Course Description:

Welcome to the experiment. The course title makes it look like it’s all about visuals, but it’s really about texts. No film theory here – just using the visuals to see how films and documentaries and modern newsmakers use, misuse, adapt, ignore, invent, repurpose, etc., the gospel texts (with perhaps an occasional glance at the rest of the New Testament).

Required Texts:

Aland, K., *Synopsis of the Four Gospels In English*

Gibson/McKinley, *Finding Jesus: Faith, Fact, Forgery*

Tatum, W. Barnes, *Jesus at the Movies: A Guide to the First Hundred Years and Beyond*


Course Grade:

20% Class Participation/Attendance

10% “Jesus in the News” – student found material for discussion

20% Two (2) Book Summaries (scholarly books [min 150 pp.] on “The Social World of the New Testament” [one book] and “The Historical Jesus” [one book]) Due **FEB 4, MAR 15** (minimum 750 words each)

10% Short Take-home exam on *The Cult of the Saints* readings – Due **APR 19**

15% Group Oral Presentation

25% Individual Paper (7-9 pages on portrayal of single pericope in Jesus films – *Jesus at the Movies*, pp. 295-310) – Due **APR 29**
Grading Scale:

Final letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

- A    93-100
- A-   90-92
- B+   87-89
- B    83-86
- B-   80-82

- C+   77-79
- C    73-76
- C-   70-72
- D    60-69
- E    0-59

For UF policies on grading, please see:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Attendance:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu.

Classroom Accommodations:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.
## ASSIGNMENTS

### JAN 5
- **General Introduction to the Course**

### 7
- **Biblical Studies: Using the Synopsis of the Four Gospels**
  - *Finding Jesus*, pp. 1-9

### 12, 14
- **Birth, Infancy, and Childhood**
  - *King of Kings* (movie, 1927) – first 8.5 minutes
  - *King of Kings* (movie, 1961) – first 33 minutes
  - *Greatest Story Ever Told* (movie, 1965) – first 26 minutes
  - *Synopsis*, p. 341, #’s 1-12

### 19
- **Birth, Infancy, and Childhood**
  - *Jesus of Nazareth* (made for TV mini-series, 1977) – first 72 minutes
  - *Jesus at the Movies*, pp. 93-108, 143-156

### 21
- **Finding Jesus: John the Baptist (Documentary, 2015)**
  - *Finding Jesus*, pp. 13-44
  - *The Cult of the Saints*, pp. xiii-xxxv, 1-22

### 26
- **Baptism and Temptation**
  - *Jesus at the Movies*, pp. 189-204
  - *Synopsis*, p. 341, #’s 13-20

### 28
- **Jesus in the News**

### FEB 2
- **Sermon on the Mount/Teachings**
  - *Synopsis*, pp. 343-44, #’s 50-83
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<td>Mary Magdalene: Prostitute, Apostle, Saint – or Jesus’ Wife</td>
<td>Finding Jesus, pp. 77-126</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Women/Woman Caught in Adultery/Woman with a Hemorrhage/Others</td>
<td>Synopsis, pp. 346, 350, #’s 138[cf. 95], 242, and others</td>
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<td>11, 16</td>
<td>Healings</td>
<td>Synopsis, TBA</td>
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<td>18, 23</td>
<td>Exorcisms</td>
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<td>MAR 8</td>
<td>The Final Week: Entry to Jerusalem</td>
<td>Synopsis, pp.351-353, #’s 269-307 [selections]</td>
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<td>The James Ossuary</td>
<td>Finding Jesus, pp. 45-76, The Cult of the Saints, pp. 23-50</td>
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<td>The Final Week: The Last Supper</td>
<td>Synopsis, p. 353, #’s 308-316 [selections]</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>The Final Week: Gethsemane to Judas’ Death</td>
<td>Synopsis, pp. 354, #’s 330-331, 335 [see Acts 1:16-20]</td>
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<td>Jesus in the News</td>
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29 Musical Jesus: Jesus Christ Superstar (1973)
    Jesus at the Movies, pp. 125-141 (incl. Godspell)

31 The True Cross: Enough to Fill a Ship
    Finding Jesus, pp. 169-198
    The Cult of the Saints, pp. 86-105

    Jesus at the Movies, pp. 255-273

7 The Shroud and the Sudarium
    Finding Jesus, pp. 199-234
    The Cult of the Saints, pp. 106-127
    Synopsis, #'s 350, 352

12 Student Presentations –
    Trials, including Barabbas episode – (may be split depending on enrollment)
    King of Kings (1927) – 1:39-1:59
    King of Kings (1961) – 2:16-2:32
    Jesus of Nazareth (1977) – 2:04-2:34
    Last Temptation (1988) – 1:53-1:58
    Synopsis, p. 354, #'s 332-342

    Death of Jesus, including Centurion remark (note which scenes missing in each)
    King of Kings (1927) – 2:01-2:22
    King of Kings (1961) – 2:06-2:12
    Greatest Story (1965) – 2:57-3:10
    Jesus of Nazareth (1977) – 2:35-2:53
    Synopsis, p. 354, #'s 343-351
14 **Student Presentations** – Burial to Empty Tomb to Ascension
   - King of Kings (1927) – 2:22-end
   - King of Kings (1961) – 2:41-end
   - Greatest Story (1965) - 3:11-end
   - Jesus of Nazareth (1977) – 2:53-3:10
   - *Synopsis*, p. 355, #'s 352-367

19 **“Life of Brian” and Conclusions**
   - *Jesus at the Movies*, pp. 157-172, 295-310

**FINAL PAPER DUE – APRIL 29**