

**Course Prefix/Number:** REL 200

**Semester:** Fall 2009

**Prerequisites/Required Assessments:** None

**Course Description:** Exploration of the relationship between religion and contemporary society.

**Course Objectives:** Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

1. Describe and evaluate representations of religion in popular culture;
2. Investigate ways in which religion functions as popular culture and vice-versa; and
3. Examine and discuss conflicts which arise between religion and popular culture.

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The textbook for this course is *Religion and Popular Culture in America* (first edition) edited by Bruce David Forbes and Jeffrey H. Mahan (University of California Press, 2000). This book is available online through Pima Community College, but only one student may view the eBook at a time. Therefore, students are encouraged to purchase the textbook.

You will be expected to view the following movies. See the Schedule of Assignments for the exact dates. Each movie has a quiz associated with it. It is up to you to acquire a copy of the movies, some of which include an R-rating by the MPAA. However, every movie selected for this class has redeeming qualities for class discussion, though students may be offended by the content of these movies (both religious and irreligious students). My experience is that the movies students least want to watch provide the best learning experience. Therefore, I will not provide "alternate" movie assignments, so do not ask.

Movie	Section
Signs	Unit 1, Part 3
Evan Almighty	Unit 2, Part 1
Donnie Darko	Unit 2, Part 2
Dogma	Unit 2, Part 3
Constantine	Unit 2, Part 4
The Exorcism of Emily Rose	Unit 2, Part 5
The Matrix	Unit 3, Part 1
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	Unit 3, Part 3
The Passion of the Christ	Unit 4, Part 1
Angels & Demons	Unit 4, Part 2

In order to successfully complete this course, you must:

- Take all quizzes;
- Participate in each discussion topic;
- Complete the portfolio;
- Turn in the final project; and
- Take the final exam.

There are ten (10) online quizzes for this course. Each quiz contains ten (10) multiple choice questions, and there is a ten-minute time limit. Each quiz is based on the content of one of the assigned movies. You must answer seven (7) or more questions correctly to get twenty (20) points. If you answer fewer than seven (7) questions correctly, you get zero (0) points for the quiz. If you carefully watch each movie, you will do well on the quizzes. You will have a hard time passing the quizzes without viewing the movies, even if you read reviews or analyses of the movies.

There is one exam in this course. The final exam contains twenty-two (22) questions, a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. This exam will test your comprehension of material presented in class over the entire semester. There is a one-hour time limit on the exam.

The exam is worth 200 points and must be completed by Saturday, December 12, 2009.

Each student must collect three (3) current examples of the interaction between religion and popular culture. Each example must include a one-paragraph commentary from the student, describing its relevance. One entry must be a song, one entry must be a television episode and one entry must be a movie. Portfolio entries MUST be current examples (released within the last twelve months). Song entries must include the lyrics. For extra credit, students may also turn in a .wma, .mp3, or other music file. For television episodes and movies, students may turn in a summary of the episode/movie, a brief excerpt of the script, or, for extra credit, a video file of a scene (including YouTube). Students may NOT include songs or movies covered in the class. Please look over the songs and movies that we cover during the semester, so that you do not provide entries that we will discuss together.

The portfolio must be emailed by Saturday, October 24, 2009.

Each student will write a five (5) to seven (7) page research paper in MLA format. Each paper must include parenthetical notes and a works cited page. The final project should be an exploration of the relationship between religion and popular culture. The instructor must approve project topics, and only the instructor will view the written paper. The topic for your paper must be approved by the instructor by Saturday, October 24, 2009. The written paper must be emailed to the instructor by Saturday, November 7, 2009.

#### [MLA Style: Documenting Your Sources](#)

Each student will also develop an online presentation of his/her project for the entire class to view. Online presentations may include PowerPoint, video or music clips, .html, or any other format that allows the entire class to benefit from your research. The online presentation must be uploaded to discussion fourteen by Saturday, December 12, 2009.

Students will earn up to 300 points on the research paper, and up to 100 points on the presentation. Altogether, the final project is worth 400 points.

You are required to participate in the discussion section of this course. The discussion questions are meant to kick-off the discussion, and your initial posting should respond effectively to each part of the question. To receive full credit for the discussion, you need to make a minimum of three posts. The first post is made by Wednesday and is your answer to the question. The other

two posts are responses to at least two other students' questions or comments. These responses must identify the name of the student to whom you are responding AND be entered by Saturday. Partial or no credit would mean that you did not make the number of posts needed by the dates indicated in the Schedule of Work, you did not identify the person to whom you were responding and/or the response did not effectively address the discussion topic.

To get credit for your discussions, you must make thoughtful responses. Simple comments that consist of “good answer” or “I agree with you” will not receive any credit. Please refer to the Discussion Rubric for how the discussions will be graded.

Note the different due dates for the discussion questions. Each week, you have to post your initial response by Wednesday, and your responses to at least two other students' answers is due on Saturday. This allows everyone time to make thoughtful responses to the initial discussion posts.

Item	Quantity	Points	Totals
Course Contract	1	10	10
Introduction Posting	1	10	10
Quizzes	10	20	200
Discussions	14	20	280
Final Exam	1	200	200
Portfolio	1	200	200
Final Project	1	400	400
<b>Total Number of Points Possible</b>			<b>1,300</b>

Points Needed	Grade
1300 - 1170	<b>A</b>
1169 - 1040	<b>B</b>
1039 - 910	<b>C</b>
909 - 780	<b>D</b>
Under 780	<b>F</b>

**Incomplete (I) grade:**

An incomplete grade is not awarded in this course.

**Makeup Examinations/Assignments:**

There is no opportunity to make up tests or quizzes in this course. Tests and quizzes must be taken during the time indicated in the course calendar.

The due dates for the Portfolio and Final Project are given on the Schedule of Assignments.

**Special Withdrawal (Y) grade:**

The “Y” grade is not awarded in this class. Unless you personally withdraw by the stipulated withdrawal date, a course grade of “F” will be assigned at the conclusion of the course.

**Final Grades**

Students will NOT receive a grade report from the college at the end of the semester. Students who wish to check grades may call MAX 2000 at 206-4880 or access Banner Online via the Pima web site. For security reasons, instructors are advised not to give grades over the telephone.

**Grade Reviews**

Students may request a review of their course grade. The request for review must be made within 90 days from the end of the course session; no requests will be considered after 90 days.

**Workload**

Students are expected to spend the usual amount of time required for a college course viewing DVDs, reading and completing assignments, and preparing for exams. The standard Carnegie Unit of college credit assigns one hour for 15 hours of class time and assumes that students spend at least two hours of outside work for every hour in class. This translates to 135 hours of work per semester or an average of nine hours of work per week for a three-credit course given in a 15/16 week semester. Some students may require less time and some may require more.

**Withdrawal Dates**

The last day to withdraw with a refund (and no grade recorded) is located on the course schedule under the Course Menu. The last day to withdraw (with a grade of “W”) is also located on the course schedule under the Course Menu. These are student actions that do not involve the instructor.

**ADA Compliance**

Pima Community College strives to comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Students with disabilities requiring special accommodations must notify the instructor of this need or directly contact the Disabled Student Resources Office on your campus at the beginning of the semester.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

Students are expected to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) as spelled out on the college's site.

You will be asked to complete a final course evaluation survey online for this course. This survey is completely anonymous and provides useful information to improve this course for next semester's students. This survey will be listed in your final module and will appear in the quizzes section of the course. If you have any questions or concerns about the survey, please ask the instructor.

If you have difficulty logging in or need more information on taking the online portion of this course, refer to the Pima Online page. You can also request help by sending an email message to [pimaonline@pima.edu](mailto:pimaonline@pima.edu) or by calling (520) 206-6400 (voicemail only, your call will be returned within 24 hours.) For Blackboard Vista issues, you may also call 206-6310.

Your instructor will make every attempt to follow the above procedures and schedules, but they may be changed in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Students submitting assignments through the mail are advised to make copies for their own protection. Please note that the TV broadcast schedule does not observe Pima Community College holidays.

Because almost all of our contact with you is on-line or through the U.S. Postal Service, it is vital that we have your correct address. If you change your address during the semester, please fill out a change of address form at any campus registration office and call our office at 206-6454 to keep our staff up to date.