

**Tkach, Colleen**

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**From:** Inform  
**Subject:** EM: New Courses on Film, Religion, Civil Rights.

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**From:** Chavez, Linda

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*Sent on behalf of Prof. Gaston Espinosa*



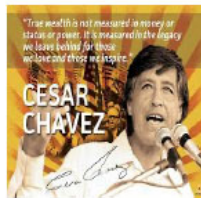
## RLST 84 – Religion, Race &

### Civil Rights Movements

Spring 2023

Prof. Gastón Espinosa

Thursday, 6:00-9:00 PM



After exploring a brief history racism, slavery, and Jim Crow segregation, this seminar analyzes the influence of spirituality on 3 civil rights movements from 1960-1975: Black, Mexican American, and American Indian (AIM). We will also briefly discuss current struggles over Black Lives Matter and the Standing Rock Indian struggle. It takes a biographical and comparative approach to the three civil rights movements side-by-side through the struggles of key leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker, Diane Nash, César Chávez, Reies López Tijerina, Dolores Huerta, Dennis Banks, Leonard & Mary Crowdog, Stokely Carmichael & Hip-Hop artists. It explores how they drew on their Protestant, Catholic, Pentecostal, Muslim, Baptist, and Native spiritualities, symbols, rhetoric, traditions, and resistance art and music to create counter-narratives to overcome segregation, white supremacy, and structural inequality and disenfranchisement in U.S. society. It explores their religious visions, leadership styles, spiritual intelligence, and both non-violent and militant methods of social change. We will analyze documentaries, movie clips, and music, bring in guest speaker on race/religion & civil rights, create an artistic project, and have a final class dinner. This course counts for (1) Religious Studies, (2) Africana Studies, (3) Chicano Studies, (4) Leadership, and/or (5) Human Rights sequence credit. For more information, contact Dr. Gastón Espinosa [gaston.espinosa@cmc.edu](mailto:gaston.espinosa@cmc.edu).



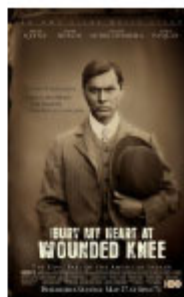
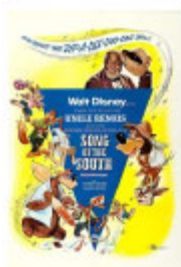
# NEW CLASS – Spring 2023

## RLST 125 – Race and Religion in Hollywood Film

Prof. Gastón Espinosa

Tuesday, 6-10 PM, CMC Roberts South 104

This course critically examines how Blacks, Latinos/as, and Native Americans have been depicted and socially constructed in Hollywood-distributed films over the past century. We start by exploring screenwriting and critical theories about film, race, religion, gender, and social change and then how Hollywood has served as a vehicle for both affirming racial-ethnic stereotypes and/or challenging and resisting them in their desire to rewrite the visual narrative of American history. We analyze and interpret how film can function as a vehicle for racial, religious, political, gender, and social commentary, conscientization, protest, and reconciliation. After briefly examining film structure and screenwriting, the course analyzes the intersection of race and religion via leaders, traditions, motifs, and sensibilities in genres such as: Science Fiction (Avatar), Action-Adventure (Indiana Jones Temple of Doom, Live & Let Die), Drama (Birth of a Nation, Mandingo, Mi Familia, Malcolm X, César Chávez, Selma, Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee, Birth of a Nation (Nat Turner)), Animation (Song of the South, Pocahontas). We interpret film as an historical artifact and a cultural canvas that imparts not only the writer and director's vision and commentary about the social construction of race, religion and society, but also those of the masses that consume them. This course can count for RS GE, Religious Studies, or Media Studies credit. We will bring in writers and film folks as guest speakers. For permission to add, send a perm request on the portal and/or an email to [gaston.espinosa@cmc.edu](mailto:gaston.espinosa@cmc.edu).





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