

***Sinners* (2025) Film Analysis Assignment Prompt**

Due Date: Thursday October 23, 2025, by 11:59PM EST

Format: Submit as Word file to OnQ and include link/shared file to OneDrive Microsoft on which the paper was written. Times New Roman, regular margins, double-spaced.

Value: 15% of your final grade.

Write a 2-3-page ***film analysis*** of Ryan Coogler's *Sinners* (2025) using Prof. X's lecture and readings from week 5 (October 2). **No materials other than the ones listed for Week 5 and Dr. Xavier's lecture is to be used** for the paper, as this assignment is assessing your:

1. comprehension of course readings and its application to the film.
2. connections you are making with the media item and course readings and lectures.
3. Make sure there is a focus statement or thesis.
 - a. Something like: In this paper, I argue that Ryan's Coogler's film *Sinners* (2024) does.....and I use examples x, y, and z to support this analysis.

Reviews that do not engage with ***any relevant course readings*** will receive an automatic failing grade. Below are specific prompts for the film.

***Sinners* (2025) (Available via Queen's University Library on Criterion)**

1. Provide a short (one paragraph) summary of the movie.
2. Consider how the story of vampires, horror, goth, is reimagined in this film, in relation to Black Christianity and Hoodoo, race and music (here use Paul Gilroy's theory of the Black Atlantic and Yvonne Chireau's chapter on Christianity and Conjuring). Dr. Jennifer Leath's lecture.
3. Consider how camera angles, music, or editing adds to the story, be it of the movie, the film's engagement with religion. Use Doug Cowan's article for this analysis.
4. Use specific dialogue and character development to support your analysis.
5. Be sure to draw from the readings assigned for October 2nd and Prof. X's lecture to support your analysis.

Submission Guideline

1. You **MUST** write your assignment on OneDrive on Microsoft Word (from start to finish).
2. When you submit the final word document file to OnQ include an access link to Microsoft Word OneDrive (and ensure that your TA and Prof. Xavier are granted access to the document). If we have any concerns of AI usage or plagiarism, we can access all the iterations of this draft when we are marking your paper. Papers that do not follow this submission instructions will not be accepted and will be an automatic 0.

Citation

No cover page is needed, but please be sure to cite all your material either [APA](#), [MLA](#) or [Chicago Style](#) (Please ask your TA which method they prefer) and include a bibliography. If you use any AI, it must be cited accordingly (as not your words).

RELS 163 Religion and Popular Culture
Prof. X

If you are citing Professor Xavier's or Professor Leah's lectures, please follow the following format:

Xavier, Shobhana. "Title of Lecture". Full Date of Lecture. Ellis Hall, Queen's University.

Leah, Jennifer. "Title of Lecture". Full Date of Lecture. Ellis Hall, Queen's University.

For example:

In-text:

(Xavier, September 23, 2025).

In Bibliography:

Xavier, Shobhana. "The 'Push and Pull' of Yoga". September 23, 2025. Ellis Hall, Queen's University.

Due Dates and Late Policy

Assignments are due on specified dates, as they are indicated in this document in the weekly reading schedule. Assignments that are submitted late will be **deducted 5% a day** and will not be accepted after a week of the due date, unless under extenuating circumstances, for which proper documentation is necessary. If you require any extension for course assignment, please contact Queen's Accommodation Services directly, and complete accommodation requests. Your professor or teaching assignment cannot provide extensions on assignment due dates.

RELS 163 Film Analysis Rubric

NAME _____

	Excellent	Good	Needs Attention	Needs Serious Work
1) READING/ENGAGEMENT				
Evidence of thoughtful, sincere, and attentive engagement with all course material that pertains to the topic (readings, film and lectures).				
2) REASONING/ANALYSIS				
Effective statement of the paper's focus or approach (especially in introductory paragraph)				
Depth and incisiveness of analysis, completion of thoughts; avoidance of vague and/or repetitious statements				

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Appropriate use of examples, evidence (dialogue from film, as well as engagement with reading and lecture materials).				
3) WRITING/COMPOSITION				
Reference list, documentation of sources				
Punctuation, grammar, spelling, proofreading, sentence structure, language usage, diction				
Organization of ideas, transitions, paragraph structure, integration				

GRADE: /10

Comments: