

STRA5510 Theo-Drama and Film

Course Statistics:

Professor: Dr. Alex García-Rivera and Dr. Harry Cronin
Time: Thursdays 11:10 am to 2:00 pm
Place: CDSP A
E-mail: agarcia@jstb.edu
Office Hours: Appointment or Drop-in

Description:

Hans Urs von Balthasar began a new chapter in theological reflection with his magisterial five volume work known as “Theo-Drama.” In this work von Balthasar mined the riches of dramatic theory and related them to the doctrine of the Trinity, the Last Things, and the Incarnation. This course intends to use von Balthasar’s reflections and apply them in engaging theological themes found explicitly and implicitly in many films. As such, this course is geared to advanced MA and doctoral students interested in getting the philosophical, theological, and dramatic theory necessary to relate film, theater and theology in a rich and meaningful way. This course will include much of von Balthasar’s material, introductory materials on tragedy and philosophy, and films. Evaluation will consist of participation, a research paper, and a class presentation.

Requirements:

A research paper is required for M.A. and Ph. D. students. In addition, a class presentation is required of Ph.D. students. A significant portion of the grade will depend on class participation.

Reading:

Steck, C. W. 2001. *The ethical thought of Hans Urs von Balthasar*. New York: Crossroad.

Balthasar, H. U. v. 1988. *Theo-drama : Theological dramatic theory*. Vol. 1, Prolegomena. Trans. G. Harrison. San Francisco: Ignatius Press.

DVD Film. *The Devil’s Backbone*.

DVD Film. *Shipping News*

DVD Film. *Our Town*

DVD Film. *Places in the Heart*

DVD Film. *St. Joan*

Class Schedule

Feb. 2. Towards a Theodramatics

Introduction and Orientation to the course.

Feb. 9. All the World is a Stage: A Theological Analogy

Von Balthasar, 15-24; 89-163; 249-259.

Feb. 16. Dramatic Theory

Von Balthasar, 259-369

Feb. 23. Film.

To be provided.

March 2. Von Balthasar's Theo-Drama. Part I

Steck chs 1-3

Mar. 9. Von Balthasar's Theo-Drama. Part II

Steck, chs. 4-7

Mar. 16. The Theodramatics of "Our Town"

DVD Film.

Mar. 23. The Theodramatics of "Shipping News"

DVD Film

Mar. 30. Spring Break. No Class.

April 6. The Theodramatics of "The Devil's Backbone"

DVD Film

April 13. The Theodramatics of "Places in the Heart".

DVD Film

April 20. The Theodramatics of "St. Joan"

DVD Film

April 27. Class Presentations

May 4 & 11. Class Presentations.