

SUMMER 2015 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.*

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 as fully as possible. *Meets Liberal Studies Humanities and Multicultural Y requirements.*

REL3180**Religion & Bioethics****Dr. Kalbian**

An introduction to theoretical and practical issues in bioethics from the perspective of several religious traditions. You will learn about the influence of religious views on the development of bioethics, the difficulties of cultural diversity in the context of medicine, and the major theories and approaches used in resolving bioethical dilemmas. In addition to readings, in-class case discussions, papers, and tests, students will work on group presentations.

REL4190**Sem: Religion & Genocide****Dr. Twiss**

Examination of the ways in which religious ideology, rhetoric, institutions, and personnel may contribute to or otherwise support genocidal activity. Particular attention to colonialist imperialism, the Armenian genocide, the Holocaust, the Bosnian genocide and ethnic cleansing, and the Rwandan genocide, with a particular focus on their similarities and differences. Though the main focus is on religion's role in the perpetration and support of genocide, some attention will be given to issues of accountability, reconciliation, and prevention. Course materials drawn from various disciplines, including history, the social sciences (including political theory), philosophy, theology, and cultural critique. Seminar format. Requirements and grading: (1) vigorous and consistent seminar participation, including at least two formal oral presentations and discussion leadership (in student teams) [50% of grade], and (2) a final research paper on a topic approved by the instructor [50%].