

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: REL 255

Credits: 3

Course Title: Selected Problems and Issues in Religion: Christianity in Film

Course Description (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)

Examines selected problems and issues of current interest in religion. Investigates how the Western film industry has depicted Christianity, the Bible, and the critical themes of Christian thought. Prerequisites: English placement recommendation for ENG 111 and satisfactory completion of ENG 4 if required by reading placement test. Prerequisite or corequisite: ENG 5 or ENG 7 if recommended by reading placement test. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: to provide a humanities elective which will enhance students' critical reading, writing, and thinking skills; to prepare students to analyze various types of media

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)

Prerequisites: English placement recommendation for ENG 111 and satisfactory completion of ENG 4 if required by reading placement test. Prerequisite or corequisite: ENG 5 or ENG 7 if recommended by reading placement test. Lecture 3 hours per week.

Course Objectives (Each item should complete the following sentence.)

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Identify the major themes of Christianity as they are developed and investigated through film
- b. Analyze film content for its use of religious plots, symbols and values
- c. Write critically and analytically about the treatment of Christianity and the Bible in the film industry
- d. Demonstrate in both written and oral communications a knowledge of the essential vocabulary and terms of the film industry

Major Topics to be Included

- a. Film and the Bible
- b. Film and Christianity
- c. Film and its treatment of religious thematic issues: scripture, love, forgiveness, reconciliation, suffering and sacrifice, sacrament, faith, and redemption
- d. Film-making techniques, film production, film reviews

Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year): November 11, 2007