

James Bond: Politics, Pop Culture, Hero: Fall 2009

The course coordinators who will be teaching this class this semester are:

Alex Dres, Mary Love, Justin Riddle

The sponsoring professor is Michael Watts

This is a two unit pass/not pass class in the Geography department. The class can be taken as either Geography 98 or Geography 198. Only students with Junior standing and above can enroll in 198.

There will be only one section: Thursday 5-7 in 209 Dwinelle.

We will be reading selected works of Ian Fleming, specifically: Thunderball, On Her Majesty's Secret Service, "The Living Daylights", and Casino Royale.

Course Goals

1. This course will explore the world of James Bond in both the original novels and short stories by Ian Fleming, as well as the films that have become famous the world over. Six prominent films and their corresponding works of literature will be featured in the course in attempt to represent the breadth of the James Bond world.
2. By the end of the course, you will be well versed in the myth and lore of James Bond, the influence of pop culture on the Bond world and vice versa, and the impact of political and economic events on the evolution of the James Bond franchise. Furthermore, you should also be able to discuss why James Bond has retained his popularity for over forty years.
3. The class will be discussion based, so participation is encouraged. If we feel that you have something to share but are not getting the chance or are too shy, we will try to get you involved. The discussions may be centered on the reading only, or on some larger theme or topic that the week's film and novel touches upon.
4. You will be evaluated based on attendance, participation in classes, response papers, and your final paper. All areas of the class must be completed satisfactorily. We need to feel that you are putting in the proper effort into class.

General Class Rules

Cell Phones: Should be kept on silent or turned off. If you are expecting an important call, please sit near the door and answer it outside.

Food: Please do not bring any noisy, smelly, or bothersome food. Everything else is okay. Violators feed the whole class or just the facilitators if you bring something good.

Attendance: Just like in all Decals, attendance is mandatory. Roll will be taken in the beginning of each class by way of a sign in sheet. Signing the attendance sheet is your responsibility. If you sign it and leave before class is concluded (especially on movie showing days), you will be counted as absent. After three absences, you will fail.

Please be on time. We will start at ten after the hour, so do not worry if you have another class ending at 5:00. If you know beforehand that you will be late, email us about it

before the class, and try to make as little noise as possible when you enter the classroom, especially during movies.

There should be no cuts. We want 100% attendance every week. Naturally you cannot help it if you happen to get handcuffed to a nuclear bomb one week, but for that missed class, you will be required to extend your next response paper by one page, unless another arrangement is made with the facilitators. For your second absence, you will extend your next response paper by another page again. Three absences will result in a fail, unless a very good reason is given. Four absences will result in failing the course, as per Decal policy, with no exceptions. All absences must be made up to pass the class.

Very important: Because of the fact this has been a popular class and there has been large interest in getting in, people who do not show up to the first day of class will be dropped from the class and the wait list. If you must miss the first class, please contact us ahead of time and detailing your reason. If you cannot get an e-mail to us ahead of time since emergencies do happen, send us one as soon as you possibly can in case we get it before drops are made.

For the rest of the semester, if you know you are going to miss a class, talk to us beforehand as you may be excused. If you miss class, even for a valid reason, and do not talk to us beforehand, it *will* be considered a cut and you will have to do make up work. If you miss a film showing, you are responsible for finding a copy of the film yourself and watching it on your own time. The Media Resources Center has copies of almost all films being shown this semester and is located on the first floor of Moffitt Library. Please note that they are very strict about their hours, so check ahead to see when they are open and plan accordingly. We will not be able to lend you a copy of the film.

Participation: Since many classes will be discussion based, participation is essential. What you say should show that you have read the assigned literature and watched the film critically. Do not be afraid to speak your mind, especially if you are new to Bond films! All perspectives are welcome in class as they provide new and interesting views that help everyone learn and think critically about the films.

Reading Assignments There will be a reading assignment every two weeks. If you do not do the reading, you will not be able to participate to the greatest extent possible in discussions. There is not that much reading, and Ian Fleming novels read very quickly. It is extremely important that you do the assigned reading before you write your response paper so you can be circumspect in your analysis. You will be expected to obtain copies of the novels on your own—they will not be stocked at the bookstore. A copy of “The Living Daylights” will be placed on reserve in the Earth Sciences & Map Library on the ground floor of McCone Hall at the beginning of the semester and posted on bSpace.

Response Papers: These may sound ominous, but they are not intended to be. A typed one page, double-spaced paper must be e-mailed to us at bonddecal@gmail.com by 12:01 AM Monday morning the week of discussion. This is to get you thinking critically prior to discussion so you will come to discussion ready to contribute. It will also help us to know what you find interesting about the week’s reading and film, allowing us to facilitate a better discussion. If you have questions you would like to discuss as a class or individually, please do not hesitate to put them in your papers! These are not intended to be

a lot of work, but if you do not take them seriously you will not get credit. Response papers should be mainly composed of analysis of the novel and film for the week, rather than plot summary. Five of the six response papers must be turned in on time to pass the course. **No** late papers will be accepted, no exceptions.

Quizzes: We reserve the right to give pop quizzes about reading to ensure that you have done the reading. However, if through participation we see that you are all doing the reading, we will not need to give any quizzes. Therefore, further incentive to contribute to discussion!

The Term Paper: You will be responsible for a 3-5 page term paper. It will be due on the final day of class. Further directions and discussion of this will take place in class closer to the paper's due date.

Plagiarism: Any student caught plagiarizing will automatically fail, without exception.

Course Schedule

September 3: Course introduction and Ian Fleming biography

September 10: *Thunderball* viewing

September 17: "Your SPECTRE Against Mine": *Thunderball* discussion

September 24: "This Never Happened To That Other Fellow": *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* clip show and discussion

October 1: *The Spy Who Loved Me* viewing

October 8: "Nobody Does It Better": *The Spy Who Loved Me* discussion

October 15: *The Living Daylights* viewing

October 22: Darker Dalton: *The Living Daylights* discussion

October 29: *The World Is Not Enough* viewing

November 5: Bond and the post-Cold War world: *The World Is Not Enough* discussion

November 12: *Casino Royale* viewing

November 19: A New Way Forward: *Casino Royale* discussion

November 26: THANKSGIVING, NO CLASS

December 3: "James Bond Will Return": Course wrap-up, PAPERS DUE