OR
Service Learning and Final written report | 200 pts. |

950-1000 =A, 800-949 =B, 700-799 =C, 600-699 =D, 599 AND BELOW=F

BOOK CHAPTER REPORTS:

Students will be assigned to read chapter(s) from the textbooks and to turn in the following on the day when the class discusses that chapter:

- 1) a 1-2 page (typed double-spaced) insightful summary of the chapter(s) including
- 2) 3 main points from the reading clearly stated in bullet or number format, and

RESEARCH PROJECT:

The purpose of the project is for students to creatively apply knowledge from classroom to real life experience. Students may choose a research topic relating to the issues of film making, film criticism, and social ethical issues in films. The research methodology includes a literature review, survey or interviews.

The written report of the research should be within the range of 10-15 double-spaced typed pages. It will be due on the scheduled final exam day.

Plagiarized work will lead to failure of the course. Also, it will be reported to the university for disciplinary action.

LEARNING OUTCOME ASSESSMENT:

All of each student's work will be evaluated for:

- *knowledge of the subject matter from textbooks, class lectures, discussion, videos, resources from research, outside class activities.
- *ability to provide relevant examples to support viewpoints.
- *ability to apply the knowledge to understand current issues in society.
- *clarity and logical presentation.
- *demonstration of having an understanding of the subject matter objectively and from opposing viewpoints.
- *demonstration of achieving the objectives of this class.
- *ability to analyze, critically review, and compare the issues cross-culturally.

Students must turn in all class assignments and the exam in class on time. Ten Points will be taken off for each day of late assignments. All work turned in must be typed double-spaced.

ONLY HARD COPY WILL BE ACCEPTED. EXAM AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED VIA EMAIL OR FAX.

SCHEDULE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u> (Chapter)
AUG 26	Introduction	
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SEP 2	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
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9	Reel Spirituality	
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16	Global Ethic	pg.3-25
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23	Global Ethic	pg.29-57
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30	Global Ethic	pg.59-88
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OCT 7	MID-TERM POSITION PAPER DUE	
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14	DISCOVERERS' DAY HOLIDAY	
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21	Global Ethic	pg.91-111
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28	Global Ethic	pg.114-152
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NOV 4	Global Ethic	pg. 155-215
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11	VETERAN DAY HOLIDAY	
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NOV

18 SMALL GROUP TEAM WORK

25 SMALL GROUP TEAM WORK

DEC

2 REVIEW Global Ethic

pg.220-274

9 FINAL PAPER DUE BETWEEN 2-2:30 PM.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus to better guide students to achieve the course objectives.

All of these changes will be announced in class. Students are responsible to receive the pertinent information from their classmates when they miss class.