FALL 2010 RELIGION COURSES

HBR1102  Beginning Hebrew I  Dr. Levenson
Introduction to the basic grammar, syntax, and phonology of modern and classical Hebrew. Meets the foreign language requirement for the BA degree. No language laboratory required.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 01794)  M W F  8:45am-9:55am  DOD 0118

HBR2222  Intermediate Hebrew  Dr. Levenson
A close reading of Genesis 1-12. The primary emphasis will be on vocabulary, grammar, and style, but some attention will be given to issues of textual and source criticism. There will also be exercises for each assignment that will provide a review and solidify the grammar and vocabulary from Biblical Hebrew I and II.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 01797)  M W F  11:15am-12:05pm  DOD 0207

HPS 3320:  Modern Cinema and the Cultural Meaning of Science  Dr. Day and Dr. Ruse
This course examines how cinema has provided a unique framework for wrestling with the implications of the modern scientific enterprise. By probing a variety of genres—including biography, documentary, historical drama, science fiction, political satire, and horror—this class examines the cinematic and cultural desire to make sense of science and the world it has helped create.

Sec. 1(Ref#)

REL1300  Introduction to World Religions  Staff
“Introduction to World Religions” surveys the major religious traditions of the world, with attention to their origins, principal beliefs and practices. The course will have achieved its purpose if you complete the semester with a working knowledge of the world’s main religions and an appreciation for the pluralistic spiritual views of humanity.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 04021)  T R  9:30am-10:45am  CON 0228
Sec. 2 (Ref# 07208)  T R  8:00am-9:15am  HCB 0312
Sec. 3 (Ref# 07209)  T R  12:30pm-1:45pm  HCB 0312
Sec. 4 (Ref# 07210)  T R  2:00pm-3:15pm  DIF 0204
Sec. 5 (Ref# 07211)  T R  3:35pm-4:50pm  HCB 0208
Sec. 6 (Ref# 07212)  T R  5:15pm-6:30pm  DIF 0204
Sec. 7 (Ref# 07213)  M W F  9:05am-9:55am  WMS 0318
Sec. 8 (Ref# 07214)  M W F  10:10am-11:00am  DIF 0230
Sec. 9 (Ref# 07215)  M W F  11:15am-12:05pm  WMS 0318
Sec. 10 (Ref# 07216)  M W  3:35pm-4:50pm  WMS 0318
Sec. 11 (Ref# 07217)  M W F  1:25pm-2:15pm  WMS 0318
Sec. 12 (Ref# 09029)  T R  12:30pm-1:45pm  HCB 0312
REL2121  Religion in the U.S.  Dr. Koehlinger
The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the historical study of religion in the United States, with an eye toward ways that social and cultural contexts have shaped the religious experience of Americans in different places and times. The course is structured around 4 themes, each of which is comprised of a pairing of common analytical concepts used in the study of religion, (i.e the first theme is “pluralism and syncretism”). Readings, lectures, and class discussions will explore the relationship between the 2 concepts in specific places and times in U.S. history. Over the course of the semester we will survey religious developments, movements, groups, and individuals, stopping to linger over representative “soundings” within each historical period. The primary goal of the course is for you to become familiar with the history of American religion both by learning about central events and trends, and by learning how to think and write historically.

REL2210  Introduction to the Old Testament  Dr. Goff
The word “Bible” is derived from the Greek word “biblia” which means “books.” While revered as a single book, the Bible is a collection of many texts that were composed by different authors at different times for different reasons. This course is an introduction to the critical study of this assorted literature and the world in which it was produced. We will examine individual texts of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament within their historical contexts while taking into consideration other methodological approaches such as literary criticism and theology.

REL2240  Introduction to the New Testament  Dr. Kelley
This course is designed to enable students to understand the writings of the New Testament in the context of the historical development of the early Christian church. After surveying Judaism and other religious options in the Roman world, attention will be focused on the figure of Jesus of Nazareth and the development of the traditions about Jesus. Next, an attempt will be made to understand Paul and the development and spread of the Christian movement. Emphasis throughout will fall on the variety of interpretations of the Christian message as Christians encountered new social circumstances and theological challenges. This course meets the Liberal Studies literature requirement and the “Gordon Rule” writing requirement.
REL2315  Religions of South Asia  Dr. Erndl
An overview of the religions in the South Asian cultural region with emphasis on Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Islam. The history and cultural contexts of these traditions will be explored with particular attention to sacred texts, religious leadership, ritual, and gender issues. This course also serves as an introduction to the academic study of religion. No previous background is required. Meets Liberal Studies Humanities and Multicultural (x) requirements.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 04025)  T R  11:00am-12:15pm  *Dr. Erndl
Sec. 2 (Ref# 07958)  M W F  11:15am-12:05pm  BEL 0116

REL3054  Critics of Religion  Staff
This course is an introduction to the major thinkers and texts in the critique of religion as it developed in the 19th and 20th centuries in the west. Beginning with Schleiermacher, the course moves on to consider the so-called "masters of suspicion" — Feuerbach, Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud. By means of a close examination of central texts, students explore the meaning of a critique of religion, the structure of religious consciousness, the place of religion with respect to other forms of culture, the problem of religion and alienation, and the possibility of a critical faith.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 04026)  M W  5:15pm-6:30pm  WMS 0318

REL3112  Religion and Fantasy  Staff

Sec. 1 (Ref# 08055)  M W F  12:20-1:10pm
Sec. 2 (Ref # 08056)  T R  9:30am-10:45am

REL3128  History of American Protestant Thought  Dr. Porterfield
This course explores classic writings in American Protestant thought, focusing on historical forces affecting the authors, and the influence of their ideas over time.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 08057)  T R  11:00am-12:15pm  HCB 0312

REL3145  Gender and Religion  Staff
This course looks at concepts of sex and gender in textual and cultural traditions within Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. At the beginning of the course we will examine briefly different approaches to the study of religion and gender, looking in particular at what is at stake for persons who might undertake
such a study: feminists, scholars of religious studies, human rights advocates, and so on.

Then we move to a more detailed examination of each tradition. Using a range of theological and non-theological material, we will look at the interplay between religious law, and/or ethics and politics as they affect men’s and women’s identity and socio-religious status (in particular the focus will be on women). We will also examine how some women engage in the reform of their traditions and/or cultures through feminist critique, and on the other hand, how traditional norms of gender and strictly defined gender roles are coming back en vogue.

Sec. 2 (Ref# 08058)  M W F  11:15am-12:05pm  HCB 0309

**REL3170**  Religious Ethics  **Dr. Kalbian**
An introduction to the study of religious ethics. We will examine the moral issues raised by capital punishment, war, the environment, and human sexuality in the context of religious views about love, duty, good, and evil. We will read material describing views of different religious traditions including Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and Islam.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 04028)  M W F  10:10am-11:00am  DHA 0103  *Dr. Kalbian*
Sec. 2 (Ref# 08059)  M W F  11:15am-12:05pm  WMS 0320
Sec. 3 (Ref# 08060)  T R  2:00pm-3:15pm  HCB 0312
Sec. 4 (Ref# 08061)  T R  9:30am-10:45am  MON 0004

**REL3180**  Ethics of Food  **Dr. Reid**
Religious Ethics of Food is a course exploring and examining our religious and cultural attitudes about food as well as ethical aspects of food production, dissemination, and use. In this course, we will be looking at the role of food in defining ourselves and our own cultures. We will also study the ways in which both agriculture and livestock, the substance of our food, interrelate with our political and economic systems, as well as the environment.

It is the intention of this course to make you aware of the importance of food to our emotional, religious, and cultural lives, as well as the ethical dilemmas presented by our current system of food production. As such, we will be looking at the religious significance of food choices, often a primary factor in religious life, and the reasoning behind the mores that have arisen regarding food. We will also be examining religious systems of ethical thought and how food and its production fit into these, sometimes as a moral good and sometimes as a moral problem.

We will also explore the paradigm shifts of thought and ethics regarding food over the course of the past century, how it has moved from “sustenance” on many levels to “nutrition” on one.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 04030)  W  1:25pm-4:15pm  BEL 0116

**REL3180**  Human Rights  **Dr. Twiss**
This course examines the history and dynamics (including the role of religion) of crimes against humanity as an introduction to the international human rights movement. It will do this by focusing on two historical cases—the Belgian Congo in the early 20th century and the Holocaust at mid-20th century—both
of which spawned a considerable literature of testimony, analysis, resistance, and reform both at the time and subsequently. Course materials will include works of literature, drama, history, and philosophy as well as essays, public addresses, letters, and other creative works by prominent figures in the humanities, arts, social sciences, and the learned professions (e.g., law). A major thesis of the course—to be cooperatively tested by us all—is that by focusing on such works we not only will become familiar with human rights thinking and practice but also will be encouraged to acquire a critical and imaginative human rights sensibility important for being responsible citizens in the contemporary world.

Sec. 2 (Ref# 08163)  T R  9:30am-10:15am  MON 0005  *Honors section
Sec. 3 (Ref# 08164)  T R  9:30am-10:15am  MON 0005

REL3224  The Hebrew Prophets  Dr. Goff
In this class we will analyze the prophetic books of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the 12 minor prophets. We will also examine the role of prophecy elsewhere in the Hebrew Bible (as in the Elijah stories) and situate the biblical prophets within the broader context of prophecy, as a religious and social phenomenon, in the ancient Near East.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 08222)  M W  2:30pm-3:45pm  HCB 0312

REL3293  Bible and the People  Dr. Dupuigrenet
This course presents a history of the Bible in Christianity from Late Antiquity to the present day: the Bible in the middle ages (4th-15th c.); the Bible in early modern Europe (15th-18th c.), the Bible in industrial societies (19th-21th c.) Because the Scripture is history, starting with the creation of the universe and the story of the first humans, Christians of all times have read in it their own story – be it that of a nation, a group, or an individual - and used it to understand, transform or embellish the world they lived in. Special emphasis will thus be put on the relationship between the Christian people and the people of Israel, both ancient and contemporary, as well as on the biblical component of the cultures of our past.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 04031)  T R  9:30am-10:45am  DIF 0230

REL3340  The Buddhist Tradition  Dr. Cuevas
A historical and thematic survey of the Buddhist tradition in Asia from its beginnings through the modern period. Topics covered will include origins and history, doctrine, ethical beliefs, meditation, ritual, and monastic and popular traditions. Some attention will also be given to contemporary forms of Buddhism outside of Asia, in Europe and America.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 04033)  T R  12:30pm-1:45pm  SAN 0101  *Dr. Cuevas
Sec. 2 (Ref# 08229)  M W  9:30am-10:45am  WMS 0230

REL3345  Chan/Zen Buddhism  Dr. Yu
This course is a historical and thematic survey of this exceptionally influential form of Buddhism from its beginnings through the modern period. Topics covered include its origins and history, doctrines and practices, and its cultural and political developments. Attention will also be given to contemporary transformations of Chan/Zen Buddhism in East Asia and America.
REL3363  The Islamic Tradition  Dr. Gaiser
REL 3363 Islamic Tradition is a historical and topical survey of Islam as a religion and civilization that focuses on the formative and classical periods of Islamic history. The course is primarily concerned with: the life and career of Muhammad the Prophet of Islam, the scriptural sources of Islam (i.e. the Qur’an and the Sunna), and the development of the Muslim community and its principle institutions (schools of theology, law, political institutions, and mystical traditions).

Sec. 1 (Ref# 04035)  T R  12:30pm-1:45pm  DIF 0201  *Dr. Gaiser
Sec. 2 (Ref# 08231)  M W F  2:30pm-3:20pm  WMS 0318

REL3367  Islam in the Modern World  Staff

Sec. 1 (Ref# 04036)  M W F  1:25pm-2:15pm  DIF 0204

REL3430  Anthropology and Religion  Staff
This course is an introduction into the anthropological study fo religion. You will learn how anthropologists study religion, write ethnography, and the diversity and similarities of religions throughout the world. We will look cross-culturally at belief systems and the common features of religions rather than study specific religions in depth. We will focus more on small, local religions rather than world religions.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 08468)  T R  11:00am-12:15pm  DOD 0118

REL3493  Religion and Science  Dr. Irving
Is there a conflict between science and religion? This issue is frequently debated in the public sphere in the United States and the West. But what exactly do the categories of ‘science’ and ‘religion’ denote, and how have they emerged historically? This course is a general introduction to the debates surrounding the relationship between science and religion, with a particular focus upon Christianity. We consider such issues as the controversy regarding Darwinian evolution; the problem of “free will”; natural theology; the relationship between science, religion and ethics; and the issue of ultimate explanation. We will read both scientists and theologians, and deal with the material historically as well as thematically. No background knowledge of science, religion or theology is required.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 08257)  T R  11:00am-12:15pm
# REL3505  
**The Christian Tradition**  
*Staff*

This course is an introduction to Christianity. We will examine the historical narrative of the tradition from its beginnings in the first century through twentieth-century developments. We will also focus on the doctrinal side of the tradition by reading primary texts of key Christian thinkers.

**Sec. 1 (Ref# 04037)**  
M W F  
8:00am-8:50am  
WMS 0318

**Sec. 2 (Ref# 08260)**  
T R  
3:35pm-4:50pm  
HCB 0312

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# REL3607  
**The Jewish Tradition**  
*Dr. Kavka*

This course is a survey of the Jewish tradition and its development from the Biblical period to the present. We will critically read important texts representing the fundamental periods/themes of the tradition:

- Biblical texts
- Talmud and Midrash, the texts of rabbinic Judaism
- Philosophy and Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism) from the medieval era
- Philosophy and Hasidic texts from the early modern era
- Zionism
- The rise of Reform, Conservative, and Modern Orthodox Judaism
- Modern Jewish feminism

In addition, we will spend some time on Jewish “lived religion”: the structure of the liturgical year, the primary Jewish festival holidays, and contemporary worship services. Finally, this course contains a writing component in accordance with the university's “Gordon Rule” (section 1007.25, Florida Statutes; see p. 64 of the General Bulletin for more details).

**Sec. 1 (Ref# 08261)**  
M W F  
11:15am-12:05pm  
DHA 0103

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# REL3936  
**Ecstatic Religion**  
*Dr. Hellweg*

Beyond and sometimes even within the confines of mainstream religion, a vast range of more emotional, more physical, more mystical practices proliferates, from spirit possession, trance, prophecy, and shamanism to asceticism, ritual healing, and speaking in tongues. While public opinion and popular media may portray these practices as demonic, exotic, irrational, or superstitious, they incarnate the deepest longings for and grandest visions of the divine that anchor the same theologies that often condemn them. This course explores various forms of embodied mysticism around the world—in Africa, Europe, Latin and North America, and Asia, and in the contexts of global cultural diasporas and immigration. Our goal will be to understand the logics behind these practices that make them sources of power and meaning for their practitioners. Because religious minorities, the poor, women, marginal men, and transgendered persons often play key roles in these practices, issues of politics, economics, gender, and sexuality will also take center stage. And because there are various ways to explain mystical experiences, the course will compare competing neurological, psychological, psychiatric, sociological, and theological explanations for them. Ultimately, the course will argue for an anthropological approach, one that sees the transcendent experience of the holy as immanent within the cultural circumstances of everyday life.

**Sec. 1 (Ref# 04038)**  
M W F  
12:20pm-1:10pm  
DIF 0204
REL3936 What is Religion? What Is Religious Studies?

This course is limited to undergraduate majors in the Department of Religion. It is split up into two halves. In the “What Is Religion?” half, we’ll survey what various modern thinkers have said what religion is and the social-scientific and philosophical approaches that they take in their answers to questions about the origin, essence, and function of religion. In the “What Is Religious Studies?” half, we’ll still engage to some extent with the question of what religion is, but we’ll do so by a closer look at what it means to be a scholar of religion to look at a religious community, or a tradition, from the outside. To what extent can a scholar bracket her or his own commitments or presuppositions in talking about religion? If the answer to the former question is “not at all,” does this mean that Westerners are unable to study Asian religions well? Does it mean that historical research published by moderns says more about the present than about the past? Does it mean that it is illegitimate to include subfields that make normative judgments (say, religious ethics) in the field of religious studies?

Sec. 2 (Ref# 08262) M W 5:15pm-6:30pm BEL 0118

REL4190/5195 Religion and Modernity Dr. Irving

One of the defining features of modernity, according to 19th century social philosophers is ‘alienation’. This alienation is variously conceived as an estrangement from one’s self, from society, from God, or from one’s work. This course brings together two genres of writing – literature and classical social theory – and uses them as points of entry into this issue of alienation. In the first half of the course we read Karl Marx, Georg Simmel and the American social gospel proponent Walter Rauschenbusch, who offer perspectives on narratives of historical development involving secularization, the separation of religion and science, and the impact of mass society upon the individual. The second half of the course explores the idea of alienation in the modernist literature of Fydor Dostoevsky’s The Brothers Karamazov, and the poetry of T.S Eliot.

Sec. 1/1 (Ref# 08276/04051) M 2:00pm-4:45pm DOD 0118

REL4290 Jesus Dr. Kelley

This course will survey various understandings of Jesus, both as an historical figure and as a cultural phenomenon. The first half of the course will be devoted to the historical Jesus: we’ll read ancient sources about Jesus alongside a variety of scholarly reconstructions of Jesus’ life and teachings. The second half of the course will focus on the importance of Jesus in the history of thought and culture.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 04040) T R 12:30pm-1:45pm DOD 0118

REL4304 Buddhist Tantra Dr. Cuevas

Sec. 1 (Ref# 0404) F 1:25pm-4:15pm DOD 0118
REL 4304/5305, Muhammad and the Qur’an, examines the early biography (sīra) of the founder of Islam, the Prophet Muhammad, as well as the sacred scripture of the Muslims, the Qur’an. The course uses primary sources in conjunction with source critical secondary literature to explore contemporary scholarly debates surrounding the historical Muhammad and the text of the Qur’an.

Sec. 2/2 (Ref# 08307/08308)  T  2:00pm-4:45pm  DIF 0118

REL 4359/5354, Hinduism and Ecology, explores intersections between religion and ecology in the Hindu tradition in pre-modern and modern contexts. Topics include concepts of forests and rivers in Hindu texts, sacred geographies and pilgrimage, dharmic ecology and Gandhian environmental ethics, sustainable development, dams, nuclear proliferation, and biodiversity. Students prepare research projects, which may be comparative, in part, for oral and written presentation.

Prerequisite: REL 2315 (Religions of South Asia) or a course on Hinduism (such as REL 3335 or 3337), on the history or anthropology of India, or environmental studies. Graduate students in Religion are exempt from this prerequisite.

Sec. 1/1 (Ref# 04044/04056)  M  1:25pm-4:15pm  DOD 0207

REL 4359/5354, Special Topics in Chinese Religions, focuses on important topics in the study of Chinese religions, including historiography on Chinese Buddhist sects, Daoism and the intermingling of cultic traditions, Chinese gods and the problem of unity vs. diversity, death and salvation, and asceticism and the body. Students are expected to engage with the scholarship through critical analysis, reading, and discussion of several books and many articles.

Sec. 2/2 (Ref# 08309/08310)  R  2:00pm-4:45pm  BEL 0048

REL 4491/5497, Seminar in Christian Ethics, examines writings by major classical figures in Christian ethics with special attention to issues of marriage, sexuality, and gender. We will read excerpts from the Bible, St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Locke, Milton, John Paul II, and Barth. Undergraduate students are expected to have taken an ethics course (preferably REL 3170).

Sec. 1/1 (Ref# 04045/04058)  F  1:25pm-4:15pm  DOD 0207

REL 4611/5612, Judaism/Graeco-Roman, is a study of the direct encounter between Jewish and Greek culture in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. While the course will be devoted primarily to a close reading of the chief literary texts in their social, religious, political and literary contexts, attention will also be given to epigraphic, papyrological and artistic evidence. A significant component of the class will be the critical evaluation of three important recent syntheses of this material and the modern scholarship devoted to it.

Sec. 1/1 (Ref# 08312/08313)  T R  11:00am-12:15pm  BEL 0208
REL5035  Introduction to the Study of Religion  Dr. Day
This seminar is designed to introduce first-year graduate students in the Department of Religion to some of the crucial texts, theories and methodological considerations that constitute the academic study of religion. Rather than a simple historical survey, the Fall 2010 version of this seminar will attempt to answer a single question: Given the problematic nature of the religion category, is it time for the field to replace it with a historically informed and theoretically re-tooled category of ideology or ideological system?

Sec. 1 (Ref# 04050)  W  1:25pm-4:15pm  DOD 0207

REL5319  Historiography and Reading Classical Chinese Religious Texts  Dr. Yu
This is a seminar in the reading of selected primary sources in classical Chinese for the study of Chinese religions. The course will focus on reading a sampling of texts from different historical periods and genres, including canonical literature, ritual manuals, poetry, and hagiographies and local gazetteers. The course will also introduce students to a variety of tools and methods for the study of Chinese literature, including standard lexical and bibliographic references, digital resources, and secondary scholarship in modern languages.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 04054)

REL5497  The Soul and the Self  Dr. Dupuigrenet
The aim of this course is to introduce students to a selection of major texts that address the metaphysical make-up of the human person in Christian thought during the medieval and early modern period. Motifs stemming from Greco–Roman philosophers, especially Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, and Seneca, were reinterpreted through the lens of the Bible and the Revelation to create a religious conscience of the self. From Augustine’s Soliloquies to Luther’s Disputation on the dignity of man, the texts for this course have been purposefully chosen to emphasize the centrality of Augustinian thought for all Christian authors, and of the figure of Augustine as God’s interlocutor – hence the great number of apocryphal dialogues published during the middle ages under the name of the saint. After three excerpts from Augustine, very diverse texts are proposed: two sets of university “questions” (Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther), a dialogue in the manner of Plato (Petrarch), an academic speech (Giovanni Pico della Mirandola), a philosophical treatise (Nicolaus Cusanus), and a a satire (Erasmus). These texts will be analyzed as representatives of precise doctrinal views and of shifting historical mentalities and sensitivities. As such they will be confronted with literary texts, with works of art, or humbler documents such as sermons, private letters or wills.

Sec. 2 (Ref# 08314)  R  2:00pm-4:45pm  DIF 0118
This course is co-taught with professor Gary Taylor and cross-listed with the English department (ENG 5933-03). It provides an introduction to the complex interactions between literary culture and the changing, overlapping, frustrating and inspiring media technologies that have shaped the way we produce, transmit, transform, receive and interpret creative representations of human experience. This year it will specifically address representations of religious, mostly Christian, experience, from catacomb art to televangelism.

Beginning with the two opposed categories of the ephemeral and the monumental (texts written on clothing or carved in stone, newspapers, blogs, "immortal" poetry), the course will then embark on a generally chronological tour of technologies and their literary forms: the diversity of manuscript, the evolution of print from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century, the history and theory of reading (including the ways that new technologies transform their users), visual texts, film, recorded sound, broadcast and digital media.

Each of these categories will be explored through a combination of case studies and hands-on encounters, accompanied by at least one historical and one theoretical reading per week. Students will be allowed and encouraged to focus their own written and oral assignments on the period, media, or genre that interests them most.

Sec. 1/3 (Ref# 04062/06242)  T  2:00pm-4:50pm    WMS 0114

REL5937/SRK4102 Elementary Sanskrit I Dr. Erndl
Sanskrit, known as the “language of the gods”, is a classical language of India and scriptural language for Hinduism and Buddhism. As a member of the Indo-European linguistic family, it is related to Greek, Latin, and English, as well as to the spoken languages of modern India such as Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, and Bengali. Sanskrit is for those interested in the cultures and religions of South Asia, for those interested in ancient languages, and for those wanting to experience a language that is exquisitely beautiful and logical at the same time. The course introduces the Sanskrit language through the Devanāgarī script, emphasizing reading, writing, grammar, and oral recitation. This is the first semester of a two-semester course and presumes no previous background.

Sec. 2/1 (Ref# 10271/04400)  T R  12:30pm-1:45pm    DOD 0207

REL6498 Historiography of American Religion Dr. Porterfield
This course examines the history of scholarly writing about American religious history, including historiographies of particular religious groups, movements, and trends. Individual reports on additional books will supplement common readings. The course provides a basic bibliography for the first comprehensive exam in American religious history.
Sec. 1 (Ref# 04067)  T  2:00pm-4:45pm    DOD 0207

REL6596 Religion in Colonial America Dr. Corrigan
In this course we will examine the migration of religion to the Americas from the sixteenth century to the early nineteenth century. The central context for investigating this history will be encounter between Europeans and American indigens. We will observe the ways in which this encounter frequently was characterized by suspicion, fear, and violence, and how religious tropes - and particularly the demon and
heretic - were deployed by Europeans to conceptually organize the terms of the encounter. We will note the ways in which European religions (including Russian Orthodoxy) were transformed in the colonial context, how missionary enterprises were conceived and executed, the relationship between religious ventures in the Americas and political/economic interests, and the consequences of colonialism for indigenous religions.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 04068)  R  2:00pm-4:45pm  DOD 0207

REL6596  Ethnography  Dr. Koehlinger
This seminar provides students with a general introduction to the interpersonal anthropological method of research and writing known as ethnography as religious historians of the U.S. have appropriated it for their work. We will consider the constructive potential and the methodological challenges inherent in scholarly attempts to "get inside" religious worlds of meaning through intimate examinations of culture. Topics for discussion range from critical issues in the development of ethnography as a form of knowledge about religion to practical considerations for the conduct of ethnographic research and writing. Following an extended excursion into theories of religion and culture, we will read a range of religious ethnographies, including foundational works of religious ethnography, contemporary ethnographic works, and hybrid studies that combine history with ethnography.

Sec. 2 (Ref# 08316)  W  9:05am-12:15pm  DOD 0181