

SPRING 2018 RELIGION COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

HBR1103 Beginning Hebrew II

Prof. Levenson

A continuation of HBR 1102 or 1120, completing the study of Biblical Hebrew grammar and reading closely four or five chapters from the Hebrew Bible (for example, Ruth, Jonah, or Genesis 1-4). Prerequisite: One semester of either Biblical or Modern Hebrew or permission of the instructor. Note that students may take both HBR 1103 and HBR 1121 (Modern Hebrew II). *Meets the foreign language requirement for the BA degree. No language laboratory required.*

HBR1121 Elementary Modern Hebrew II

Prof. Levenson

This course continues the introduction to modern Hebrew begun in HBR 1120. Cultural orientation and the practical use of Hebrew in meaningful situations. Oral comprehension, speaking, and writing are emphasized through a communicative approach. May not be taken by native speakers. May not be taken concurrently with HBR 1120 and/or 2220.

IFS3050 India Through Bollywood Film

Rebecca Peters

This course examines Indian identity, cultural, and religious values as expressed in film. The popular cinema produced in Bombay (now Mumbai), dubbed 'Bollywood,' will predominate, spanning the period from Indian and Pakistani Independence (1947) to the 21st century.

REL1300 Introduction to World Religions

Multiple

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. *Meets LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL), and Diversity: Cross Cultural Studies (DIV-XCC). This course is also offered online.*

REL2121 Religion in the United States

Multiple

This course is designed to introduce students 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. *Meets LS History requirements as well as Diversity in Western Experience (DIV-YWE).*

REL2210 Introduction to the Old Testament

Multiple

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 LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity in western Experience (DIV-YWE).*

REL2240 Introduction to the New Testament **Multiple**

This course introduces students to the writings of the New Testament in the context of the historical development of early Christianity. *Meets LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity in western Experience (DIV-YWE).*

REL2315 Religions of S. Asia **Prof. Robertson**

This course studies the history and culture of the religious traditions of South Asia. A study of the manifestations of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Islam, Sikhism, and Christianity in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. *Meets LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity in cross cultural studies (DIV-XCC).*

REL2350 Religions of E. Asia **Prof. Gildow**

This course combines thematic and historical approaches to religions of East Asia, focusing primarily on China and Japan. It examines interactions among Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, and popular and new religious movements. Students will approach the histories of East Asian religions as processes of change, border-crossing, and mutual-influence. Readings have been drawn from secondary scholarship as well as a variety of primary sources in translation, including myths, canonical scriptures, polemical tracts, hagiography, and narrative tales. Assigned readings will be augmented by occasional in-class films.

REL3112 Religion and Fantasy **Multiple**

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. *Meets LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL).*

REL3128-1 Topics: Violence & New Religious Movements **Prof. McVicar**

This class investigates the role of new religious movement (NRMs) in American culture and history. The course will introduce students to the critical assessment of the category of new religious movement and consider its relationship to other conceptual categories such as cult, emergent religion, or alternative religious movement. The course will explore scholarly studies that examine specific traditions within the NRM paradigm. Traditions covered in this section of the course will include pagan revivals, revolutionary millenarian movements, UFO “cults,” and racist movements. *Meets Liberal Studies: History (LS-HIS).*

REL3128-2 Topics: Religion and Civil Rights **Prof. Kirkpatrick**
Meets Liberal Studies: History (LS-HIS).

REL3142 Religion, the Self, and Society **Prof. Day**

This course covers interpretation of religious phenomena by the major social theorists of modern times. The course is divided into two parts: the psychology of religion and the sociology of religion.

REL3145 Gender and Religion

Multiple

This course considers the impact of gender on religion. Includes cross-cultural studies, theoretical works, and gender issues within religious traditions. *Meets LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity in cross cultural studies (DIV-XCC).*

REL3160 Religion and Science

Prof. Day

This course provides an historical and philosophical analysis of major questions in the relationship between religion and science. *Meets Liberal Studies: History (LS-HIS).*

REL3170 Religious Ethics

Multiple

This course discusses contemporary moral problems such as deception, sexual activities and relations, war, and the economy from the standpoints of major religious traditions. *Meets Liberal Studies: Ethics and Social Responsibility (ETH/SR) and Diversity in cross cultural studies (DIV-XCC).*

REL3171 Topics in Ethics

Prof. Kavka & staff

This course considers themes and problems in modern ethics. The class format will include lecture, discussion, and film. *Meets Liberal Studies: Ethics and Social Responsibility (ETH/SR).*

REL 3293 Topics in Biblical Studies

Prof. Kelley

This course focuses on selected topics dealing with biblical writings in their ancient historical contexts and/or their interpretation in later period. *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL).*

REL3333 Ramayana in Indian Culture and Beyond

Prof. Robertson

This course is an introduction to the Hindu tradition through the Ramayana, one of its most popular and celebrated sacred texts.

REL3340 The Buddhist Tradition

Prof. Cuevas & Staff

This course surveys the Buddhist tradition from its beginnings through the modern period. Some attention to its contemporary forms. *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity in cross cultural studies (DIV-XCC) requirements.*

REL3345 Chan/Zen Buddhism

Prof. Yu

This course focuses on Chan, a school of Chinese Buddhism popularly known in Japanese as "Zen". The course surveys Zen both historically and thematically, from its beginnings through the modern period. Topics include Chan's origins, history, doctrine, ethical beliefs, meditation, ritual, and monastic institutions.

REL3351 Japanese Religions

Prof. Buhrman

This course investigates the influence of Japanese religious traditions on Japanese life, culture, and history; as well as the influence of history and politics on modern Japanese religiosity.

REL3367 Islamic Traditions II: Islam up to the Modern World Prof. Gaiser

This course examines Islam and its adherents from 1300 CE to the present, concentrating on the last two centuries of Islamic history: the period of reform, renewal, and revolution in the wake of Western political and cultural domination. This course investigates a basic question: What happened to different Muslim communities and intellectuals (specifically those in the Arab world, Iran, Turkey, and Africa) as they responded to the challenges posted by "Westernization" and "modernization?" Moreover, it explores the relatively new phenomenon of Islam in America.

REL3370 Religion in Africa Staff

This course examines the variety and complexity of religious practices and beliefs on the African continent, and in particular how African discourses of religion challenge our most fundamental understandings of the term religion.

REL3431 Critics of Religion Prof. Kavka

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.

REL3505 Christian Tradition Prof. Dupuigrenet & Staff

This course explores Christianity from its origins and growth in the Mediterranean world, through the Reformations, and into the present day. Students will gain a panoramic view of global Christianities and the ability to apply a range of approaches in studying its growth and diversification. This will facilitate a wide discussion of its contents, context, and contemporary implications. *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL).*

REL3936 Special Topics: Ecstatic Religion Staff

Beyond mainstream ritual practices, a range of emotional, embodied, mystical activities proliferates—from spirit possession, trance, and shamanism to ecstatic healing and prophecy. While public opinion and popular media may deride these practices, they incarnate the deepest longings for and grandest visions of the divine and often anchor the same theologies that condemn them. This course explores such forms of mysticism around the world—in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Our aim is to understand the logics behind these practices that make them sources of power for practitioners. Because women, the poor, marginal men, sexual minorities, and transgendered persons often play key roles in such movements, issues of politics, economics, gender, and sexuality take center stage. Due to the many ways of explaining mystical experiences, we will compare neurological, psychological, psychiatric, sociological, and theological approaches. The course will take an ethnographic approach, one that sees transcendent experience as immanent in cultural practice.

REL4044 What is Religion? Prof. Buhrman

What is "religion"? How and why do we study "religion"? Is "religion" a manifestation of some sacred, *sui generis* reality that human beings can only dimly apprehend? Or is "religion" a rickety ideological superstructure built on the foundation of colonial, economic, and gendered oppression?

Perhaps it's a psychological projection, a delusion from which humanity must free itself. Or maybe "religion" is simply the creation of the scholar who studies it. This course provides a survey of classical and contemporary theories and methods that have tried to answer these questions along with many others. Through close readings of a sampling of theoretical and critical works, this course will provide students with a basic introduction to the various disciplinary frameworks that underlie the academic study of religion. We will cover a wide array of approaches for studying "religion" ranging from anthropology to psychology, from feminist theory to cognitive science. Along the way we will ask, "what is 'religion'?" and "and how should it be studied?" We will end the course with two recent books that build on the various methods covered in the first ten weeks of the course. These works--on Scientology, a new religious movement, and popular spirituality in contemporary American culture--offer challenging reassessments of the scholarly and popular category of "religion." Students should expect a reading-, writing-, and speaking-intensive course that surveys a complex and evolving field of study. Students will be asked to read carefully, offer written reflections on the material covered in class, and present material to their peers. Finally, students will write a final reflective paper assessing the status of "religious studies" in the university. *Meets Upper-Division Scholarship in Practice (UD-SIP) and Oral Communication Competency (OCC).*

REL4190 SEM: Fundamentalism & Conservatism Prof. McVicar

This course focuses on problems and issues in religion and culture. Topics vary. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. Permission of the instructor required. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. May be repeated within the same term.

REL4190-02 SEM: REL & Civil Rights Movement Profs. Kirkpatrick & Drake

This course focuses on problems and issues in religion and culture. Topics vary. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. Permission of the instructor required. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. May be repeated within the same term.

REL4290-01 SEM: Gospel of John Prof. Levenson

This course consists of advanced work in biblical studies for undergraduates. Topics vary. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. May be repeated within the same semester.

REL4290-01 SEM: Rel & Violence: Late Antiquity Prof. Falcasantos

This course consists of advanced work in biblical studies for undergraduates. Topics vary. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. May be repeated within the same semester

REL4359 SP Topics Asian Rel: Buddhist Biography Prof. Cuevas

This course focuses on selected topics and themes in the academic study of Asian religions with special emphasis on issues of methodology. Topics may include key theories in Asian studies, religion, philosophy, history, sociology, and anthropology intended to help students develop critical skills.

REL4366 Seminar on Shi'ite Islam Prof. Gaiser

This seminar examines the historical development of the Shi'a, including but not limited to Ithna-'Ashari ("12") Shi'ism, Fatimid Isma'ilism, and contemporary Shi'ite issues.

10/06/17

REL4491-1 SEM: Xtian Doctrine of Creation

Prof. Kelsay

Topics vary. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

REL4491-2 SEM: Genocide, Human Rights & Rel

Prof. Twiss

Topics vary. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

REL4905 Directed Individual Study

REL4914 Tutorial in Latin Religious Texts

Prof. Levenson

REL4932 Honors Work Religion

GRADUATE COURSES

RLG5195-1 SEM: Fundamentalism & Conservatism

Prof. McVicar

RLG5195-2 SEM: Religion & Civil Rights Movement

Profs. Kirkpatrick & Drake

RLG5297 SEM: Bibl Studies: Religion & Violence: Late Antiquity

Prof. Falcasantos

RLG5305 SEM: History of Rel: History of Text Technology

Prof. Dupuigrenet

This course provides an introduction to the interactions between text cultures and the media technologies that shaped the way we produce, transmit, transform, receive and interpret creative representations of human experience. Because it is taught by a historian of medieval and early modern Christianity it focuses on representations of religious, mostly Christian, experience, from catacomb art and first Bibles to religious uses of the internet.

RLG5346 SEM: Chinese Buddhism

Prof. Yu

This course looks at Chinese Buddhism by way of social and cultural practice; examining the institutional, ritual, and doctrinal components for the construction of Buddhist values, roles and identities within the larger field of Chinese religious life. Special consideration is given to the symbolics of religious alterity, especially as they apply to the negotiation between Buddhist and non-Buddhist traditions.

RLG5354 SP Topics Asian Rel: Buddhist Biography

Prof. Cuevas

This seminar examines the historical development of Tantra and Tantric Buddhism in early medieval India (c. 500-1200 C.E.) with some attention to the spread and practice of these traditions in Nepal, Tibet, China, and Japan. Topics covered include origins and history of the Tantric movement, esoteric literature, sacred biography, magic and ritual, yoga and meditation, and Tantra and politics. The course will also assess the varied scholarly interpretations and popular representations of Buddhist Tantra over the last century in Europe, the United States, and Asia.

RLG5356 Readings in Tibetan Religious Texts

Prof. Cuevas

This course is a seminar that covers selected primary-source readings in Tibetan language about the religious history of Tibet. Readings are drawn from a variety of historical periods and genres, including history, biography, Buddhist canonical texts, philosophical treatises, ritual manuals, poetry, and epic narrative. The course also introduces students to various tools and methods for the study of classical and modern Tibetan literature.

RLG5367 SEM: Shi'ite Islam

Prof. Gaiser

This seminar focuses on the manifold expressions of Shi'ism from its origins to the present day. It examines the political divisions within the early Islamic community that led to the development of the shi'a. The seminar also examines the earliest Shi'a sects and the major juridical and theological developments within Ithna-'Ashari ("12er") Shi'ism, such as the doctrine of the Imamate and the occultation and return of the 12th Imam. The seminar also studies the establishment and elaboration of Fatimid Isma'ilism. The latter part of the seminar is devoted to contemporary issues among the Shi'ites, including contemporary treatments of the martyrdom of Hussayn and the role of Hizbullah in the politics of the Middle East.

RLG5497-1 SEM: Xtian Doctrine of Creation

Prof. Kelsay

Topics vary. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

REL5497-2 SEM: Genocide, Human Rights & Rel

Prof. Twiss

Topics vary. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

RLG5906 Directed Individual Study

RLG5911 Supervised Research

RLG5916 Tutorial in Latin Religious Texts

Prof. Levenson

RLG5937-1 Special Topics: ARH Colloquium

Prof. Porterfield

RLG5937-2 Special Topics: REP Colloquium

Prof. Twiss

RLG5940 Supervised Teaching

RLG5971 Master's Thesis

RLG6176 SEM Ethics and Politics

Prof. Kelsay

This course is a seminar in ethics and politics that encourages research into the relationships between religion, morality, and the social-political life of persons and groups.

RLG6498 SEM Relig. Thought

Prof. Porterfield

RLG6904 Readings for Exams

Multiple

10/06/17

RLG6980	Dissertation	Multiple
RLG8964	Doctoral Exams	Multiple
RLG8976	Master's Thesis Defense	
RLG8985	Dissertation Defense	