

Movie-a-thon Guideline

This assignment is intended to help you make a close reading of the biblical story, by way of watching a pertinent movie and carefully comparing the two in order to better analyze/appreciate the literary plots and imaginative interpretations in filling the literary gaps. Read EITHER (1) **Genesis 37-50** OR (2) **Exodus 1-15**. [please do not do both texts—although I would have happy problem to read far bulkier report—but choose only one.]

Read carefully, critically, and creatively. Read as if you've never read those portions before. Read the whole story in a continuous connection (i.e., ideally do not read bits and pieces in isolation). You will find knowing and remembering the flow of the plot in the preceding and following literary contexts quite important. Feel free to jot down any key characters, scenes/episodes, or themes you come across in your authentic reading. Also feel free to jot down your observations or questions that may arise out of your reading.

Next watch a movie: EITHER (1) *Joseph King of Dreams* OR (2) *The Prince of Egypt* (both are animated versions by Dreamworks). You may be able to check them out from the local public libraries or local videostores. [Now, if you really dislike animated movies, then feel free to watch *The Ten Commandments* starring Charlton Heston; but you must compare only up to Exodus chapter 15.] While watching, make keen observations as to how the two (i.e., a biblical story and a movie) coincide, where the movie alters/shifts, and in what aspects the movie dramatizes—fills in the gaps. Pay special attention to the “gaps” (i.e., what is not written/said) and how these gaps are filled by the movie(s), e.g., depiction and/or dramatization of the characters, narrator, plot, point of view, particular theme lines, portrayal of women, and so on. Also, pay attention to the movie's interpretation, e.g., sets, casting, directing, special effects, line variations, and so on.

Then, **make a NOTEBOOK** (a bit like a journal, TYPE, please) of carefully observed comparison/contrast between the movie and our biblical passage. Do not make value-judgments but bring the list of comparison and *especially contrasts*, with your insights, for the sake of delicious discussion in class. Do not try to be too exhaustive—i.e., do not make a book of 50 pages. A maximum of **10** major/key “details” (observations + comparisons) would be good!

The key is this: Read the biblical texts closely/authentically! Compare analytically! *Have fun!*

You might want to make a table or chart, something like the following (example is from 2 Sam.):

	Detail observed (OT)	Comparison discovered (movie)
1.	e.g., OT (2 Sam 11:2) simply says David saw a woman bathing, But the movie adds more descriptions.	e.g., The movie shows where she is bathing, around a dark night, and at one moment she looks up toward the palace. The movie is making an interpretation that she wanted to be seen by King David.
2.		
3.		