Reading assignment for the first class: Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus*, Preface & ch. 1: Absurdity & Suicide

If the question of finding a good, happy, and meaningful life could be answered exhaustively in terms of social justice and moral life, then would there be a distinct role left for religions to play? Or, if religious life in its great variety has no bearing on striving for a community of human flourishing, then would we be better, happier, and freer without “religious” questions? Yet what if the very human condition is defined by religious questioning? Wouldn’t a life dedicated to idols of the ultimate – and great religions agree with critical thinkers that religious and secular idols are equally blinding – be a misspent life? The aim of this course is to dedicate some time to thinking about these questions from the perspectives ranging from the profane to the ethical to spiritual life.

**Part A**
Albert Camus.
*The Myth of Sisyphus.*

Mircea Eliade.
*The Sacred and The Profane: The Nature of Religion.*

Film: *Baraka.*

**Part B**
Plato. *Symposium.*
Hackett. 1989. 0-87220-076-0

C.S. Lewis, *Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold.*
Harvest Books, 1980. 978-0156904360

Blackboard reading selections:
Søren Kierkegaard, “In Vino Veritas,” from *Stages on Life’s Way*.

Film: *Antonia’s Line.* Marleen Gorris. 1996.

**Part C**


Paul Tillich. *Dynamics of Faith.* The Perennial Classics. 2001. 0.06.0937130.

Film: Ingmar Bergman’s *Winter Light.*
Svensk Filmin industri. 1962.