

FALL 2016 RELIGION COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

HBR1102 Beginning Hebrew 1

Dr. Levenson

This course is an 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.*

IFS2019 Heretics, Rebels and Militants

Dr. Gaiser

This e-series honors seminar evaluates the topics of Islamic sectarianism and denominationalism by tracing the main sectarian movements among medieval and modern Muslims. Students will engage in broad, critical and creative thinking about the creation of orthodoxy and heresy, the development of religious differences, the interaction between politics, culture and religion, and the issue of religious violence. They will gain knowledge and critical thinking skills that will assist them as they navigate a range of perspectives and trajectories related to the world's many different Muslims. *Meets Liberal Studies E-Series/Honors E-Series (LS-E/HLS-E), LS History (LS-HIS), and Diversity: Cross Cultural Studies (DIV-XCC).*

IFS3050 India Through Bollywood Film

Dr. Erndl

How is India "imagined" through popular cinema? India is the world's largest democracy, one of the world's oldest continuous civilizations, and also has the world's largest film industry. In this course, we examine Indian identity, cultural, and religious values as expressed in film. The popular cinema in the Hindi language, produced in Bombay (now Mumbai), dubbed "Bollywood," will predominate, spanning the period from Indian and Pakistani Independence (1947) to the present. Topics for discussion include love and separation, gender roles, relationships between divine and human, sensuality and renunciation, caste and class identity, the state, diaspora, the quest for ultimate truth, and, of course, music, dance, and stardom! No previous background is assumed. *Meets Liberal Studies E-Series/Honors E-Series (LS-E/HLS-E), LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL), and Diversity: Cross Cultural Studies (DIV-XCC).*

IFS3055 Sci-Fi, Dystopia, & Evil

Dr. Cronin

This course explores the concepts of fate, providence, and the problem of evil in religion and popular culture through the critical study of several highly successful science fiction and dystopian novels authored during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It situates these novels in the context of philosophical and theological developments from ancient times to the present. *Meets Liberal Studies E-Series/Honors E-Series (LS-E/HLS-E) and LS: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL).*

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

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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 Dr. Corrigan, Dr. Drake and Staff

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

REL2240 Introduction to the New Testament Staff

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 Staff

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).*

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

REL 3125 Race and Ethnicity in US Religion Dr. Drake

This course critically explores the relationship between religion, race, and ethnicity in American history from the Civil War to the Present. Students will examine the way in which religion, race, and ethnicity contribute to forging an American republic and national identity (as well as an “un-American” identity too!). Additionally, students will also consider the importance of religion in constructing and reconstructing racial and ethnic identities. This course will challenge students to interrogate the meaning of “America” and “religion” by engaging a range of religious, intellectual, and political groups (e.g. Confederates, Native Americans, evolutionary scientists, KKK, African-

American southern migrants, Italian and Haitian immigrants etc.) within specific historical and social contexts. Ultimately, students will understand that race and ethnicity are not exceptions, but rather deeply constitutive features of American religion. *Meets LS Ethics and Social Responsibility (ETH/SR) and Diversity in cross cultural studies (XCC)*

REL3128-1 Religion of US Presidents

Mr. Hicks

This course serves as an exploration of the role of religious people, ideas, and frameworks in the American nation-state, through a sweeping overview of a number of United States presidents. Rather than focusing exclusively on individual presidents' religious beliefs, the goal of this course is instead to use presidents as lenses through which to view America. It assumes that presidents, as highly visible, influential, and symbolic figures, provide insights into the state of the union during their short terms.

REL 3128-3 Latin American Christianity

Dr. Kirkpatrick

The election of Pope Francis to the papacy reflects the growing influence of Latin America upon world Christianity. This course will provide an historical and thematic overview of the changes in the history of Latin American Christianity. It moves chronologically and geographically—from colonial Latin America to Hispanic immigrant communities in the United States. Topics covered include race and colonialism, the Cuban Revolution, the Second Vatican Council, social justice and Christianity (liberation theology/evangelical *misión integral*), the rise of Pentecostalism, labor movements and inequality, and U.S. Hispanic political influence.

REL3142 Religion, Self & Society

Dr. Day

This course is structured around the methodological principle that we should abandon the habit of treating some discourses or practices as being irreducibly distinct from mundane political and economic life. That is to say, *religion* should not be viewed as a substantive term of analysis but as a piece of political rhetoric—a way of strategically representing some all-too-political aspects of collective life as non-political. The Fall 2016 version of the course will thematically focus on nineteenth-century appeals to a “Providential Order” in order to justify, denounce or attack the constitutive institutions of chattel slavery in the United States. *Meets LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL)*.

REL3145 Gender and Religion

Dr. McVicar & Staff

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)*.

REL3155 Psychology in U.S. Religious History

Dr. Porterfield

This course explores the psychological aspects of religious life in five different religious traditions in the United States. It examines the cultural experiences and social structures that have shaped psychological approaches to religion in the U.S. in the 20th and 21st centuries. *Meets Liberal Studies History (LS-HIS)*.

REL3170 Religious Ethics

Staff

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 Existentialism

Ms. Marks

This course focuses on ethical issues raised by thinkers concerned with the nature and meaning of human existence. We will pursue questions raised about the significance of human nature and its ethical existence by exploring various works from thinkers associated with existentialism or existential themes. Unlike other "isms," existentialism is not the name of a self-described, unified theory, movement, or doctrine. Rather, it covers a variety of diverse and often incompatible approaches. For the purposes of this class, we consider existentialist writing that addresses the following issues: what does it mean to be a self; how does our inevitable and impending death effect our lives; why do humans experience envy, anxiety, and despair (and what is the solution to these); what is the nature of our freedom and ethical responsibility; how should we comport ourselves in an increasingly technological world; what is the relationship between individuality and society; is life meaningless; is suicide an ethical option; what is nihilism; and what is the nature of our moral values. The class format will include lecture, discussion, and film. *Meets Liberal Studies: Ethics and Social Responsibility (ETH/SR).*

REL 3209 The Dead Sea Scrolls

Dr. Goff

In this course, students will analyze key manuscripts of the Qumran corpus, with a focus on issues such as the history, beliefs and praxis of the Jewish sectarian movement that is associated with the scrolls, the archaeology of the Qumran site and the significance of the scrolls for understanding Second Temple Judaism and the origins of Christianity. *Meets LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Scholarship-in-Practice (SIP).*

REL 3293-1 Sex, Marriage, and Family in the Bible

Mr. Short

Can saints have children? Should marriage be a religious institution? What does it mean to call God a father? This course explores these and similar questions by critically examining the intersection of sex, marriage, and family with religion. Through various readings, writing exercises, and class discussions, we will raise theoretical questions on the nature and composition of the family, as well as address how and why its constituent parts, processes, and institutions have influenced and been influenced by religion. *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL).*

REL3293-2 Death and the Afterlife in the Bible

Dr. Kelley

This course is a survey of death in ancient Greece and Rome, as well as the Christian late antique and medieval eras. We will examine the varied causes of mortality as well as the development of beliefs and practices related to death and the afterlife. Readings will focus on primary texts in English translation as well as works of modern scholarship.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the causes of mortality in the ancient and medieval world
2. Summarize the kinds of practices (rituals) connected to death and the afterlife
3. Explain how beliefs and practices related to the afterlife varied according to time and place

Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL).

REL3340 The Buddhist Tradition

Dr. Cuevas

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

Dr. 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. *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity: Cross Cultural Studies (DIV-XCC).*

REL3351 Japanese Religions

Dr. Buhrman

Many aspects of Japanese culture or character are credited to (or blamed on) Japanese religions. 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. The goal of the course is to address the paradox of highly influential religious traditions among a population that claims no religion. In so doing, students will address the definition of religion and of religiosity, and be prepared to talk about such definitions with relation to the specific example of Japan. *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity: Cross Cultural Studies (DIV-XCC).*

REL3363 Islamic Traditions

Mr. Houston

This course provides a historical and topical survey of Islam as a religion and civilization, focusing on the formative and classical periods of its 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 principal institutions (schools of thought, law, theology, cultural life, and mystical traditions). *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity in Western Experience (DIV-YWE).*

REL3370 Religion in Africa

Dr. Hellweg

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. *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity: Cross Cultural Studies (DIV-XCC).*

REL3430-1 Christian and Muslim Political Thought

Dr. Kelsay

This course focuses on developments in Christian and Muslim thinking about politics. Beginning with the foundational narratives presented in the New Testament and in the biographies of Muhammad, we will proceed to discuss the ways in which interactions between the two traditions (as in the Crusades and the Muslim expansion into south and central Europe) affected political thought. For the Fall 2016 term, we stop at the beginnings of modernity in the seventeenth century. A subsequent course scheduled for Spring 2017 will deal with modern developments.

REL3431 Critics of Religion

Dr. 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. *Meets Liberal Studies: Ethics and Social Responsibility (ETH/SR).*

REL3505 Christian Tradition

Dr. Dupuigrenet and Staff

This course studies the major beliefs, practices, and institutional forms of Christianity in historical perspective. *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL).*

REL3607 The Jewish Tradition

Dr. Gonzalez

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 from the fundamental periods/themes of the tradition, including Biblical texts, Talmud and Midrash, and texts from the medieval and early modern periods. We will also explore the phenomenon of the rise of major Jewish denominations (Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox), Zionism, and 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 worship services. *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity in Western Experience (DIV-YWE).*

REL 3935 Buddhist Scripture and Popular Literature

Dr. Gildow

A scripture is a text that some community considers sacred and authoritative. Popular Buddhist literature includes fictional stories with elements drawn from Buddhism. This course provides an introduction to both Buddhist scriptures and popular Buddhist literature. The focus is on scriptures in early Indian Buddhism and East Asian Buddhism, including Theravada Pali *suttas* and the Mahayana *Lotus Sutra*. In addition to critically reading texts, we will study how texts both reflect and influence the cultures in which they are embedded. Toward the end of the course, we examine how Buddhist ideas have been diffused and transformed in popular Buddhist literature, including the Chinese novel *Journey to the West*.

Part one of the course provides a brief introduction to Buddhism and Buddhist scriptures. In parts two and three, course readings alternate between Buddhist texts and secondary scholarly literature. The class format includes both lectures and short discussion. *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity in cross cultural studies (DIV-XCC) requirements.*

REL4044 What is Religion?

Dr. Hellweg

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).*

REL4214 The Book of Genesis

Dr. Goff

This course offers a close and critical reading of the Book of Genesis in terms of its composition, history of its interpretations, its Near Eastern context, its narrative artistry, as well as its relevance for ethics and theology. *Please Contact Instructor for Permission.*

REL 4304-1 SEM. History of Rel.: The Prophet Muhammad

Dr. Gaiser

Examines the figure of the Prophet Muḥammad from three distinct angles: as example for the Islamic community (i.e. as a focal point of sunna); as subject of biographical writings (i.e. the sīra); and as a person worthy of respect (i.e. as recipient of ṣalawāt). It combines readings in primary sources in conjunction with source critical secondary literature to explore contemporary scholarly debates surrounding the figure of the Prophet and his memory among Muslims.

REL4304-2 SEM. History of Rel.: Holy Wars! Religious Violence in Medieval and Early Modern Europe

Dr. Dupuigrenet

This course traces the idea of religiously sanctioned violence in medieval and early modern Europe. This violence, framed as an apocalyptic battle between the forces of good and evil, led to extreme uses of violence on all sides, from individual assassination to mass massacres. The Christian Church used it to justify the crusades against Muslims beginning in 1100, as a tool against heretics or schismatics well into the 15th c., and in the context of political conflicts such as the Hundred Years War. Bloody religious wars continued even when modern states began to form in the wake of the 16th c. Reformation and the break-up of Western Christianity. During the same period colonial expansion extended religious wars to the rest of the world, both by provoking conflicts between colonists of different faiths and by condoning the use of violence for the conversion of native populations considered as pagans. Confronted with the impossibility to resolve by war their religious differences European Christian states and parties came first to practice toleration as a necessary evil and then to build within Christianity doctrines of toleration. This course focuses on the large-scale production of religious treatises and pamphlets made possible by the new medium of print, as well as the multiplication of propaganda prints that hailed massacres, making their representation not an object of horror but a recruitment tool for the warring parties.

REL 4304-3 SEM. History of Rel.: Slavery and Capitalism

Dr. Day

The earliest attempts to make sense of capitalism often represented chattel slavery as a *pre-capitalist* institution. The basic intuition was that if the essential social relation for capital accumulation is wage labor, then slavery—that is to say, *unfree* and *unpaid* labor—is by *definition* a non-capitalist mode of production. More recently, however, historians and theorists of capital have argued that slavery was indispensable for the emergence of the capitalist world order. This seminar examines the historical and structural significance of transatlantic slavery for the emergence of modern capitalism. Throughout the course, students will be invited to analyze the links between bonded labor and capitalism both past (e.g., cotton production in the American South) and present (e.g., sweatshop labor in the Pacific Rim).

REL 4304-4 SEM. History of Rel.: Zionism & its Discontents

Drs. Gonzalez & Kavka

This course is a survey of understandings of Zionism—broadly understood, the conviction that Jewish existence is always and everywhere the existence of a nation. The goals of the course are twofold. First, students will learn about the *diversity* of understandings of Zionism among Jews—especially Jews of different ethnic backgrounds—since the nineteenth century. Second, students will learn about the *arguments* about what Jewish existence could and should be that are found not only in critics of Zionists by non-Jews and Jewish non-Zionists or post-Zionists, but by other Jewish Zionists.

Requirements: regular participation in discussion, two seminar presentations, and one final paper on a topic reached in consultation with the instructors. This course fulfills the Department of Religion's seminar requirement for religion majors.

REL 4359-1 SP Topics Asian Rel: Japanese Ghosts & Monsters

Dr. Buhrman

Japanese folklore and culture is famous for an abundance of monsters and ghosts (sometimes known as *yukai*), some of which have become known to American audiences through video games and children's tv shows. This seminar will look at the history of the study of ghosts and monsters in Japan, and introduce students to some of the deeper history of and influence of Buddhist doctrine on the received image of these creatures. We will also look at depictions of traditional *yukai* in modern film, and how these might relate to changes in human-animal relations and environmental consciousness in Japan.

REL 4359-2 SP Topics Asian Rel: Buddhism and Magic

Dr. Cuevas

This seminar offers a comparative study of the forms and functions of magic, wonder-working powers, and associated rituals in various Buddhist societies across Asia. Emphasis will be on understanding a diversity of beliefs and practices within specific Buddhist social and historical contexts and broad comparisons with Western conceptions and scholarly debates about the category of “magic” in order to assess whether such a concept plays a role in Buddhism. Sustained focus will be on the wide variety of academic approaches to magic as a cross-cultural category and the problematic distinction between the categories “magic” and “religion.” Key questions addressed throughout the course include the following: What is magic? What does magic do? Is magic distinct from religion? Is magic natural or supernatural? What is the role of magic in society? The course will run on a seminar format with active and in-depth discussion of readings and intensive individual writing assignments.

REL4359-3 SP Topics Asian Rel: Body, Healing, and Asceticism

Dr. Yu

This course is a graduate seminar, open also to upper-level undergraduate students. It is a historical and interdisciplinary examination of relationships among premodern Chinese bodily practices, healing arts, and the asceticism, drawing on important and recent scholarly studies. These three themes allow us to examine Chinese religions as a whole instead of parsing them into problematic categories of “Buddhism,” “Confucianism,” “Daoism,” and “popular religions.” In other words, these themes cut across religious and cultural divides. We will explore how the body is understood, perceived, cultivated, and disciplined in premodern China, and pay special attention to underlying religious and philosophical worldviews and the ways in which they influence bodily practices.

REL4359-4 SP Topics Asian Rel: Pop Culture & South Asian Religions

Dr. Erndl

This course explores popular culture in religion and religion in popular culture focusing on case studies of Hinduism, Islam, and Tibetan Buddhism in exile in interaction with cultural artifacts from the visual arts, music, film, comic books, popular fiction, and the Internet. *Prerequisite for undergraduates: At least one course on religion or history of South Asia. No prerequisite for graduate students.*

REL4905 Directed Individual Study

REL4932 Honors Work Religion

GRADUATE COURSES

RLG5035 SEM: Introduction to the Study of Religion

Dr. McVicar

A graduate introduction to the history, present status, principal issues, and methodologies in the academic study of religion.

RLG5204 Classical Hebrew Texts

Dr. Levenson

Intensive work on specific religious texts in classical Hebrew (ancient or medieval). Choice of texts will vary by semester.

RLG5297 SEM: Biblical Studies: Death & Afterlife

Dr. Kelley

This course is a survey of death in ancient Greece and Rome, as well as the Christian late antique and medieval eras. We will examine the varied causes of mortality as well as the development of beliefs and practices related to death and the afterlife. Readings will focus on primary texts in English translation as well as works of modern scholarship.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the causes of mortality in the ancient and medieval worlds
2. Summarize the kinds of practices (rituals) connected to death and the afterlife
3. Explain how beliefs and practices related to the afterlife varied according to time and place

RLG5305-1 SEM: History of Rel: The Prophet Muhammad

Dr. Gaiser

RLG 5305 examines the figure of the Prophet Muḥammad from three distinct angles: as example for the Islamic community (i.e. as a focal point of sunna); as subject of biographical writings (i.e. the *sīra*); and as a person worthy of respect (i.e. as recipient of *ṣalawāt*). It combines readings in primary sources in conjunction with source critical secondary literature to explore contemporary scholarly debates surrounding the figure of the Prophet and his memory among Muslims.

RLG5305-2 SEM: History of Rel: Holy Wars! Religious Violence in Medieval and Early Modern Europe

Dr. Dupuigrenet

This course traces the idea of religiously sanctioned violence in medieval and early modern Europe. This violence, framed as an apocalyptic battle between the forces of good and evil, led to extreme uses of violence on all sides, from individual assassination to mass massacres. The Christian Church used it to justify the crusades against Muslims beginning in 1100, as a tool against heretics or schismatics well into the 15th c., and in the context of political conflicts such as the Hundred Years War. Bloody religious wars continued even when modern states began to form in the wake of the 16th c. Reformation and the break-up of Western Christianity. During the same period colonial expansion extended religious wars to the rest of the world, both by provoking conflicts between colonists of different faiths and by condoning the use of violence for the conversion of native populations considered as pagans. Confronted with the impossibility to resolve by war their religious differences European Christian states and parties came first to practice toleration as a necessary evil and then to build within Christianity doctrines of toleration. This course focuses on the large-scale production of religious treatises and pamphlets made possible by the new medium of print, as well as the multiplication of propaganda prints that hailed massacres, making their representation not an object of horror but a recruitment tool for the warring parties.

RLG5305-3 SEM: History of Rel: Slavery and Capitalism

Dr. Day

The earliest attempts to make sense of capitalism often represented chattel slavery as a *pre-capitalist* institution. The basic intuition was that if the essential social relation for capital accumulation is wage labor, then slavery—that is to say, *unfree* and *unpaid* labor—is *by definition* a non-capitalist mode of production. More recently, however, historians and theorists of capital have argued that slavery was indispensable for the emergence of the capitalist world order. This seminar examines the historical and structural significance of transatlantic slavery for the emergence of modern capitalism. Throughout the course, students will be invited to analyze the links between bonded labor and capitalism both past (e.g., cotton production in the American South) and present (e.g., sweatshop labor in the Pacific Rim).

RLG5305-4 SEM: History of Rel: Zionism and its Discontents **Drs. Gonzalez & Kavka**

This course is a survey of understandings of Zionism—broadly understood, the conviction that Jewish existence is always and everywhere the existence of a nation. The goals of the course are twofold. First, students will learn about the *diversity* of understandings of Zionism among Jews—especially Jews of different ethnic backgrounds—since the nineteenth century. Second, students will learn about the *arguments* about what Jewish existence could and should be that are found not only in critics of Zionists by non-Jews and Jewish non-Zionists or post-Zionists, but by other Jewish Zionists.

Requirements: regular participation in discussion, two seminar presentations, and one final paper

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on a topic reached in consultation with the instructors. This course fulfills the Department of Religion's seminar requirement for religion majors.

RLG5305-05 SEM: His of Religions: World Religions in Am. History **Dr. Porterfield**

This course examines the concept of world religions and the practice of studying world religions as they have developed in American universities, colleges, and seminaries. The course is designed for graduate instructors of the Department's introductory course in world religions as well as for graduate students specializing in American religious history.

RLG5318 Classic Chinese Texts **Dr. Yu**

This seminar covers selected primary-source readings in classical Chinese about Chinese religions. Readings are drawn from a sampling of historical periods and genres, including canonical literature, philosophical treatises, ritual manuals, poetry, hagiography, and local gazetteers. Students learn to use lexical and bibliographic references, digital resources, and other research tools. May be repeated to a maximum of twelve credit hours.

RLG5354-1 SP Topics Asian Rel: Japanese Ghosts and Monsters **Dr. Buhrman**

Japanese folklore and culture is famous for an abundance of monsters and ghosts (sometimes known as *yokai*), some of which have become known to American audiences through video games and children's tv shows. This seminar will look at the history of the study of ghosts and monsters in Japan, and introduce students to some of the deeper history of and influence of Buddhist doctrine on the received image of these creatures. We will also look at depictions of traditional *yokai* in modern film, and how these might relate to changes in human-animal relations and environmental consciousness in Japan.

RLG5354-2 SP Topics Asian Rel: Buddhism and Magic **Dr. Cuevas**

This seminar offers a comparative study of the forms and functions of magic, wonder-working powers, and associated rituals in various Buddhist societies across Asia. Emphasis will be on understanding a diversity of beliefs and practices within specific Buddhist social and historical contexts and broad comparisons with Western conceptions and scholarly debates about the category of "magic" in order to assess whether such a concept plays a role in Buddhism. Sustained focus will be on the wide variety of academic approaches to magic as a cross-cultural category and the problematic distinction between the categories "magic" and "religion." Key questions addressed throughout the course include the following: What is magic? What does magic do? Is magic distinct from religion? Is magic natural or supernatural? What is the role of magic in society? The course will run on a seminar format with active and in-depth discussion of readings and intensive individual writing assignments.

RLG5354-3 SP Topics Asian Rel: Body, Healing, and Asceticism **Dr. Yu**

This course is a graduate seminar, open also to upper-level undergraduate students. It is a historical and interdisciplinary examination of relationships among premodern Chinese bodily practices, healing arts, and the asceticism, drawing on important and recent scholarly studies. These three themes allow us to examine Chinese religions as a whole instead of parsing them into problematic categories of "Buddhism," "Confucianism," "Daoism," and "popular religions." In other words, these themes cut across religious and cultural divides. We will explore how the body is understood,

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perceived, cultivated, and disciplined in premodern China, and pay special attention to underlying religious and philosophical worldviews and the ways in which they influence bodily practices.

RLG5354-4 SP Topics Asian Rel: Popular Culture in South Asia **Dr. Erndl**

This course explores popular culture in religion and religion in popular culture focusing on case studies of Hinduism, Islam, and Tibetan Buddhism in exile in interaction with cultural artifacts from the visual arts, music, film, comic books, popular fiction, and the Internet. Prerequisite for undergraduates: At least one course on religion or history of South Asia. No prerequisite for graduate students.

RLG5356 Readings in Tibetan **Dr. 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.

RLG5497 SEM: Religious Thought: Aquinas and His Interpreters **Dr. Kalbian**

This course is divided into two parts. In the first half students are introduced to the writings of Thomas Aquinas on the topics of moral action, the virtues, and the law. In the second half we will examine recent interpretations of the relevance of Aquinas's thought for contemporary religious ethics.

RLG5612 Judaism in Greco-Roman World **Dr. Levenson**

This course studies the history of the Jews and the development of Jewish religious ideas, literature, institutions and practices from the Maccabean Revolt to the redaction of the Babylonian Talmud.

RLG5906 Directed Individual Study

RLG5915 Sanskrit Texts **Dr. Erndl**

This course studies readings in Sanskrit of selected religious texts. Topics vary by semester.

RLG5937-1 Special Topics: Religion, Science, Conflict **Drs. Kelsay & Ruse**

The focus of this seminar (co-listed with PHI 5934) will be on religious and biological explanations of conflict. Our prime case study will be the First World War, in which appeals to Christian tradition served both to legitimate and to criticize the efforts of Allied and Axis powers, as did appeals to understandings of Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection.

RLG5937-2 Special Topics: ARH Colloquium **Dr. Corrigan**

RLG5937-3 Special Topics: REP Colloquium **Dr. Twiss**

RLG5937-4 Special Topics: Religions in Africa **Dr. Hellweg**

08/12/16

RLG5937-5 Special Topics: Christian/Muslim Political Thought **Dr. Kelsay**

RLG5940 Supervised Teaching

RLG5971 Master's Thesis

RLG6176 SEM: Ethics/Politics: Chinese Military Ethics **Dr. Twiss**

A graduate seminar examining and comparing Chinese and Western perspectives on military ethics, including just war traditions and their analogues as well as pressing historical and contemporary issues. All in preparation for informed attendance at an International Workshop/Conference on Military Ethics: Chinese and Western Perspectives to be held at FSU November 4-5, co-sponsored by FSU's Center for the Advancement of Human Rights and Hong Kong Baptist University's Centre for Applied Ethics.

RLG6498 SEM Religious Thought: Religion & Emotions in US **Dr. Corrigan**

RLG6904 Readings for Exams **Multiple**

RLG6980 Dissertation **Multiple**

RLG8964 Doctoral Exams **Multiple**

SPK4102 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 modern Indian languages such as Hindi, Marathi, 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. This is the first semester of a two-semester course, introducing Sanskrit language through the Devanāgarī script, encompassing reading, writing, grammar, and oral recitation. No previous background is presumed.