

# Course Syllabus

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## **Instructor Information:**

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Twitter: [@cdc29](https://twitter.com/cdc29) (<https://twitter.com/cdc29>)

Office Hours: Mondays from 2pm-3pm I have a standing **Collaborate Ultra** meeting scheduled. You are welcome to drop in at any time to talk about the course--or anything else, really. If this time does not work, simply email me and we can set up a time to talk via video or phone.

## **Introduction:**

The United States is unique among industrialized nations in that it is not only one of the most religiously diverse, but also one of the most religiously devout. This is perhaps most clearly seen in Hollywood. Despite being branded as a den of sin, secularism, and iniquity, America's film industry cannot help talking about God. This class will use the prominence of religious themes in film to discuss the history of America's religious landscape. Through movies, television, and novels, we'll discuss the remarkably diverse histories of people, places, and organizations that have made the nation what it is today. Just as importantly, however, we will also look at how this religious diversity has also generated conflicts that have shaped the very definition of what, exactly, religion is.

## **Course Requirements and Grading:**

Your final grade for the course will be based upon your completion of each of the following assignments and requirements. In order to pass this class you must participate in some form in all of the graded assignments.

- **Participation (25%)**: Though this is an online class, we will still have a weekly, synchronously meeting every Wednesday at 12:30pm through **Collaborate Ultra**. At these meetings we'll discuss the week's readings, lectures, and film, and answer any questions you might have. Your grade from this portion of the course will come from attendance and participation. At the end of each meeting I will assign you 1-3 points. You get one point just for showing up. You get another for contributing at least once. And you'll get all three

points if you become an active participant in our conversation. Any unexcused absence will result in zero points for that day. So if you can't make it, reach out in advance and let me know. If your absence is legit we can find a way to make up the points.

- Weekly Quizzes (25%): Every week we will have a five-question quiz that will test your comprehension of the readings, lectures, and films for that week. These are not intended to trap you. They are intended to reward those of you who do the readings and watch the films.
- Response Papers (5 x 5% = 25%): While we discuss the films, lectures, and readings every week through Collaborate Ultra, you will also have an opportunity to craft more in-depth responses to the films. Five times during the semester you will write a 3-4 page response to the film for a grade.
- Final Project (25%): The final project for this class will ask you to build upon the themes of this class by proposing additional films, shows, or novels for the course. More information on the final project will come during week 13 in this course, the week of Thanksgiving.

### **Course Material and Information:**

The overwhelming majority of the material for this course will be available here on canvas--with two exceptions. The books below are available through eCampus, and I highly recommend you get them. The text book is what you will use to evaluate the films, and the novel is one of the texts we will read in lieu of a film.

- Anaya, Rudolfo. *Bless Me, Ultima*. New York: Warner Books, 1994. ISBN: 978-0446600255.
- Gaustad, Edwin and Leigh Schmidt, *The Religious History fo America: The Heart of the American Story from Colonial Times to Today*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 2015. ISBN: 978-0060630560.

### **Grading Scale:**

The grading scale for each assignment and for this course will be as follows: A= 95-100; A-= 90-94; B+= 86-89; B= 83-85; B-= 80-82; C+= 76-79; C=73-75; C-= 70-72; D+= 65-69; D= 60-64; F= below 60.

### **Vital Campus Resources:**

<https://uwm.edu/cetl/wp-content/uploads/sites/128/2020/08/UWM-Milwaukee-Campus-Resources-.pdf> (<https://uwm.edu/cetl/wp-content/uploads/sites/128/2020/08/UWM-Milwaukee-Campus-Resources-.pdf>)

### **UWM COVID-19 Information:**

<https://uwm.edu/cetl/covid-19-syllabus-statements/> (<https://uwm.edu/cetl/covid-19-syllabus-statements/>)

**Course Schedule:**

The following is a weekly summary for the course, focusing on the films, novels, and television shows we will watch or read. The full readings for each week will be listed in the modules on the course's homepage.

1. (9/2) INTRODUCTIONS
  - Read: Syllabus
2. (9/9) HOW TO WATCH A MOVIE
  - Film: *In God's House* (2014)
  - <https://uwi-primoalma-prod.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1766211/UWI71486932410002121>
3. (9/16) THE JAZZ SINGER
  - Film: *The Jazz Singer* (1927)
4. (9/23) ON THE WATERFRONT
  - Film: *On the Waterfront* (1954)
5. (9/30) BIG LOVE
  - TV Show: *Big Love* (2006)
6. (10/7) IN HIS STEPS
  - Novel: Charles Sheldon, *In His Steps* (1896)
7. (10/14) INHERIT THE WIND
  - Film: *Inherit the Wind* (1960)
8. (10/21) THE APOSTLE
  - Film: *The Apostle* (1997)
9. (10/28) BIG CITY
  - Film: *Big City* (1948)
10. (11/4) BLOOD DONE SIGN MY NAME
  - Film: *Blood Done Sign My Name* (2010)
11. (11/11) BLESS ME, ULTIMA
  - Novel: Rudolfo Anaya, *Bless Me, Ultima* (1972)
12. (11/18) X
  - Film: *X* (1992)

13. (11/25) THANKSGIVING
  - Introduction to final project
14. (12/2) BREAKAWAY
  - Film: *Breakaway* (2011)
15. (12/9) LADY BIRD
  - Film: *Lady Bird* (2017)

## Course Summary:

Date	Details
Tue Sep 8, 2020	 <b>Response Paper 1</b> <a href="https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2153698">https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2153698</a> <span style="float: right;">due by 11:59pm</span>
Wed Sep 9, 2020	 <b>Week 1 Quiz</b> <a href="https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2153663">https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2153663</a> <span style="float: right;">due by 12:30pm</span>
Wed Sep 16, 2020	 <b>Week 2 Quiz</b> <a href="https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2211932">https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2211932</a> <span style="float: right;">due by 12:30pm</span>
Wed Sep 16, 2020	 <b>Week 3 Quiz</b> <a href="https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2213340">https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2213340</a> <span style="float: right;">due by 12:30pm</span>
Fri Dec 18, 2020	 <b>Final Project</b> <a href="https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2212541">https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2212541</a> <span style="float: right;">due by 11:59pm</span>
	 <b>Response Paper 2</b> <a href="https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2212130">https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2212130</a>
	 <b>Response Paper 3</b> <a href="https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2212363">https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2212363</a>

**Date****Details**

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 **[Response Paper 4](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2212419)**  
(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2212419>)

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 **[Response Paper 5](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2212472)**  
(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2212472>)

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 **[Week 1 Participation Points](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220104)**  
(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220104>)

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 **[Week 10 Participation Points](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220137)**  
(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220137>)

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 **[Week 10 Quiz](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2214173)**  
(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2214173>)

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 **[Week 11 Participation Points](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220135)**  
(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220135>)

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 **[Week 11 Quiz](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2214183)**  
(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2214183>)

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 **[Week 12 Participation Points](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220134)**  
(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220134>)

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 **[Week 12 Quiz](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2214184)**  
(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2214184>)

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 **[Week 14 Participation Points](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220133)**  
(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220133>)

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**[Week 14 Quiz](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2214186)**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2214186>)

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**[Week 15 Participation Points](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220132)**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220132>)

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**[Week 15 Quiz](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2214187)**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2214187>)

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**[Week 2 Participation Points](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220147)**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220147>)

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**[Week 3 Participation Points](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220146)**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220146>)

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**[Week 4 Participation Points](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220144)**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220144>)

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**[Week 4 Quiz](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2213344)**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2213344>)

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**[Week 5 Participation Points](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220142)**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220142>)

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**[Week 5 Quiz](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2213460)**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2213460>)

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**[Week 6 Participation Points](https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220140)**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220140>)

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**Week 6 Quiz**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2214137>)

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**Week 7 Participation Points**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220136>)

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**Week 7 Quiz**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2214138>)

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**Week 8 Participation Points**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220139>)

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**Week 8 Quiz**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2214162>)

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**Week 9 Participation Points**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2220138>)

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**Week 9 Quiz**

(<https://uwmil.instructure.com/courses/312795/assignments/2214170>)

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