

## STD 290i God & Humanity in Film

### Intersession 2020

### Course Outline

#### Class Start Date & End Date

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

#### Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Online

**Instructors Name:** Fr. Dave Norman O.F.M.  
**Office:** 2—06  
**Office Hours:** Before class or by appointment  
**Telephone:** 780-392-2450 ext. 2215  
780-476-2338 (Franciscan friary)  
**Email:** [dave.norman@newman.edu](mailto:dave.norman@newman.edu)  
**Skype:** NA

#### Course Description

An analysis and discussion of various North American and European films. The relationship between God and the human person, love and hate, good and evil, truth and falsehood, beauty and sin. A study of how film reflects or does not reflect the values of western society and/or the Church.

#### Course Objectives

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The course shall explore and discuss the relationship between God and humanity as depicted in the film genre; it will address the portrayal of Jesus and Messiah figures in various films; and it will highlight the interplay of good and evil, beauty and sin, truth and falsehood and love and hate that is visible in current movies.
- b) **Cultural Context** - The course shall examine the relationship between the Church and the culture of today as it is depicted in and critiqued by film.
- c) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** - The course shall promote theological reflection on the role film study can play in leading to a more effective practice of ministerial leadership in the Church and world.

## Course Assignments and Evaluation

All written work will be graded as follows: 60% content and 40% style. For an “A” the written work must be clear, well organized and contain few if any grammatical and/or spelling errors. The difference between an A and an A- is usually attributable to errors of grammar or spelling or both. For a “B” the written work demonstrates a suitably clear presentation of the material and is adequately organized with a minimum number of grammatical and/or spelling errors. For a mark of “C+” or less the writing is not very clear; the ideas expressed are not very well organized; and there are more than a few grammatical and/or spelling errors. Extensions will be granted grudgingly for such reasons as prolonged sickness, death in the family, or other extraordinary reasons. Participation in the zoom discussion of the movies selected for review is obligatory.

## Textbooks

Stephen Prince. *Movies and Meaning: An Introduction to Film*, Sixth Edition. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2012. If you can find the 5<sup>th</sup> edition, then I recommend it, as it has a chapter on film criticism and interpretation, which was pulled from the 6<sup>th</sup> edition. The 5<sup>th</sup> edition, it is much less expensive than the 6<sup>th</sup> edition. The content of both books is basically the same, except for the chapter on visual effects, which is found only in the Sixth Edition. For those with the Fifth Edition, a copy of that chapter will be available.

## Recommended Reading

### Course Requirements

For 90% of the final mark—a review (6 pages) of three films to be discussed on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup>, and June 16<sup>th</sup>. The class discussion is a critical component of the course. Participation is imperative. The due date for each review is: June 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup>, and June 16<sup>th</sup>. Depending on the reason (sickness, death in the family, etc.), extensions of one week may be granted for late papers.

**For the June 9<sup>th</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup> reviews, please let me know which film you would prefer to see. The films garnering the most votes will be the ones viewed.**

Read Stephen Prince’s *Movies and Meaning*, Sixth Edition (Chapters 1-8).

For 10% of the final mark participation in the Discussion Forum:

May 7<sup>th</sup>—did you like or appreciate *Psycho*? Why or why not? Did the opinions voiced in the various links influence your own opinion of the film? How or how not? Due date: **Noon!**

May 12<sup>th</sup>—did the links on cinematography, production design, and acting add to Prince’s treatment of those three film elements? If yes, in what way? Due date: **Noon!**

May 14<sup>th</sup>—what do you see as the more important element, editing or screenplay/narrative? Why? Are they related? How or how not? Due date: **Noon!**

May 19<sup>th</sup>—did you like *Babette’s Feast*? Why or why not? Due date: **Noon!**

**A minimum of 150 words per submission is required and a minimum of 3 submissions must be made to qualify for participation status. You must respond to at least one other student’s submission. No late submissions will be accepted.**

### Late Submission Policy.

Please see Course Assignments and Evaluation.

## Course Schedule

May 5—Introduction and viewing of *Psycho* (1960). For rent on YouTube for \$4.99, or iTunes \$4.99.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GF\\_A6K9Twi](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GF_A6K9Twi)

May 7—Discussion of *Psycho* (**VIEW THESE LINKS ONLY AFTER WATCHING PSYCHO**)  
Stephen Rebello on Psycho <https://youtu.be/0P2GIn4Mm2U>  
The making of Psycho <https://youtu.be/8mpliAmZACQ>  
Psycho—how Hitchcock manipulates an audience <https://youtu.be/xm-9E275D9cD0>  
Understanding Psycho—the Uncanny <https://youtu.be/FMkGEZP3w0>

May 12—Discussion of Stephen Prince's *Movies and Meaning* (Chapters 1-4)

Chapter 1: Film Structure

Chapter 2: Cinematography—Casablanca

Casablanca—best scene <https://youtu.be/cLM-WDPK58k>

Here's looking at you kid <https://youtu.be/rEWaqUVac3M>

The beginning of a beautiful friendship <https://youtu.be/5kiNjcdG4E0>

What's so great about Casablanca? [https://youtu.be/sC\\_kfwa5-kg](https://youtu.be/sC_kfwa5-kg)

Wild Bunch—**watch for the slow-motion scenes in these clips below**

If they move kill them <https://youtu.be/St16P31BURU>

Bank shootout [https://youtu.be/gOJIm\\_cSRds](https://youtu.be/gOJIm_cSRds)

He's mine <https://youtu.be/yDo7fA8sAlM>

Chapter 3: Production Design—Chinatown

My sister, my daughter—<https://youtu.be/wnrdeTFAo1o>

Last scene—<https://youtu.be/TjSshSvQWQA>

Evil and heroism in Chinatown—<https://youtu.be/S68dRecpTs0>

Chapter 4: Acting—On the Waterfront—

Am I going to see you again? [https://youtu.be/UZqpweWv5\\_0](https://youtu.be/UZqpweWv5_0)

Terry asks Edie out <https://youtu.be/5PPQutDwpmw>

This is my church <https://youtu.be/2u1RrWj4RDk>

Terry's conscience [https://youtu.be/geh\\_Mu622SY](https://youtu.be/geh_Mu622SY)

I could've been a contender <https://youtu.be/uBiewQrpBBA>

May 14—Discussion of *Movies and Meaning*

Chapter 5: Editing—Raging Bull—voted best edited movie of all time by the screen guild editors

What's so great about Raging Bull? <https://youtu.be/eYLKKS2p5b4>

Raging Bull—best scene [https://youtu.be/fElN\\_50koY](https://youtu.be/fElN_50koY)

You never got me down <https://youtu.be/Tx-kB1KKLj0>

I could've been a contender <https://youtu.be/Z9mMBj-yFuE>

Chapter 6: Principles of Sound Design—On the Waterfront—Terry's conscience (above)

Chapter 7: The Nature of Narrative in Film—Unforgiven

I ain't like that anymore <https://youtu.be/GnWalWAmryk>

We all have it coming <https://youtu.be/Pzy85Cv19u0>

I'm here to kill you [https://youtu.be/7\\_uvEuNwUj4](https://youtu.be/7_uvEuNwUj4)

I'll see you in hell <https://youtu.be/zwuJBfI2Tuk>

How Unforgiven ends the western <https://youtu.be/QqoOcvwOsgY>

Greatest screenplay of all time—[https://youtu.be/a\\_HTti2NjgA](https://youtu.be/a_HTti2NjgA)

Chapter 8: Visual Effects—Avatar—<https://youtu.be/W8TD-Gg2BM8>

May 19—Discussion of *Babette's Feast* (iTunes \$4.99). Pope Francis cites this movie in *Amoris Laetitia* Art.129. He points to one of the daughters telling Babette that she “will delight the angels” just as she delighted the aging members of her Protestant Church community. Francis says that the “most intense joys in life arise when we are able to elicit joy in others”. Such joy is a “foretaste of heaven.” (Art. 129). <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/movie/babettes-feast/id547400946>

May 21—Viewing of *Shawshank Redemption* (Amazon Prime Video or iTunes \$4.99, YouTube \$4.99) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLw6hBFJ8bk>

May 26—Discussion of *Shawshank Redemption* (Zoom) 7 pm - <https://zoom.us/j/827147627>

May 28—Viewing of *Ratatouille* (Disney Plus or iTunes \$4.99, YouTube) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eh62Ri60lXI>

June 2—Discussion of *Ratatouille* (Zoom) 7 pm - <https://zoom.us/j/827147627>

June 4—Viewing of *Fight Club* (iTunes \$4.99, YouTube) or *Doubt* (iTunes \$4.99)  
Fight Club [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeS2yjb\\_d\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeS2yjb_d_g)  
Doubt <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/movie/doubt/id489035360>

June 9—Discussion of *Fight Club* or *Doubt* (Zoom) 7 pm - <https://zoom.us/j/827147627>

June 11—Viewing of *Risen* (Netflix or iTunes \$4.99, YouTube) or *The Passion of the Christ* (Amazon Prime Video or iTunes \$4.99, YouTube)

Risen - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgM1WGFTtjE>

The Passion of Christ - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wXkO-ZB7zs>

June 16—Discussion of *Risen* or *The Passion of the Christ* (Zoom) 7 pm - <https://zoom.us/j/827147627>

## General Academic Information

### Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

### Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

### Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade “F” may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the

infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

**Academic Grievances**

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

*NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.*

**Grading System**

| Undergraduate Studies<br>C.Th., Dip.Th., B.Th. |       |             | Graduate Studies<br>M.T.S., M.Div., M.Th.,<br>G.C.C.S.A., M.R.E. |       |             |
|--|-------|-------------|--|-------|-------------|
| Grade Meaning                                  | Grade | Grade Point | Grade Meaning  | Grade | Grade Point |
| Excellent                                      | A+    | 4.0         | Excellent  | A+    | 4.0         |
|  | A     | 4.0         |  | A     | 4.0         |
|  | A-    | 3.7         |  | A-    | 3.7         |
| Good   | B+    | 3.3         | Good   | B+    | 3.3         |
|  | B     | 3.0         |  | B     | 3.0         |
|  | B-    | 2.7         |  | B-    | 2.7         |
| Adequate                                       | C+    | 2.3         | Adequate   | C+    | 2.3         |
|  | C     | 2.0         |  | C     | 2.0         |
|  | C-    | 1.7         |  | C-    | 1.7         |
| Marginal                                       | D+    | 1.3         |  |       |             |
|  | D     | 1.0         |  |       |             |
| Fail   | F     | 0.0         | Fail   | D+    | 1.3         |
|  |       |             |  | D     | 1.0         |
|  |       |             |  | F     | 0.0         |

**Written Assignments - Style and Format**

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

**Regulations**

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Aichters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

### **Academic Regulations**

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

### **Related Academic Matters**

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

### **Other Related Policies**

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

### **Recording of Lectures**

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

### **Student Accessibility Services:**

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Services, contact Doreen Bloos at 780-392-2450 ext. 2212; Email [doreen.bloos@newman.edu](mailto:doreen.bloos@newman.edu).