SUMMER 2010 RELIGION COURSES

REL1300 Introduction to World Religions

Dr. Goff

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.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 02060) M W F 2:00pm-4:10pm DHA 0103 Session C

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.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 02061) T R 11:00am-2:15pm DHA 0103 Session B

REL2210 Introduction to the Old Testament

Dr. Cook

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.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 05369) M W F 8:00am-10:10am DIF 0204 Session B

REL2315 Religions of South Asia

Dr. Erndl

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 Liberal Studies Area IV and Multicultural "X" requirements.**

Sec. 1 (Ref# 02063) T R 11:00am-2:15pm DHA 0103 Session C

REL3170 Religious Ethics

Staff

A discussion of contemporary moral problems such as deception, sexual activities and relations, and capital punishment from the standpoints of major religious traditions.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 02067) M W F 11:15am-1:25pm DHA 0103 Session C

REL3180 Cinematic Courage

Dr. Kalbian

This course is an examination of courage through examples in film, as well as philosophical and religious writings. We begin by exploring war as the paradigmatic case of courage. We follow with depictions of courage in relationship to the categories of gender, race, citizenship, and politics. Films will be screened in class.

Sec. 1 (Ref# 04947) T R 1:00pm-4:15pm CON 0228 Session B

REL3363 Islamic Traditions

Dr. Gaiser

REL 3363 Islamic Traditions 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*), the development of the Muslim community and its principle institutions (schools of thought, law, theology, cultural life and mystical traditions). The course will acquaint you with significant aspects of Islam as a religion, and to help you think through some of the basic questions of human religious experience in light of the responses given to those questions by the great sages and saints of the Islamic tradition.

Sec. 1(Ref# 04946) M W F 11:15am-1:25pm DHA 0103 Session B

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# 02070) M W F 2:00pm-4:10pm DHA 0103 Session B