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: (as it should appear in the catalog)
Examines how Christianity is represented in feature films enables students to explore and analyze films that aspire to deal with Christian themes, images and subjects, *specifically* the life of Jesus and his message (including secular versions of the Christ Story), Christian history and theology, and Christian belief and behavior in contemporary society. Provides students with an opportunity to develop a clear understanding of film theory and rhetoric as it applies to Christianity and film. Also provides students with an opportunity to explore the *effect* of such representations on Christian and non-Christian viewers alike. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: This course will serve as a humanities general education elective.

Course Objectives: (Each item should complete the following sentence.)
Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:
a. Apply film theory to feature films that address Christian themes and characters
b. Demonstrate through both written and oral communication a knowledge of the essential vocabulary and terms of film theory
c. Analyze the treatment of Christianity and Christian history in feature films
d. Analyze Christian and anti-Christian rhetoric in feature films
e. Articulate through writing and speech his/her understanding of the complex relationship between Christianity and culture through the medium of film

Major Topics to be Included:
a. Film theory and the role of rhetoric in film
b. The representation of Christian themes, images, and subjects in film
c. Christian and anti-Christian points of view in film
d. The relationship between Hollywood and Christianity
e. The effect of cinematic representations of Christianity on viewers

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: Spring 2012