Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS

CINE 340
THEOLOGY AND CINEMA

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course explores the use of theology in cinema. As an introductory course, it seeks to answer the questions that many Christians face about movies as an artistic medium. Namely, “How should Christians view cinematic arts?” The course will also focus on helping students approach movies with the eyes of a theologian. Specifically, it will instruct students to evaluate and interpret movies from a theological/philosophical perspective. Part of this will involve viewing specific movies and exegeting them to see what they reveal about culture and truth.

RATIONALE
The arts have historically been one of, if not the, major factor that influences culture. This is especially the case with cinematic arts. This reality has spawned a variety of responses by the church, both negative and positive. With this in view, this course aims to analyze the influence of theology in movies in order to help the student form a biblical attitude towards creative expression. It is also the aim of this course to allow the student to investigate ways in which Christians can use movies to positively influence culture.

I. PREREQUISITES
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio and video equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Final Draft Software
D. Microsoft Word
   (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)
E. Windows Media Player

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Evaluate and analyze various theological and philosophical themes in movies, both Christian and non-Christian.
B. Produce a rationale and defense for Christian involvement in movie making.
C. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the major influence that cinema has had on culture.

V. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

A. **Course Requirements Checklist**
   After reading the Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

A. **Discussion Board Forums (4)**
   The student will post a thread of 300–400 words in length in response to the provided prompt. The student will then post a reply of 100–200 words in length to 2 classmates’ threads for each forum. All forums must be supported by course content, outside materials, and/or Scripture references using current APA or Turabian formatting. Each Discussion Board forum is due by the end of the module/week in which it is assigned.

B. **Movie Reviews (2)**
   The student will write two 3–5-page reviews in current APA or Turabian format for 2 of the selected movies from a provided list. The student is to put himself/herself in the seat of a movie critic and offer detailed reviews of the movies watched.

C. **Movie Paper**
   The student will pick 1 of the movies and exegete it, pointing out theological and philosophical themes that are present therein. Then, the student will construct an apologetic based on that film or 1 aspect of that movie. The Movie Paper must be 7–8 pages in length and written in current APA or Turabian format.

D. **Course Project**
   Based on research and reading for the class, the student will write a 8–10-page rationale/philosophy for Christian involvement in cinematic arts. This paper is to be a personal philosophy of cinema as well as a defense for the student’s own view of cinema written in current APA or Turabian format.

VI. **COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. **Points**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums (4 at 100 pts ea)</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie Reviews (2 at 100 pts ea)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie Paper</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Project</td>
<td>200</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
B. Scale

A = 900–1010   B = 800–899   C = 700–799   D = 600–699   F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
## COURSE SCHEDULE

### CINE 340


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE/WEEK</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Detweiler: ch. 1 1 presentation</td>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Contact Information Quiz</td>
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<td>Class Introductions</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>DB Forum 1</td>
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<td>Detweiler: ch. 8 Godawa: ch. 10 Johnston: ch. 11 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 4</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1010</strong></td>
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DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.