

# PHILOSOPHY THROUGH FILM

## Phil 565.01 (4 Credits)

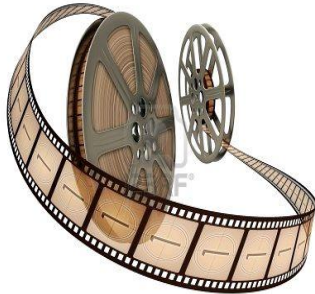
This course is WI and meets Gen Ed Category 8 or Discovery Program Humanities Requirement. It also meets the Elective requirement in the Cinema Studies Minor

**David Hiley, Professor of Philosophy**

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Wednesdays and Fridays 9:10-10:00 am

Film Screenings Tuesdays 6:00-8:00 pm



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In this course we will use film to stimulate thinking about philosophical issues, but we will also think philosophically about film. We will mix discussion of philosophical themes in movies with somewhat theoretical reflections about film. Topics will include: **Appearance, Reality, and the Moving Image; Reason and Emotion – the Power of Film; Films and the Meaning of Life; Film as Philosophy Text; On Being Human; Time, Chance, and Memory; Serious Watching – Film Aesthetics and Criticism; Film and Representational Responsibility – Race, Gender, Violence; Film and Popular Culture; and Film and Art.**

We will be viewing, discussing, and writing about a wide variety of films including historically important films such as “Birth of a Nation” and “Triumph of the Will;” classics like “Modern Times,” and “The Seventh Seal;” Hollywood cult classics such as “Fight Club,” “Straw Dogs,” “School Daze,” and “Blade Runner;” international films such as “Marianne and Juliane,” “Run, Lola, Run,” and “The Sea Inside;” and experimental films such as Andy Warhol’s, “Sleep,” and Lars von Trier’s, “The Five Obstructions.” A goal of the course will be to foster an appreciation of many kinds of film and to appreciate the philosophical significance of film, whether they are art house films or Hollywood blockbusters.

***You will be required to attend film screenings Monday evenings and you will also be required to have access to Netflix streaming on-line.*** No books are required for purchase. Readings will be available through Blackboard. Reading assignments will include excerpts from philosophical texts such as Plato’s Republic or Kierkegaard’s Fear and Trembling, essays by philosophers about film, and film criticism. You will write a series of short reflection papers on individual films as well as two longer papers comparing films or focusing on themes that run through a number of films. Part of the philosophical value of films is the opportunity they offer to discuss them thoughtfully with others. You will be expected to engage in active discussion in class as well as through Blackboard.