SUMMER 2014 RELIGION COURSES

REL1300 Introduction to World Religions

Staff

This course is an introduction to the academic study of the major religions of the world. The course will cover the religious traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. In the process of comparing the religions of the world, it will be the responsibility of each student to think critically about the historical evolution, systems of belief, ritual practices, institutional developments and cultural expressions of each religious tradition. A range of reading materials and writing assignments have been chosen to provide a framework within which to engage a variety of religious issues and to understand the significance and relevance of religion in world history. *Fulfills writing, Liberal Arts, Multicultural X. Is offered at various times and online.*

REL2121

Religion in the United States

Staff

This course is designed to introduce you to the major themes, figures, and directions of religion in American history, with an eye toward ways that social and cultural contexts have shaped the religious experience of Americans in different places and times. Since it is impossible to cover all religious traditions in one semester, this course will consist of both a general survey of religion in the U.S. and a series of case studies designed to provide a closer look into some of the religious groups and ideas that have shaped this country. *Fulfills writing, Liberal Arts and Multicultural Y.*

REL2210 Introduction to the Old Testament

Staff

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. *Meets Liberal Studies Area IV and writing requirements*.

REL2240 Introduction to the New Testament

Staff

An introduction to the New Testament and to the academic approaches to it. The distinctive concerns and literary features of the individual texts will be studied in the contexts of the historical development of the early Christian church, ancient Judaism, and the wider Greco-Roman world. 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 writing requirement.*

REL2315 Religions of South Asia (Online)

Dr. Erndl

Overview of religions in the South Asian cultural region, emphasizing Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Islam. The history and cultural contexts of these traditions will be explored with particular attention to sacred stories, holy people, religious leadership, and gender issues. This course also serves as an introduction to the academic study of religion. No previous background is required. Students will gain familiarity with the basic concepts of the religious

traditions of South Asia, will develop interpretive skills in the academic study of religion, and will have the opportunity to develop research and writing skills by exploring a topic of special interest. *Meets Liberal Studies Humanities and Multicultural X requirements. (Online)*

REL3112 Religion and Fantasy Staff

This course offers an overview of theological and anti-theological elements in twentieth and twenty-first century fantasy literature from authors Lewis, Tolkien, Rowling, and Pullman. *Fulfills writing and Liberal Arts IV requirements*.

REL3145 Gender and Religion Staff

This course examines the impact of gender on religious beliefs and practices and the impact of religious beliefs and practices on gender, cross-culturally. We will be looking at the intersections of religion and culture, in general. In doing so, we will look at a history of feminist thought in religious studies and the current gender issues that have arisen through women's examinations of religious thought and the study of religion. We will use a variety of texts, some film, class discussion, and writing to explore these topics a fully as possible. *Meets Liberal Studies Humanities and Multicultural Y requirements*.

REL3505 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.

REL4190/RLG6176 Sem: Law and Ethics of Torture Dr. Twiss Research seminar into the law and ethics of torture, with main topics including: torture and the law of proof in the ancien regime; contemporary human rights law and the convention against torture; the dynamics and genealogy of torture practices; the ethical, legal, and religious dimensions of the torture debate in America.