

**JESUS: REAL TO REEL  
SUMMER 2004**

**Instructor:** Catherine Murphy PMIN 221-2  
**Office:** Bannan 351 Bannan 333  
**Office hours:** M-F 4:00–5:00 p.m. and by appointment any day M-F 5:00–7:30 p.m.  
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**Recommended Texts:**

*The Catholic Study Bible* (NAB). New York: Oxford University Press, 1990.  
[ISBN 0-19-528389-9] [ \$45.00/\$33.75 ]  
*Please feel free to use whatever version of the Bible you have; you do not need to purchase this version. The two most commonly assigned versions of the Bible for academic study are the New American Bible (NAB) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).*

**Required Texts:**

Paula Fredriksen, *From Jesus to Christ: The Origins of the New Testament Images of Jesus*, 2d ed. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 2000. [ISBN 0-300-08457-9] [ \$14.95 ]

Jaroslav Pelikan, *Jesus through the Centuries: His Place in the History of Culture*. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1985/1999. [ISBN 0-300-07987-7] [ \$9.75 ]

Lloyd Baugh, *Imaging the Diving: Jesus and Christ-Figures in Film, Communication, Culture and Theology*. Franklin, Wisconsin: Sheed & Ward, 1997. [ISBN 1-55612-863-0] [ \$26.95 ]

John P. Meier, "Jesus," in *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary* (ed. Raymond E. Brown, S.S., Joseph A. Fitzmyer, S.J., and Roland E. Murphy, O.Carm.; Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1990) 1316-1328. [to be distributed in class] [free]

**Course Description and Objectives**

Who was the historical Jesus and who has he become in the centuries since? This question is often on Christian minds, but all the more so since the publication of Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code* and the release of Mel Gibson's movie, "The Passion of the Christ." How can a contemporary person evaluate the gospel portraits of Jesus and modern interpretations of him? This short course will introduce you to the earliest portraits of the historical Jesus in the gospels, and then to the most recent narrative medium of cinema and how Jesus has been represented in it.

**Course Requirements**

**Attendance & Participation**

Class meetings will include some lecture and quite a lot of class discussion and small group work. Please complete the readings in advance of the class for which they are assigned. Should illness or circumstance necessitate absence, please leave word in advance of class at one of the phone numbers above or by e-mail. 35% of grade.

**Critical Reflection**

There will be two 2-3 page reflection papers and one 6-page analytical paper in this class. 65% of grade.

## Schedule of Topics

Night	Date	Topic for Reflection & Discussion
1	7/19	INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF THE HISTORICAL JESUS & JESUS IN POP CULTURE
2	7/20	JESUS IN THE GOSPELS & THE HISTORICAL JESUS <u>Secondary Reading:</u> Fredriksen 18-69, 94-126 <u>Optional Reading:</u> Fredriksen, 205-215  <i>Reflection Paper #1: Write a portrait of Jesus. Discuss who he was in his time, as you imagine him, what he did, what was significant about him, and what is significant about him in your life. This should be your portrait, based on your own life experience and reflection; you don't need to do and shouldn't do any research. It is recommended that you write the paper before reading Fredriksen.</i>
3	7/21	JESUS THROUGH THE CENTURIES <u>Secondary:</u> Pelikan, pages to be selected in class (each person will read 2 chapters, but no one will read the same chapter)  <i>Reflection Paper #2: Revise your portrait of Jesus: what have you learned about him from Fredriksen and Pelikan that alters your original portrait?</i>
4	7/22	JESUS IN THE EARLIEST FILMS <u>Secondary:</u> Baugh 7-32
5	7/23	JESUS IN RECENT CINEMA <u>Secondary:</u> Baugh 73-106  <i>Final Analytical Paper Due: Watch one entire film about Jesus. Analyze the plot and characterization of Jesus and other significant characters against the historical Jesus.</i>