

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Course Profile - J Term 2009

Course: T 401: Process Theology in Film

Instructor: Monica A. Coleman

Prerequisite: Process Theology or Readings in Alfred North Whitehead or equivalent; Must have read Alfred North Whitehead's *Process and Reality* (413 pp.)

Statement of Goals

- To convey the process worldview and its key characteristics
- To survey process themes in film
- To evaluate the ways in which process themes are conveyed to a popular audience.

Outline and content of course:

The Process Worldview

Process Theology and Hollywood Films

Process Theology and Foreign and Independent Films

Required work for course:

Class Attendance. Come to class. Be on time.

Participation. Each student is expected to complete the assigned reading and come to class prepared to participate in class discussions

Class discussion leaders. Each student will take turns leading class discussion on the assigned film.

Film summaries. Each student will write, present and distribute to classmates a two-page (2) summary of an unassigned film on process philosophy/ process theology.

Paper presentation. Each student will give a brief class presentation of her or his paper topic.

Papers. Each student will write one term paper (15-17 pages) that will address an issue or concept that is central to process theology and film.

Required Reading:

Read this book before the first class.

Whitehead, Alfred North. Process and Reality. Corrected Ed. New York: Free Press, 1979.

Other required texts:

Johnston, Robert K. Reel Spirituality: Theology and Film in Dialogue. Baker Academic: 2006.

Godawa, Brian. Hollywood Worldviews: Watching Films with Wisdom and Discernment. InterVarsity, 2002.

Samples of Films:

TransAmerica

The Color of Paradise

Whale Rider

The Spitfire Grill

Little Miss Sunshine

Pieces of April

Divided We Fall

Amazing Grace

The Sweet Land

Kamataki

Directed by John Ford

Good Night, and Good Luck

Romeo and Juliet Get Married

Tsotsi

La Neuvaine (The Novena)

Rana's Wedding (Al Qods Fee Yom Akhar)

Syrian Bride

Little Miss Sunshine

Sea Inside, The (Mar adentro)

Howl's Moving Castle (Hauru no ugoku shiro)

Story of the Weeping Camel

Not One Less (Yi ge dou bu neng shao)

Divided We Fall

Color of Paradise, The (Rang-e khoda)

Monsoon Wedding

Baran