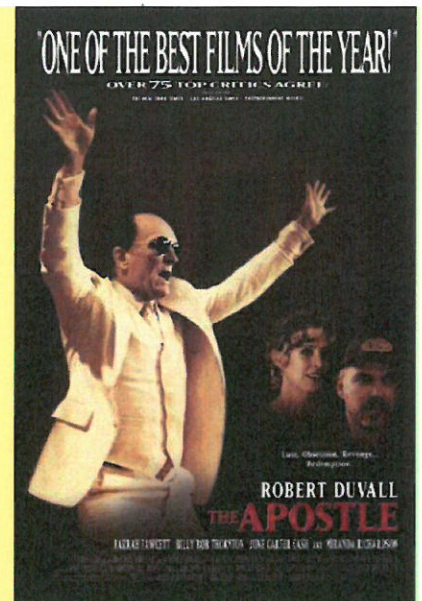


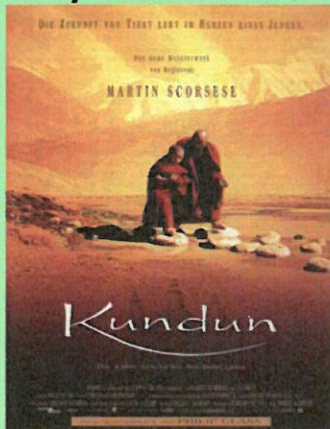


# RLST 3820 100/ ETHN 3104 100: Religion and Popular Film w/ Dr. Luís León



This course explores spirituality through film. Understanding religion requires us to take culture seriously; religion is a cultural system. In doing so, we must consider products of culture, including popular culture. This course engages both classic and more recent films as “texts” to be analyzed, not as mere entertainments or diversions. We focus not only on those films that identify themselves explicitly as “religious” or reflect a particular religious tradition, but also movies that render the subject more obliquely, which reveal – via image and sound – religion as a complex human activity.

We will see films each meeting in class, and I will ask you to write a paper analyzing and comparing them, incorporating insights gained from reading and from class discussions. Our goals include understanding how film frames and mediates religious expression, in addition to gaining knowledge of religious traditions themselves, as well as gaining an appreciation for film as religious expression. This is not a course on introduction to film criticism, however, I will introduce some basic terms in film theory so that students will acquire a vocabulary enabling them to discuss films.



M-F 12:45pm-2:20pm  
May 31-July 1, 2016  
HALE 240  
3 credits

