

# PHIL 2381: Philosophy & Film

Wednesday, 5:15pm - 8:00pm

Prof. Daniele Lorenzini (he/him)

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## Course description:

Film allows us to explore and reflect on our everyday reality, our ordinary problems, and our bodily existence, while also incessantly blurring the boundaries between the ordinary and the extraordinary, the everyday and the fantastic. How is it able to do that?

In this course, we will begin by addressing the specific features of the medium of film and its peculiar ontology: What becomes of things and people on film? Do movies present us with images of reality or with reality itself? The response to these questions will substantiate the course's main hypothesis: movies "think" and, as a result, far from just providing a repertoire of examples that philosophy can use for its own aims, they are themselves a form of philosophy.

Through a combination of film screenings, philosophical readings, and seminar discussion, the course will test this hypothesis by addressing the contributions of classical and contemporary movies to metaphysical, epistemological, ethical, and political questions that philosophy has been tackling for thousands of years.

## Readings & screenings:

Each week, you are expected to engage with the readings if you are to participate effectively in class discussion and write good papers on your chosen topic. All essential readings will be available on Canvas. Please bring them to class in one form or another.

You are also expected to watch the movies that we will be discussing. Public screenings will be organized on Monday at 5:15pm on campus, but it will also be possible to access the movies online via the library.

## Assignments:

- Class participation (10%)
- Oral presentation (10%)
- Midterm paper (30%)
- Final paper (50%)

Please discuss your chosen paper topic with me in advance of the last few weeks of class; I am happy to give you oral and/or written feedback on a detailed plan before you begin writing your final paper.

## Office hours:

By appointment: please email me to schedule a meeting in person (Cohen 424) or on Zoom.