

**SYLLABUS\***  
**Philosophy 111: Philosophy, Film, and Reflective Popular Culture**  
Winter Term 2009  
Thursday 2:10 - 6:00 pm  
HMNSS 1503

Instructor: Professor Mark Wrathall  
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We will spend this term examining guilt and related issues – what is guilt? Is it a state? A feeling? An attitude? A mood? Are there different kinds of guilt? What does guilt teach us about morality, responsibility, and our being in the world? We will examine depictions of guilt in film as well as a variety of philosophical treatments of the theme.

**Required Texts:** Available on Blackboard

**Course Requirements**

- 1) **Readings.** For the required readings, see the syllabus below. Students are expected to read the assigned readings prior to class.
  
- 2) **Class participation.** I expect each of you to take an active role in class – asking questions, making comments, and otherwise contributing to our discussion of the readings and films. I will adjust your final grade to reflect your level of class participation.
  
- 2) **Weekly written assignment.** A one page written assignment (typed, double spaced) will be due at the beginning of each class, beginning on January 22. A random selection of these assignments will be graded; the rest will just be checked for satisfactory completion. Graded assignments will be averaged and will comprise 50% of your total grade for the course. A minimum of 7 assignments must be completed. Each late assignment will reduce your overall grade for the course by 3%, and assignments will not be accepted more than two weeks after the original due date. Each incomplete assignment will reduce your overall grade for the course by 10%.

The same written assignment will be given each week: either use an incident from one of the films to illustrate the assigned reading for the week, or use the assigned reading to illuminate and explain an incident in one of the films.

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\*This syllabus is subject to change. Changes, if any, will be announced in class. Students will be held responsible for all changes.

- 3) **A 5-7 Page Term Paper.** I will distribute suggested paper topics and deadlines later in the term, although I would prefer for you to identify your own paper topic. I will require you to hand in an outline, and meet with me to discuss your paper. Your grade on the term paper will constitute 50% of your final grade. Failure to complete the term paper will result in a failing grade for the course. The term paper will be due on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. More details will be provided later in the term.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

Students have an obligation to their classmates and instructor to behave in such a manner as to enhance the learning environment. Please do not engage in behavior which disrupts class or otherwise detracts from the ability of your fellow students to learn. Such behaviors include arriving at class late, leaving before class is dismissed, speaking or whispering while others are speaking, reading newspapers in class, cell-phones ringing, snoring, etc.

### **Biographical Information**

Wrathall received a B.A. in philosophy from Brigham Young University, an A.M. in philosophy from Boston College, a J.D. from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of California at Berkeley. Before coming to UCR, he taught for 11 years at Brigham Young University. He has published extensively on figures and topics in continental philosophy. He has also published articles on Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* and the *Matrix* trilogy, as well as the music of U2.

**Schedule:**

Date	Reading (to prepare for class)	Film (to be watched in class)
<b>January</b>		
8	Introduction	
15	Taylor, "Guilt and Remorse"	Brothers
22	Morris, "Nonmoral Guilt"	Atonement
29	Thomas Nagel, "Moral Luck" Jaspers, "The Question of German Guilt," pp. 21-44	Europa Europa
<b>February</b>		
5	Jaspers, "The Question of German Guilt," pp. 45-117	Burnt by the Sun
12	Feinberg, "Collective Responsibility," Arendt, "Organized Guilt and Universal Responsibility," "Collective Responsibility"	Lives of Others
19	Watson, "Responsibility and the Limits of Evil"	No Country for Old Men
26	Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy</i> , second essay	Match Point
<b>March</b>		
5	Heidegger, <i>Being and Time</i> secs. 54-57	In Bruges
12	Heidegger, <i>Being and Time</i> secs. 57-60	Unforgiven

FINAL PAPER DUE: Monday March 16