

PHIL 2160 – 001: Philosophy and/of Film

April Flakne and Christopher Noble

Film Screenings: Thurs. 6-9 in Hamilton Center Black Box Theater (unless otherwise noted)

Class Meetings: Tues. 4-6 in ACE 239

April Flakne: flakne@ncf.edu, ACE 304

Christopher Noble: cnoble@ncf.edu, PME 125

Office Hours: TBD

Course Description:

This class will use film in conjunction with philosophical texts to introduce and explore philosophical themes and methods ranging across epistemology, metaphysics, political philosophy, ethics and aesthetics (including the aesthetics of film). Enrolled students will be required to attend all films in the community “Philosophy and Film Series” and to participate in the post-film discussions. Students will also be required to read the assigned texts, post a reaction on Canvas, and participate actively and intelligently in class discussions. There will be a midterm and a final paper. This class is open to first year students but more advanced students, with or without a background in philosophy, are very welcome. Capped at 25. LAC, diverse perspectives eligible. TW: some of the films deal with themes including physical and sexual violence.

Course Evaluation Criteria:

Expectations for a “satisfactory” evaluation include attending film screenings and class meetings, exhibition of an understanding of course material, active participation in class discussion, and on-time completion of assignments.

Assignments:

Students will be expected to post weekly reactions on Canvas, complete a 5-page midterm paper and a 10-12 page research paper.

Schedule of Films and Readings (subject to change):

Tuesday 8/27 Introduction/Plato’s Divided Line and Allegory of the Cave

<http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/christina.hemati/phil1301/readings/plato-divided-line-sun-and-cave-analogy>

Thursday 8/29 *The Matrix* Noble

9/3 René Descartes, *Meditations* 1-4

9/5 *Gaslight*; Flakne

9/10 Stanley Cavell, *City of Words*, Chapter 6; Kate Manne, “The Logic of Misogyny”

<https://bostonreview.net/forum/kate-manne-logic-misogyny>

9/12 *The Conformist*; Noble

9/17 Selections from Plato and Aristotle

9/19 *Rashomon*; Flakne

9/24 Fricker, "Epistemic Injustice and the Role of Virtue in the Politics of Knowing"

9/26 *Persona*; Flakne

10/1 Strawson, "The Sense of Self," *Things that Bother Me*

10/3 *Encounters as the End of the World*; Noble

10/8 Selections from Werner Herzog, Steingröver: "Encountering Werner Herzog at the End of the World"

10/10 *The Big Lebowski*; Noble (Alternate screening location TBA)

10/11 Midterm Paper Due (upload to Canvas)

Fall Break

10/22 Dao De Jing; "Dudeism"

10/24 *The Battle for Algiers*; Noble

10/29 Selections from Frantz Fanon: *The Wretched of the Earth*

10/31 *Do the Right Thing* (or *Passover*); Flakne (alternate screening location TBA)

11/5 Charles W. Mills, "Racial Liberalism"

11/7 *Happy as Lazaro*; Flakne (alternate screening location TBA)

11/12 Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*

11/14 *A Clockwork Orange*; Flakne

11/ 19 Mill, Kant selections

11/21 *Blade Runner* Noble (alternate screening location TBA)

11/26 Readings in the philosophy of mind/Zizek/transhumanism (TBD)

11/28 – Thanksgiving Break (student-chosen films)

12/3 – Student-led discussion

12/9 Final Paper due (upload to Canvas)

Disability Accommodations

Any student who, because of a documented disability, may require special arrangements or accommodations, should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not permitted to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, please visit Student Disability Services in HCL 3 or email disabilityservices@ncf.edu.

Equity, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity

New College's commitment to academic excellence can only be realized in a learning environment that is inclusive, characterized by openness to diverse perspectives, and marked by mutual respect. Anything short of this aspiration is inconsistent with our commitment. Equal access, and the opportunity to participate fully in all of our programs and facilities, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, political ideology, national origin, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation, is essential to that commitment and will be the standard to which we expect all members of our learning community to adhere.

Title IX

New College of Florida is committed to equal access to education pursuant to Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. The law protects all individuals on our campus from gender-based discrimination or exclusion or instances of sexual misconduct. All full-time faculty, full-time staff, and resident advisors are Responsible Employees required to report any known instances of sexual misconduct or gender discrimination to the Title IX Coordinator. Please contact our Title IX coordinator (titleix@ncf.edu) or see the website (<https://www.ncf.edu/campus-life/title-ix/>) for more information.