



# PHIL 565.01

## Philosophy Through Film

Wednesdays, 2:40 – 5:30 HS 42

Instructor: Dowd

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### MIND AND EYE

Through film and traditional texts, we will think through a variety of philosophical issues. We will hone our inquiries by taking the admittedly broad themes of Being, Reason, and the Good Life. In a sort of schematic form, these themes address the questions: What really is? How do we know it? And, how shall we live? Some of the topics we will address in our exploration of Being, Reason, and the Good Life include:

Moral Freedom and Obligation  
Work and Creativity  
Revolution, Obedience, Community

The Nature of the Holy and Religious Experience  
Mystery, Knowledge, Nihilism  
Gender and Identity

Film will be an integral means of addressing these philosophical issues. As such, we will want to ask what makes these films philosophical? Is film a mere supplement to philosophy, offering only examples of philosophical ideas? Or is there something that film offers to our philosophical understanding that no words on a printed page could muster?

#### Possible Texts

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, Penguin Classics; ISBN: 014044923X

Plato *The Republic Of Plato* F. M. Cornford (ISBN: 0195003640)

Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil* (Penguin Classics: 1994) ISBN: 0140187650

Vivian Carol Sobchack, *The Address of the Eye: A Phenomenology of Film Experience*

#### Possible Essays and Selections

Augustine, *The City of God*, Bk VIII, 1-16; Bk XIV, 1-16

Job 1-14, 38-42 *HarperCollins Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version*

Karl Marx "Estranged Labor"

Friedrich Nietzsche, Selections *The Gay Science*

Martin Luther "On Christian Liberty"

Jean Calvin "Every Vocation is a Post Assigned by the Lord"

Hannah Arendt: "The Revolutionary Tradition and its Lost Treasure," from *On Revolution*

#### Possible Films Include

$\pi$  (pi) (Darren Aronofsky, 1998)

*Tree of Life* (Terrence Malick, 2011)

*Breakfast of Champions* (Alan Rudolph)

*Office Space* (Mike Judge, 1999)

*Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (John Cameron Mitchell, 2001)

*Brazil* (Terry Gilliam, 1985)

*Fight Club* (David Fincher, 1999)

#### Requirements Include

2 Film Response Papers; 2 Exegetical Papers; 1 Thematic Paper

**HUMA, WRIT**