Religion and the Cinema: Visibility, Prohibition, Transgression

CATHOLIC PRIESTS IN FRENCH & AMERICAN CINEMA

Prof. Ginette Vincendeau, Department of Film Studies, KCL

OUTLINE OF LECTURE

This lecture concentrates on the figure of the Catholic priest in the cinema, in particular French cinema, with reference to American cinema. The lecture will be structured as follows:

- A brief survey of the relationship between the Catholic church and the cinema, with reference to:
  - Relationship between the two institutions;
  - Censorship, propaganda, politics;
  - The competing forces of Catholicism and anti-clericalism in France in relation to the cinema;

- A typology of Catholic priests in French and American film, including:
  - The missionary
  - The martyr
  - The priest in the community
  - The priest faced with temptation

FILMOGRAPHY

L'Appel du silence/The Call (Léon Poirier, 1936)
Going My Way (Leo McCarey, 1943)
Le Journal d'un curé de campagne/Diary of a Country Priest (Robert Bresson, 1950)
Monsieur Vincent (Maurice Cloche, 1947)
Le Petit monde de Don Camillo/The Little World of Don Camillo (Julien Duvivier, 1951)
I Confess (Alfred Hitchcock, 1953)
Léon Morin, prêtre/Leon Morin, Priest (Jean-Pierre Melville, 1961)
The Cardinal (Otto Preminger, 1963)
La Faute de l'Abbé Mouret/The Sin of Father Mouret (Georges Franju, 1970)
Sous le soleil de Satan/Under Satan’s Sun (Maurice Pialat, 1987)
Au revoir les enfants (Louis Malle, 1987)
Amen (Constantin Costa-Gavras, 2002)

(For information: films in bold are available in the Maughan library or Senate House library or the library of the French Institute).

FURTHER READING


• Full details about the AKC course, copies of the handouts can be found on the AKC website: http://www.kcl.ac.uk/akc.
• All students, including 2nd and 3rd Years, should submit an AKC registration form (https://www.kcl.ac.uk/about/structure/dean/akc/register-form.html) for 2009-2010.