FILM 227901 2018 Social Issues in Literature & Film 3 Credits
Boston College Summer Session
June 25 to August 1, 2018
Mon/Wed 6:00-9:15 PM

Prof. Susan A. Michalczyk
michalcz@bc.edu (best contact)
Home Phone: 508-358-6351 Office phone: (617) 552-2362
Office: Stokes Hall S285
Office Hours: prior to and following class, by phone (home number) & by appt.

Prof. John J. Michalcyk
michalcj@bc.edu (best contact)
Home phone: 508-358-6351 Office phone: (617) 552-3895
Office: Devlin Hall 420
Office Hours: Monday: prior to and following class & 11:15am-12:00pm

Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description:
Depicting issues of social justice, through literature and film, whether adaptations of true accounts or fictionalized creations of writers and directors provides opportunities to re-examine the ways in which each generation learns from or repeats the past. The written word establishes the narrative and then the film adaptation brings aspects of the story to life in a compelling form with dynamic visuals. Film adaptations from short stories, plays, and historical documents will comprise the body of the curriculum, as we explore the power of literature and film to engage and prick the conscience of the audience.

Required Readings: (available on canvas and on reserve in library)
Tara Brach, “My Beloved Child” (from Radical Acceptance)
Andre Dubus: “Dancing After Hours,” “Legs,” “Letter to Amtrak”
Andrew Hodges, Alan Turing: The Enigma
Michael Lassell, “How to Watch your Brother Die”
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “A Letter from Birmingham Jail”
Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom
Arthur Miller, Death of a Salesman
Alexander Stille, Excellent Cadavers
Susan Williams, Colour Bar: The Triumph of Seretse Khama and his Nation
Robert Kanigel, The Man Who Knew Infinity
Documents on equal rights from US government reports, newspapers and film reviews
Virginia Woolf, A Room of One’s Own

**Required Films** (to be viewed outside of class, with scenes shown in class)

*American Violet*
*Belle*
*Betrayed, Nazis in America*
*The Constant Gardener*
*The Hours*
*The Imitation Game*
*Killing Silence*
*Lives Worth Living*
*The Man Who Knew Infinity*
*The Siege*
*A United Kingdom*
*The Visitor*

Recommended Films: (to be viewed at O’Neill, student’s choice of one/week, unless listed within parentheses in Course Schedule, printed below)

*All the Way*
*Bird Cage*
*Born on the Fourth of July*
*Bread and Chocolate*
*Confirmation*
*Do The Right Thing*
*El Norte*
*Finding Forrester*
*Glengarry/Glen Ross*
*Light it Up*
*A Little Trip to Heaven*
*A Matter of Conscience*
*Moscow on the Hudson*
*Philadelphia*
*Salt of the Earth*
*Silkwood*
*Waitress*
*Who Takes Away the Sins*
Canvas
Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) at Boston College, designed to help faculty and students share ideas, collaborate on assignments, discuss course readings and materials, submit assignments, and much more - all online. As a Boston College student, you should familiarize yourself with this important tool. For more information and training resources for using Canvas, click here.

Course Objectives
1. The student will be studying the ways in which social issues become part of the larger social conversation.
2. The student will be analyzing various methods of aesthetic expression, socio-political and creative methods of adaptation from text to screen.
3. The student will learn critical techniques for analyzing texts and films, studying elements of plot, characterization and cinematography against the background of social and cultural shifts.
4. The student will work toward improving written and oral expression on an advanced level through classroom presentations and written assignments.

Further Objectives
1. The student will become familiar with a range of social justice concerns, through historical and contemporary works, so as to better understand cultural differences and challenges of the 21st Century.
2. The student will have opportunities to exchange ideas and developing focused arguments on ethical issues through small group discussion.

Grading
Final grades are determined by the quality of the research papers and content of the final exam. However, class attendance and participation in discussions comprise a good portion of the grade as well. Late papers will be marked a grade less.
The undergraduate grading system is as follows:
A (4.00), A- (3.67)
B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67)
C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67)
D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67)
F (.00)

All students can access final grades through Agora after the grading deadline each semester. Transcripts are available through the Office of Student Services.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Film:</th>
<th>Text:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>Prejudice &amp; Genius...</td>
<td><em>The Man Who Knew Infinity</em></td>
<td><em>The Man Who Knew Infinity</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“My Beloved Child”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>through WWI and WWII</td>
<td><em>The Imitation Game</em></td>
<td><em>Alan Turing: The Enigma</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>(Philadelphia)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Racism &amp; Politics</td>
<td><em>A United Kingdom</em></td>
<td><em>Colour Bar: Triumph of Seretse Khama &amp; his Nation</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No Class Fourth of July

July 9  Gender, past & present  *Belle/The Hours*  *A Room of One’s Own*

**Quiz: July 9**

July 11  Class & Immigration  *The Visitor/The Siege*  Civil Rights/ACLU documents

*El Norte*

July 16  Business & Ethics  *The Constant Gardener*  *Death of a Salesman*

*A Little Trip to Heaven*

July 18  Anti-Semitism  *Betrayed, Nazis in America*  US Holocaust Museum documents

July 23 Law/Politics and Racism  *American Violet*  “A Letter from Birmingham Jail”

*Confirmation*

July 25 Disabilities  *Lives Worth Living*  “Dancing After Hours,” “Legs,” “Letter to Amtrak”

*Born on the Fourth of July*

**Paper Due: July 25**

July 30  Civic Responsibility  *Killing Silence*  *Excellent Cadavers*  (Who Takes Away the Sins or *Silkwood*)

August 1  **Final Exam**

**Written Work**

Woods College students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed and submitted in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA or CLA style per your instructor’s requirements. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. For writing support, please contact the Connors Family Learning Center.

**Attendance**

Attending class is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. When circumstances prevent a student from attending class, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor before the class meets. Students who miss class are still expected to complete all assignments and meet all deadlines. Many instructors grade for participation; if you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Makeup work may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. Attendance is required for all classes. Please inform the professors in advance if you are unable to attend a class.
Consistent with BC’s commitment to creating a learning environment that is respectful of persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing their academic status. Students are responsible for reviewing course syllabi as soon as possible, and for communicating with the instructor promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. Students are responsible for completing all class requirements for days missed due to conflicts with religious holidays.

Accommodation and Accessibility
Boston College is committed to providing accommodations to students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities. Specific documentation from the appropriate office is required for students seeking accommodation in Woods College courses. Advanced notice and formal registration with the appropriate office is required to facilitate this process. There are two separate offices at BC that coordinate services for students with disabilities:

- **The Connors Family Learning Center (CFLC)** coordinates services for students with LD and ADHD.
- **The Disabilities Services Office (DSO)** coordinates services for all other disabilities.

Find out more about BC’s commitment to accessibility at [www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility](http://www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility).

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
Students in Woods College courses must produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to cite references is plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, or submitting the same material or substantially similar material to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work. Please see the [Boston College policy on academic integrity](http://www.bc.edu/academic-integrity) for more information.

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM BRINGING FOOD INTO THE CLASSROOM AND USING ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING CLASS.