



Theology and Film (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (Theological Studies of Culture and Society)

Course ID: 0082

Admission requirements

General entry requirements for studies at universities. Students taking part in the course as a part of their Bachelor's degree program must have completed Course A, Introduction in Philosophy and Theology (30 ECTS credits). Students taking part in the course as a freestanding course are expected to have corresponding prior knowledge.

Educational goals

After having completed the course the students are expected to:

- Be able to give an overview of the role of religious and ethical motifs in modern film;
- Understand the interplay between content and filmic composition, between the ideas of the film maker and the reception factors of audience, critics and cultural debate for the composition of theological motifs in film;
- Show the ability to analyze a particular film under the different aspects brought up in the course.

Course contents

The course is directed to those who wish to study and critically analyze modern film and the significance of religious, ethical, philosophical and other ideas of this kind in these cultural expressions. The course is based on an interplay between analyzes in cinema studies and theology. Popular film as well as art film is treated. In the course, sequences from current films are introduced and analyzed. Themes treated include Church, Jesus Christ, eschatology, and biblical motifs. Thereby, questions are raised, such as: What role do religious organizations, churches and denominations play in the production process? In what sense could one talk of Christ-motifs in contemporary films? Are there examples of ideas and conceptions from non-Christian traditions? In what way are ethical questions and moral dilemmas treated? What are the conditions for film as a medium to bring up questions concerning worldview? How does the film medium mediate these questions, aesthetically and stylistically? What impact does subtitling have for the artistically and religiously penetrating power of films? What impact do critics and cultural debate have? The participants are trained in their ability to report on and analyze the content of films, as well as to discern and discuss their religious and worldview aspects.

Teaching and examination

The course is taught in English. The teaching is given in the form of lectures, screenings and discussion seminars. The examination is in the form of a more extensive, written analysis paper due at the end of the course.

Bibliography

Baugh, Lloyd, *Imaging the Divine: Jesus and Christ-figures in Film*, Lanham: Sheed and Ward, 1997 (337 pp.).

Deacy, Christopher & Ortiz, Gaye Williams, *Theology and Film: Challenging the Sacred/Secular Divide*, Oxford & Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008 (264 pp.).

The Routledge Companion to Religion and Film, ed. John Lyden London & New York: Routledge 2009 (520 pp.). (excerpts in accordance with instructions)

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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Valid as 2012-07-01