

Classic Questions in Contemporary Film

(Adapted from Kowalski: *Classic Questions in Contemporary Film*)

FILM	TOPIC
Monty Python & the Holy Grail	Validity vs. Soundness in Logic
The Matrix	Plato's Allegory of the Cave, Epistemology (Rationalism vs. Empiricism)
Animatrix (Matriculated, A Kid's Story)	Cartesian Doubt/Epistemology (Rationalism)
Matrix Reloaded	Free will—Incompatibilism
Matrix Revolutions	Predestination and Providence
Bruce Almighty	Mind of god
Last Temptation of Christ	Mind of god/Jesus
Inherit the Wind	Creation/evolution and Intelligent Design
Schindler's List	Problem of evil
Being John Malkovich	Dualism, Agency
Bicentennial Man	Personhood, Mind-body Problem— Functionalism
Bladerunner	Mind-body Problem—Functionalism
Run Lola Run	Free will—Indeterminism
Minority Report	Free will and foreknowledge, Incompatibilism vs. Compatibilism
Crimes & Misdemeanors	Ethics
The Joy Luck Club	Moral/Cultural relativism
Life is Beautiful	Normative ethics
Groundhog Day	Virtue Ethics
Leaving Las Vegas	Free will—Compatibilism
Extreme Measures	Utilitarianism
Lord of the Flies	Hobbes' State of nature and ethical egoism
Malcolm X	Social contract theory
existenz	Empiricism—critique of
Sliding Doors	Principle of Universal Causation

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Memento	Personal identity
Total Recall	Personal identity
Boondocks (TV Show)	Social contract theory, Race relations
The Siege	Individual Rights/Liberties vs. Collective Security
V for Vendetta	Individual Rights/Liberties vs. Collective Security