

## James Bond: Politics, Pop Culture, Hero: Spring 2010

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

Alex Dres, Mary Love, Justin Riddle

The sponsoring professor is Michael Watts.

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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: Wednesday 5-7 in 122 Wheeler.

We will be reading selected works of Ian Fleming, specifically: Thunderball, On Her Majesty's Secret Service, Live and Let Die and the short story "Quantum of Solace".

### 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 the proper effort into the class.

## General Course 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 at the end 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:** In order to be considered for enrollment, **you must attend the first class**. CCNs will be given out at or after the first class. If you must miss the first class, please contact us ahead of time 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 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.

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](mailto: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.

For some or all of the responses we may instead assign an online questionnaire for you to give directed feedback on the film or novel. These are intended to be just as much work as a response paper, just in a more directed manner. For films/novels where we do assign a questionnaire, the questions will be given out the week before the movie, either on paper or emailed out to you and will be due the same as a regular response, at 12:01 AM Monday morning of a discussion week.

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 1: Course Introduction

September 8: *Goldfinger* viewing

September 12: *Goldfinger* Response Due

September 15: *Thunderball* viewing

September 19: *Thunderball* Response Due

September 22: *Goldfinger* & *Thunderball* discussion

September 29: *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* viewing

October 3: *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* Response Due

October 6: *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* discussion

October 13: *Live and Let Die* viewing

October 17: *Live and Let Die* Response Due

October 20: *Live and Let Die* discussion

October 27: *License to Kill* viewing

November 3: *GoldenEye* viewing

November 7: *GoldenEye* Response Due

November 10: Bond and the post-Cold War world: *GoldenEye* discussion

November 17: *Quantum of Solace* viewing

November 21: *Quantum of Solace* Response Due

November 24: A New Way Forward: *Quantum of Solace* discussion

December 1: "James Bond Will Return": Course wrap-up, FINAL PAPERS DUE