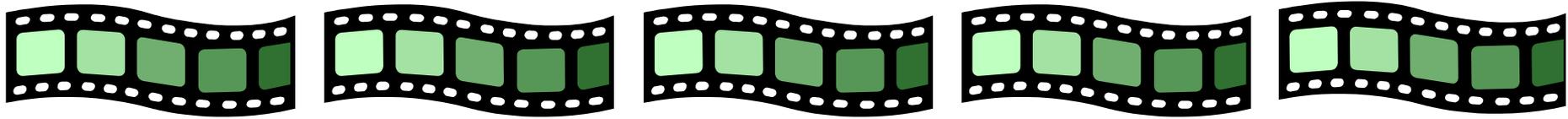


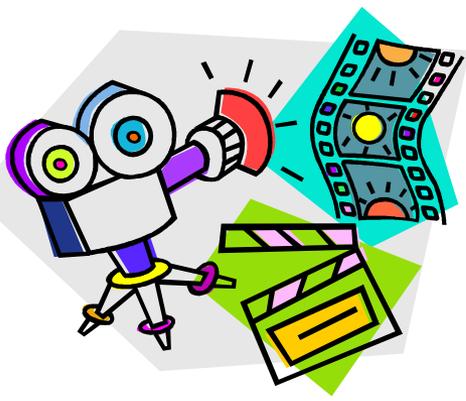
# GE1118

## Philosophy Goes to the Movies



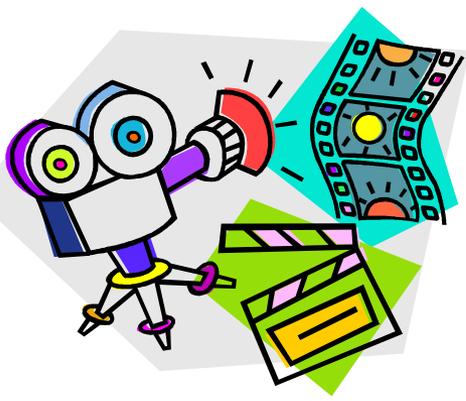
A new GE  
course !!!





# Course Content & Activities

Have you ever thought about what power is? How can power affect our understanding of human nature? This course examines the philosophical issues related to power, 'race' and gender with the aid of a number of interesting movies. Students will be taught ways to watch the movies in a critical way by paying attention to the narrative styles and hidden assumptions behind the movies.



# Course Content & Activities

During this process of active viewing and serious discussion, students will have a chance to develop their own views on what a just society is about and what it means to be human. At the same time, students can learn various important analytic skills and take part in rational dialogues with their fellow students.

# The main themes

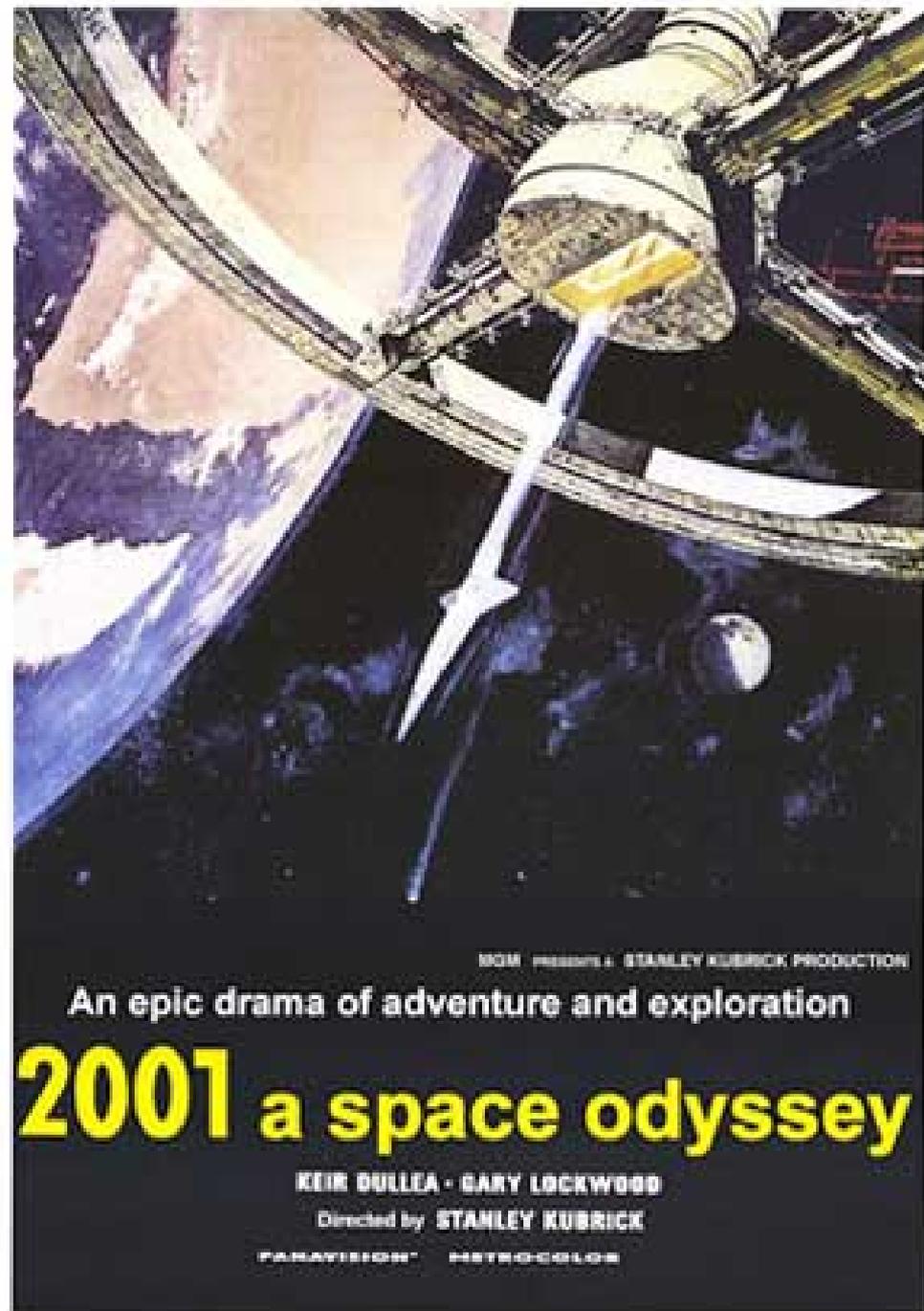
- Power and the nature of human beings
- 'Race' and racism
- Gender, sexism and misogyny
- The importance of values and the need for narratives

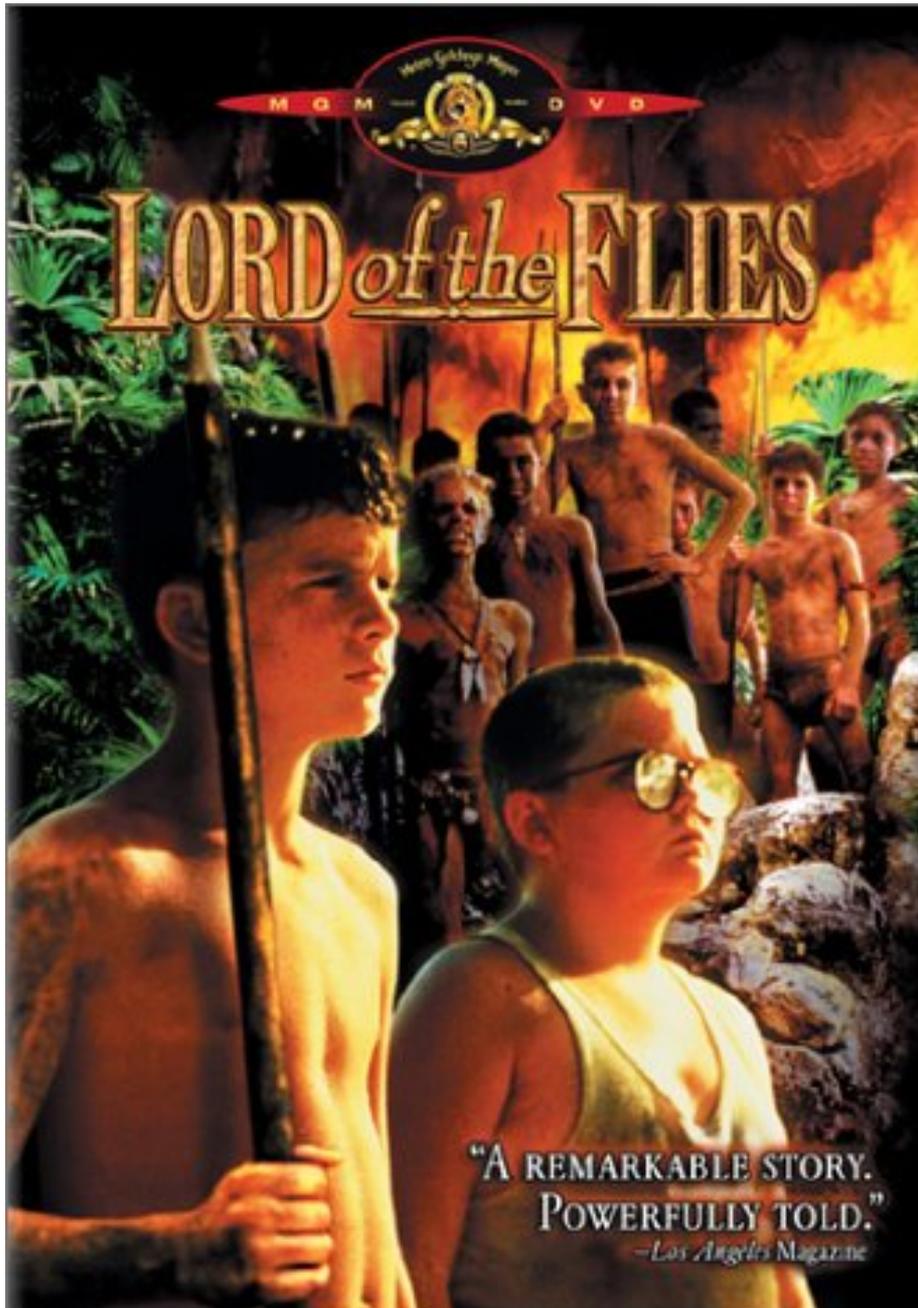
The following is a sample of movies that are relevant to the main themes of this course.\*

**\*Please note that the materials listed here may or may not be used in the course.**

- Is there such a thing as 'human nature'?
- How can movies or stories give us an idea about who we are?

*2001: A Space Odyssey*  
(Stanley Kubrick, 1968)





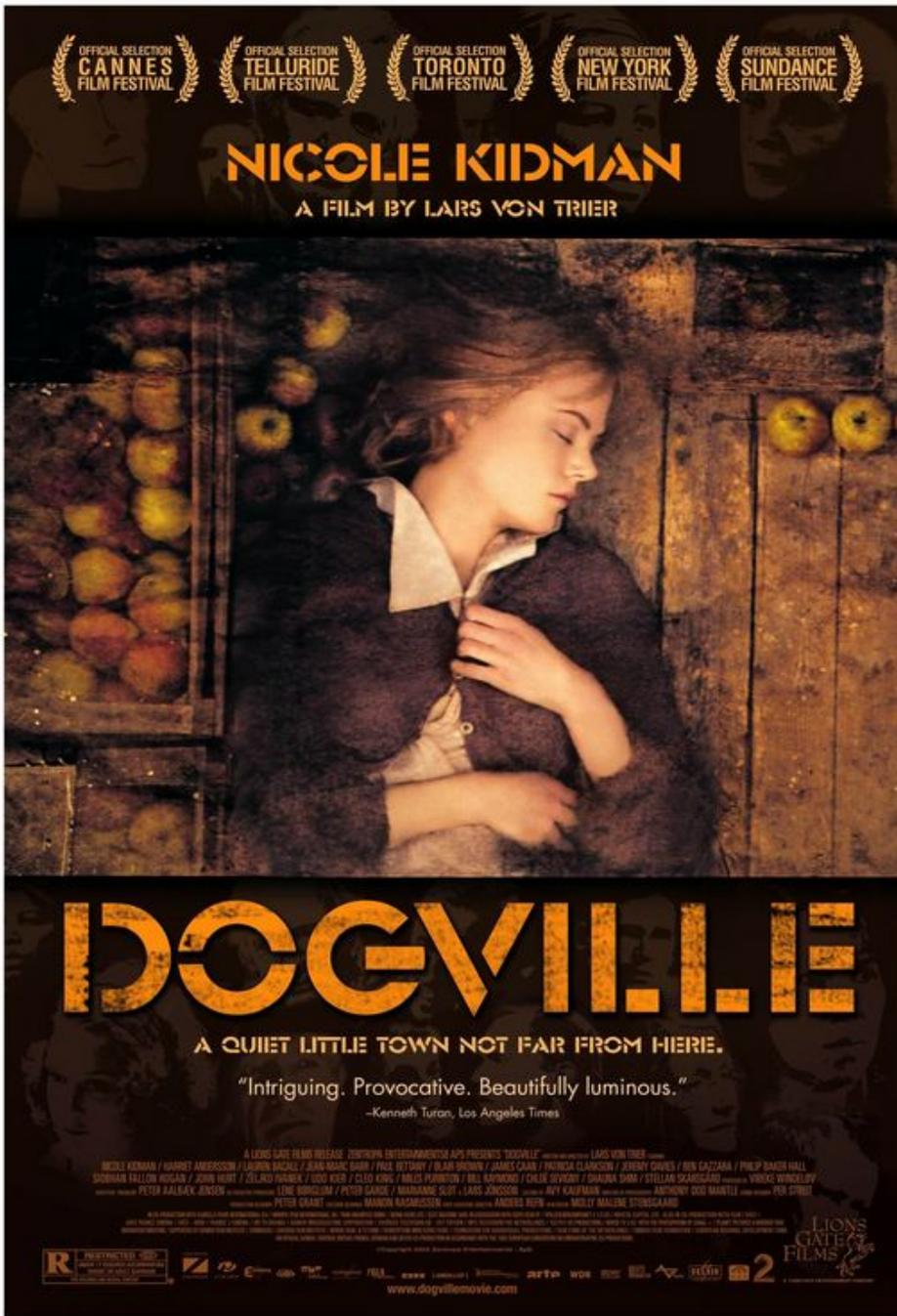
- Does it make sense to say that there is a 'original' state of human existence?
- What is the 'state of nature'?

*Lord of the Flies*  
(Harry Hook, 1990)

- How far can culture or tradition affect the way human beings live?

*Narayama-bushi kô*  
(Shôhei Imamura, 1983)

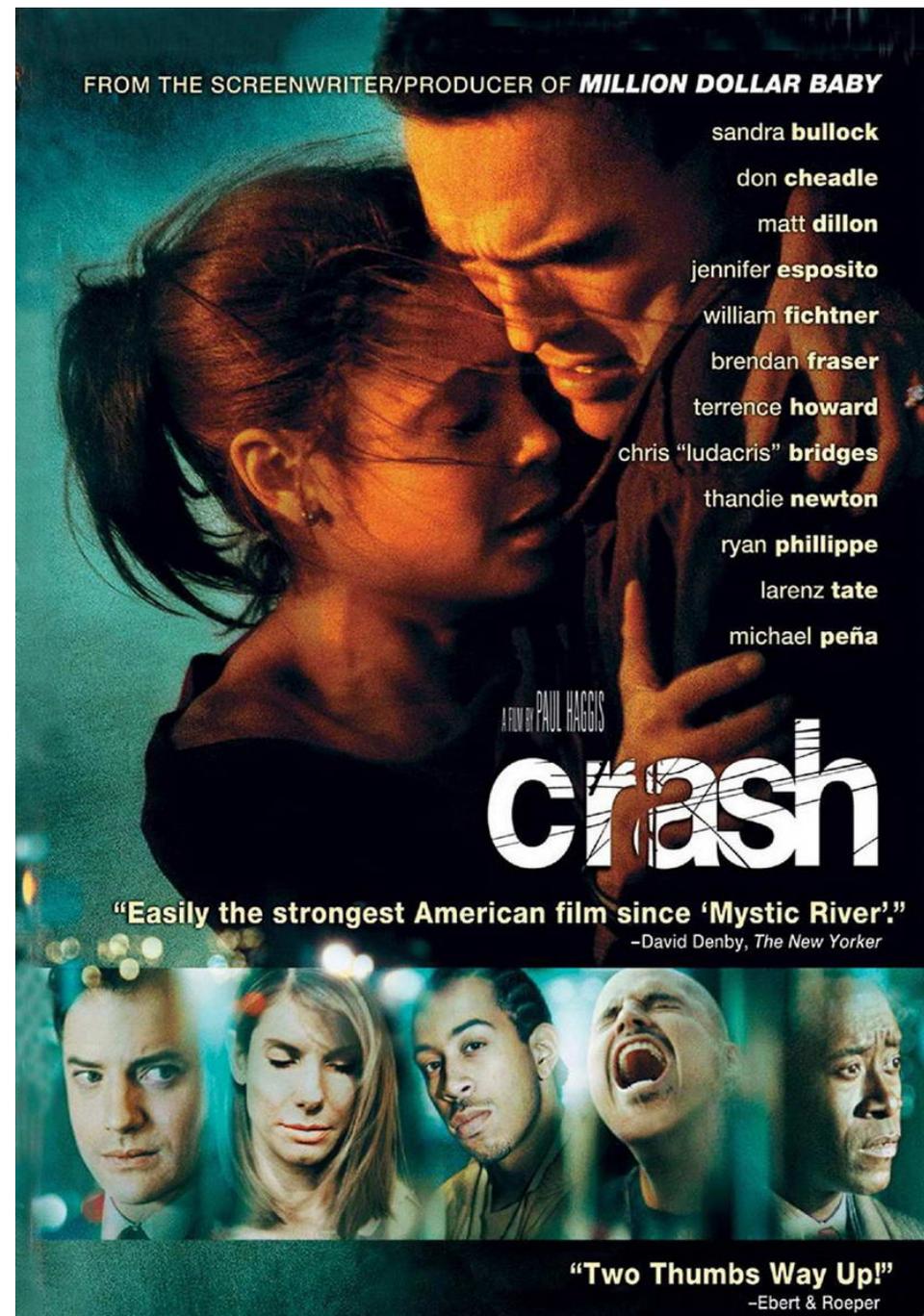




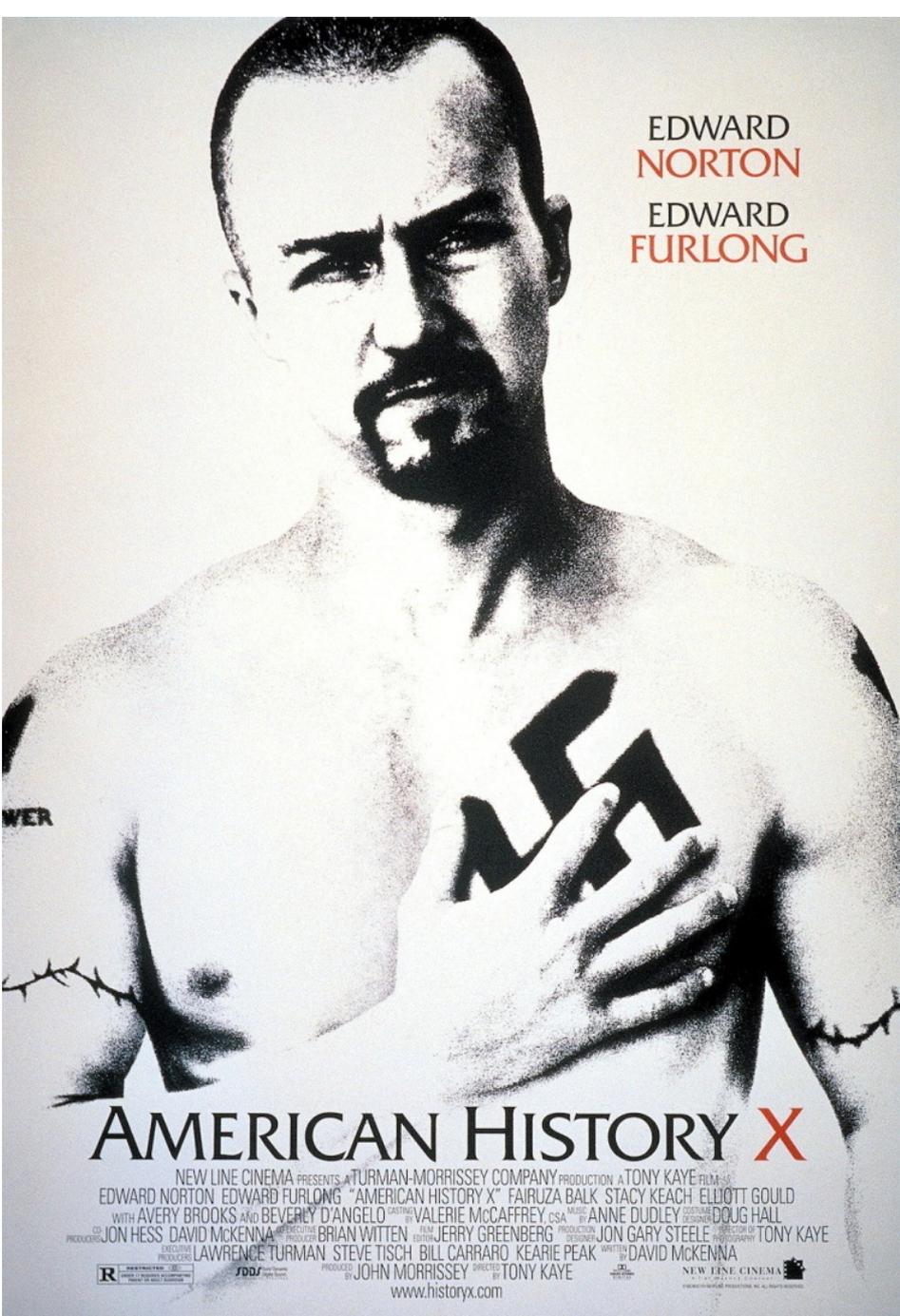
- Is human nature good? Or is human nature bad?  
(The movie *Dogville* explore the issue of human nature in a masterful manner.)

*Dogville*  
(Lars von Trier, 2003)

- What does it mean to say that there are different human 'races'?



*Crash* (Paul Haggis, 2004)



EDWARD  
NORTON  
EDWARD  
FURLONG

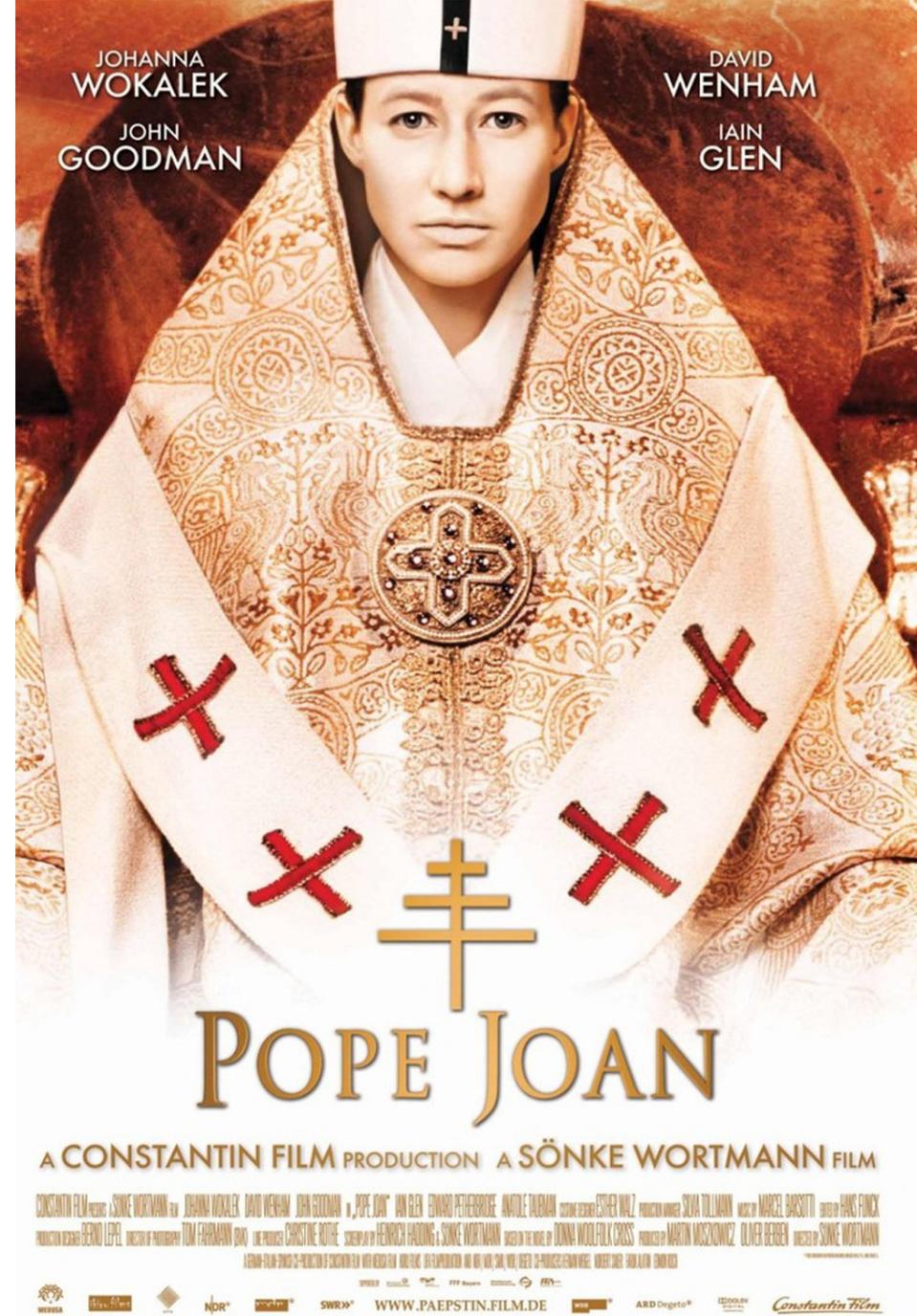
- What's wrong with neo-Nazism?
- What does it mean to say that a person is racist?

*American History X*  
(Tony Kaye, 1998)

- How were women treated in human history?
- Is sexism a thing of the past?

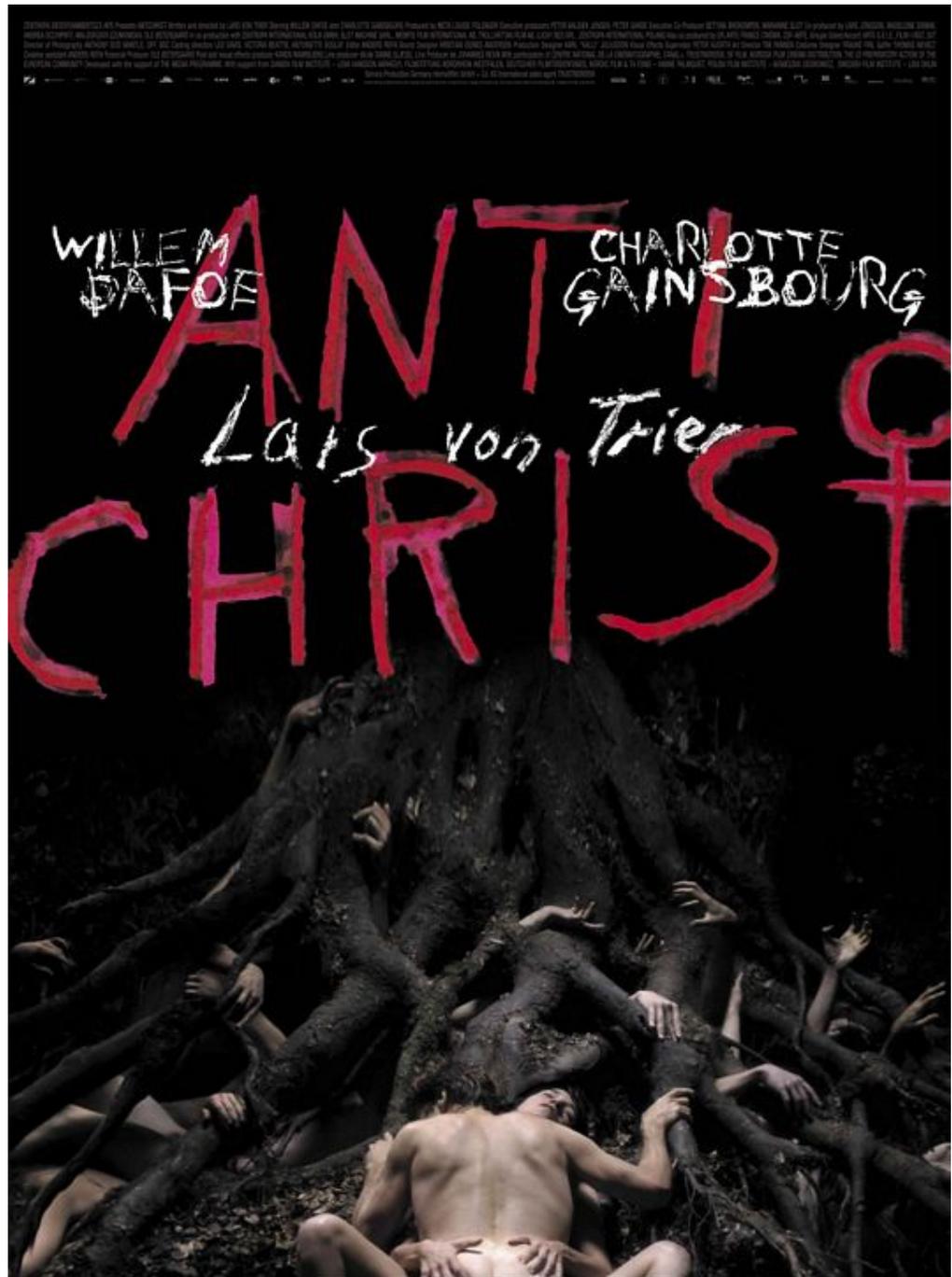
*Pope Joan*

(Sönke Wortmann, 2009)



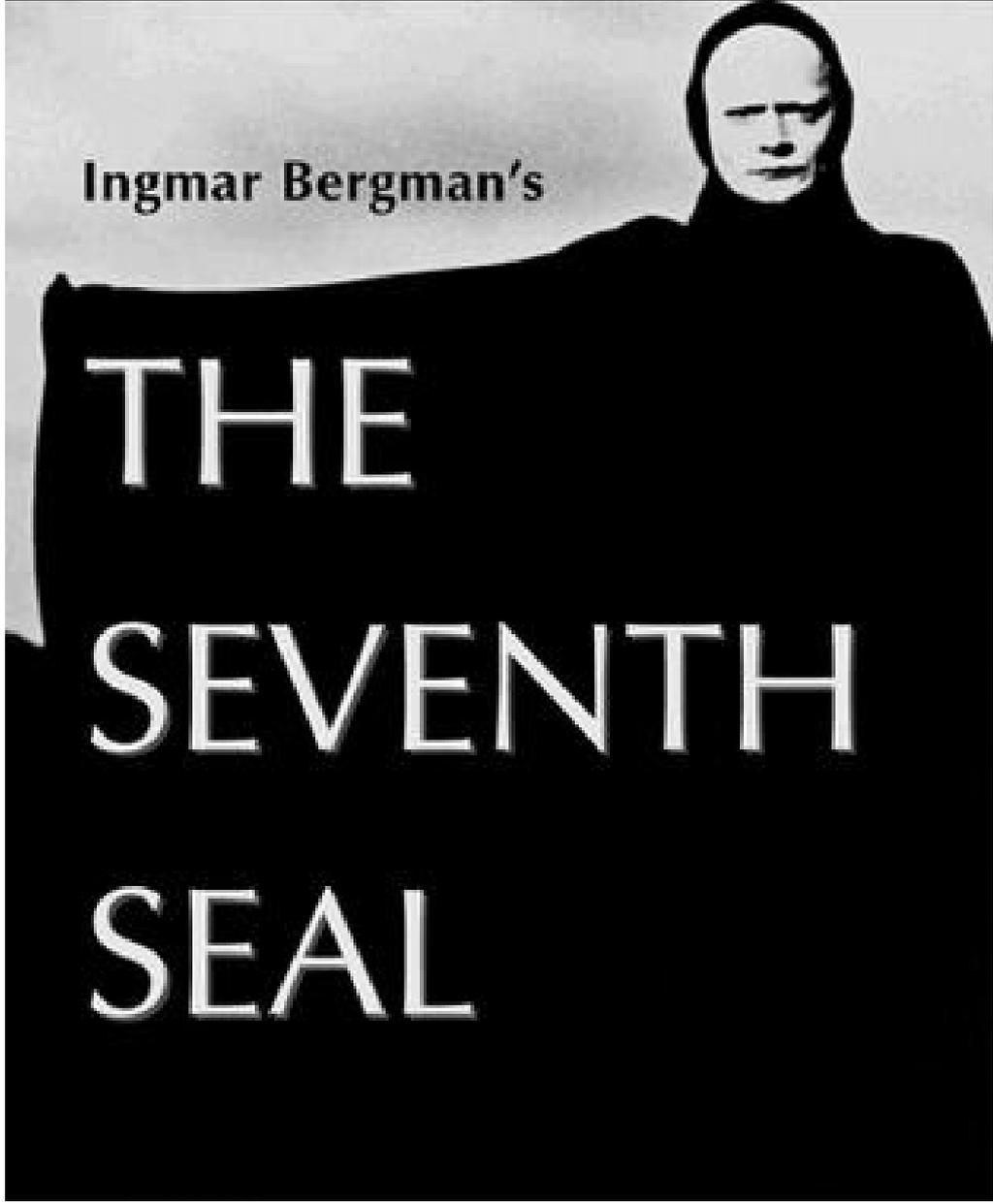
- Do men and women possess different natures? How can we find out the answer to this question?

*Anti-Christ*  
(Lars von Trier, 2009)



THE CRITERION COLLECTION

Ingmar Bergman's

A black and white movie poster for 'The Seventh Seal'. At the top, a black banner contains the text 'THE CRITERION COLLECTION' in white. Below this, a man in a black hooded robe (the character Death) is shown from the chest up, holding a large black banner that extends across the width of the poster. The banner contains the title 'THE SEVENTH SEAL' in large, white, serif capital letters. The background is a light, textured grey.

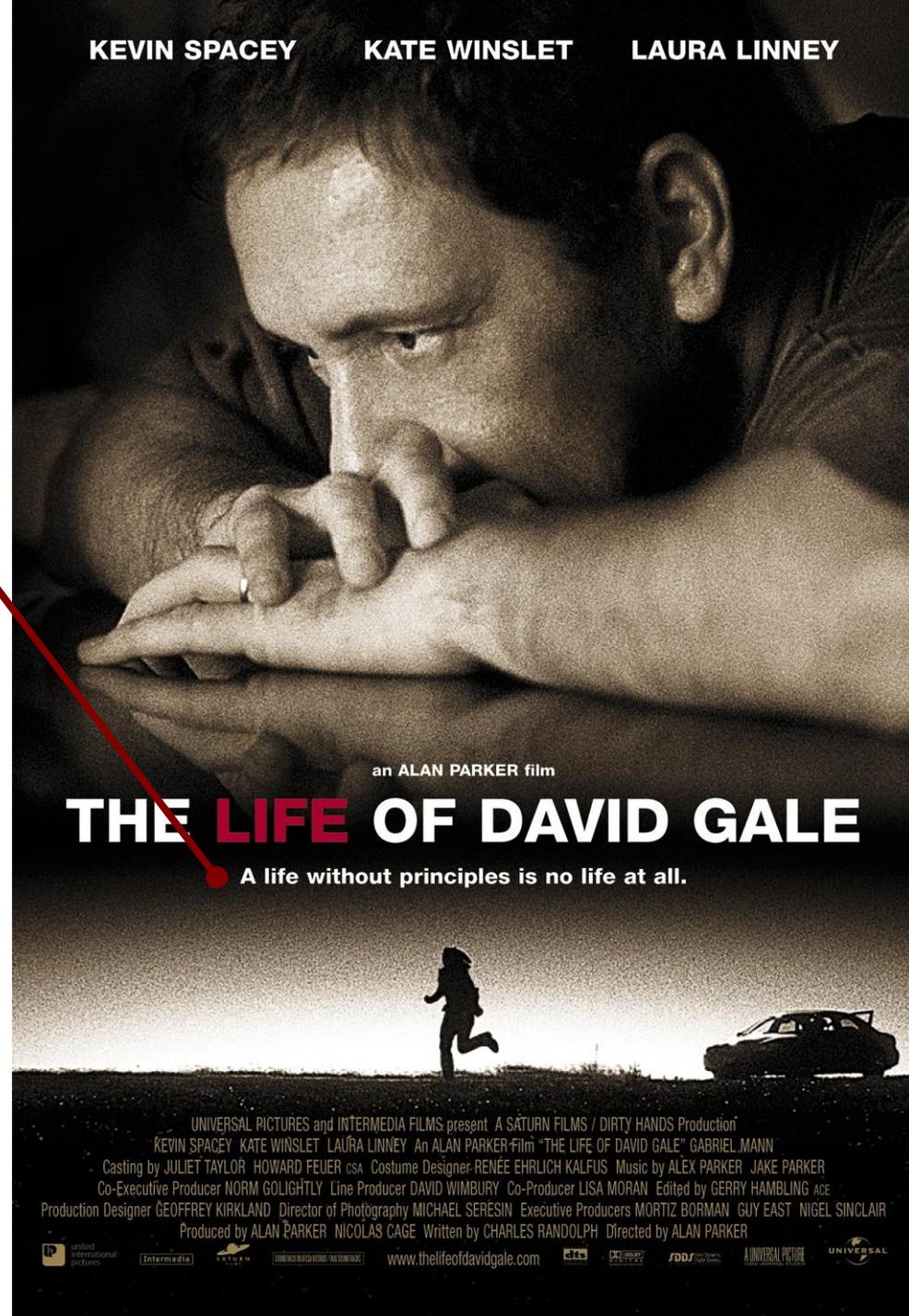
THE  
SEVENTH  
SEAL

- How can human beings find purpose and fulfillment in their lives?
- Does death make human life meaningless?

*The Seventh Seal*  
(Ingmar Bergman, 1957)

- What does it mean to say that ‘A life without principle is no life at all’?
- Can humans create meanings in their life by telling stories?

*The Life of David Gale*  
(Alan Parker, 2003)



# A final remark

- This course is *ideal* for students who are serious about movies and are interested in philosophical issues. Students will be assessed by a number of tasks including participation, individual essay, group presentation and quiz.