

Religious Studies 360: Popular Culture/ Public Humanities

Spring 2017

Prof. Bagger

Manly Hall 315B; Office Hours: T 5:00-6:00, Th 5:00-6:00, by appt.

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Course Description

This one credit hour course requires students to attend four films along with the Aranov Lecture, and then to write a small number of brief commentaries and blog posts on them.

Course Objectives

- 1) Students will bring the tools of scholarly criticism to the products of popular culture.
- 2) Students will write in a form appropriate to an emerging genre.

Course Requirements

- Attendance at one public lecture and four films--assigned readings may accompany these events (10%).
- Informed participation in discussions following the lecture and films (20%).
- Brief written commentaries on the lecture and films, due one week after screening (20%).
- In consultation with the appropriate faculty, students will revise one of their commentaries as an approximately 300-800 word post on the department blog. Submissions should include a brief bio as an attachment and an image appropriate to the topic as an attachment (50%).

Any readings will be distributed in advance and/or posted on Blackboard.

Course Meetings

- 1) January 24 (6-9:00 PM), 203 Garland Hall:
O Brother Where Art Thou (Coen Brothers, 2000)—Discussion leader: Prof. Touna
- 2) February 7 (6-9:00 PM), 235 203 Garland Hall:
12 Monkeys (Gilliam, 1995)—Discussion leader: Prof Trost
Reading: TBA
- 3) March 7 (6-9:00 PM), 203 Garland Hall:
The Gods Must Be Crazy (Uys, 1984)—Discussion leader: Prof. Bagger
Reading: Chidester, *Savage Systems*, pp. 74-87
- 4) March 21 (7:00 PM), 3104 Ferguson Center:
Aranov Lecture: "Objects Out of Place"—Speaker: Prof. Laura Levitt (Temple)
Reading: TBA
- 5) April 11 (6-9:00 PM), 203 Garland:
In Leila's Room (Ikeuchi, 2016)—Discussion leader: Prof. Ikeuchi
Reading: TBA

Emergency Contact Information: UA's primary communication tool for sending out information is through its web site at www.ua.edu. In the event of an emergency, students should consult this site for further directions. Additional course information will be posted using Blackboard Learn.

Severe Weather Guidelines: The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the [National Weather Service](#) and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.

The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at <http://wvuatv.com/content/weather>. WVUA-TV Home Team Weather provides a free service you can subscribe to which allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail or cell phone. Check <http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts> for more details and to sign up for weather alerts.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

Policy on Academic Misconduct: All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: "I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University."

See the [Code of Student Conduct](#) for more information.

Disability Statement: If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary.

If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 1000 Houser Hall to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 1000 Houser Hall, before receiving academic adjustments.

UAct: Ethical Community Statement: The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (<http://www.ua.edu/uact>) provides a list of reporting channels that can be used to report incidences of illegal discrimination, harassment, sexual assault, sexual violence, retaliation, threat assessment or fraud.