

**First Year Seminar**  
**The Passion of Christ (in German medieval drama and American film)**  
**Fall 2009 [3-4:15 TuTh]**  
**Larry E. West**

Aug 27	Introduction: course requirements, policies, grading	1
Sept 1	Gospel & apocryphal accounts of Passion	1
Sept 3, 8, 10	Origins & development of Easter play The Innsbruck Easter Play	3
Sept 15, 17	The St. Gall Passion Play	2
Sept 22, 24, 29	The Alsfeld Passion Play	3
Oct 1, 6, 13, 15	The Oberammergau Passion Play	4
Oct 8	History Channel: "The Execution of Christ"	1
Oct 16	Fall Break	
Oct 20, 22	"Jesus of Nazareth"	2
Oct 27, 29	"Jesus Christ Super Star"	2
Nov 3,5	"The Last Temptation of Christ"	2
Nov 10, 12	"The Gospel According to St. Matthew"	2
Nov 17, 19, 24	"The Passion of the Christ"	3
Nov 22-26	Thanksgiving Recess	
Dec 1	"Son of Man"	1
Dec 3	Monte Python's "The Life of Brian"	1

### Course requirements and grading:

**I** Short reviews or reaction papers (3 pages in length) on **four** of the works Read/ seen (two plays and two films); **each paper due one week after we finish discussion of work** [50 points each] **200 pts**

**II** One long paper (8 pages) which deals with key themes, characters, staging, or controversies of one play or film, or a comparison of two or more plays or films; should not deal with material treated in short reviews; **due Nov 24** **100 pts**

**III** Class participation:

a) lead one class discussion of play or film [50 pts]

b) ongoing class observations, insights, questions) [50 pts]

Absenteeism is an important part of this grade segment; if you have more than three unexcused absences, your class participation grade will be lowered even before your participation is evaluated **100 pts**

**Total = 400 pts**

### Grading scale:

A = 91-100 [91-93 = A-; 94-100 = A]  
B = 81-90 [81-83=B-; 84-87=B; 88-90=B+]  
C = 71-80 [71-73=C-; 74-77=C; 78-80=C+]  
D = 60-70 [60-63=D-; 64-67=D; 68-70=D+]

### Office Hours:

11-1 M, F  
10-12 Tu, Th  
And by appointment

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