

## FALL 2018 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.*

#### **HBR2222                      Intermediate Hebrew**

**Dr. Levenson**

This course focuses on translation and commentary on selected Hebrew readings. Meets the foreign language requirement for the BA degree. No language laboratory required.

**Prerequisite:** Two semesters of Modern or Biblical Hebrew.

#### **IFS2007      Need & Greed**

**Dr. Kalbian**

This e-series honors seminar addresses some of these questions about the ethics of money from the perspective of religious communities. We will evaluate the topics of need (as exemplified by poverty) and greed (as exemplified by excessive accumulation of wealth), by looking at historical and contemporary religious writings, ethnographic studies, and economic theories. We will engage in broad, critical and creative thinking about the connections between money, human nature, the good life, and material comfort, the common good, and social justice. The goal is to gain knowledge and critical thinking skills that will be of assistance in navigating a range of personal and professional issues related to money. *Meets LS ethics and social responsibility requirement.*

#### **IFS2019      Heretics, Rebels, Militants**

**Dr. Gaiser**

This e-series course addresses some of these questions about the variety of Islamic religious perspectives. We will evaluate 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 LS history and multicultural Y requirements.*

#### **IFS3138      Demons, the Antichrist and Satan**

**Dr. Goff**

This course examines traditions regarding demons, the Antichrist and Satan in the Bible, Judaism and Christianity. Biblical and ancient non-biblical texts that describe these figures will be examined in their historical contexts. Traditions regarding Satan and other evil personages will be traced historically so that students will have a sense of how our understanding of these figures changed over time. *Meets LS E-Series/Honors E-Series & Cultural Practice.*

#### **REL1300      Introduction to World Religions**

**Dr. Durdin & 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. *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. McVicar, Dr. Corrigan & 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 Intro to the Old Testament**

**Leary/Vandergriff, Griffin, & Angulo**

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 Intro to the New Testament**

**Steen, & Henderson/Edwards**

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**

**Dr. Cecil**

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**

**Dr. Ross & Will Livingston**

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).*

**REL3142 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)*.

**REL 3145      Gender and Religion**

**Dr. DuBois & Baldrick-Morrone**

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)*.

**REL 3152      Religion, Race and Ethnicity**

**Daniel Wells**

This course examines the relation between race, ethnicity and religious beliefs in a cross-cultural context.

**REL3160      Religion and Science**

**Dr. Day**

This course examines how and why evolutionary theory has been identified—by groups self-described as “Creationists” or “Intelligent Design Theorists”—as being uniquely hostile to biblically-based commitments. In the first section of the course, we will explore the relevant texts from the Hebrew Bible (esp. Genesis) and the historical diversity of its interpreters. In the second section of the class, we will read Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species* and highlight the ways its “one long argument” has been seen as buttressing, damaging or indifferent to theological claims about the history of life on earth. In the final section of the course, we will challenge the notion that the continuing “evolution-creation struggle” is about *epistemology*, or *evidence*, or *rationality* by emphasizing the fundamentally *political* nature of the controversy.

*Meets Liberal studies history requirement.*

**REL3170      Religious Ethics**

**Multiple 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      Bible & Environmental Concern**

**Dr. DuBois**

This course considers themes and problems in modern ethics. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. May be repeated within the same semester.

**REL 3293      Christianity after NT Late Antiquity**

**Dr. Falcasantos**

This course focuses on selected topics dealing with biblical writings in their ancient historical contexts and/or their interpretation in later period. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. Prerequisites: REL2210 and REL2240 or instructor permission.

**REL 3293      Jesus in History & Tradition**

**Dr. Kelley**

This course focuses on selected topics dealing with biblical writings in their ancient historical contexts and/or their interpretation in later period. *Meets LS cultural practice.*

**REL3340-1 The Buddhist Tradition**

**Dr. Yu**

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.*

**REL3363 Islamic Traditions**

**Amanda Propst**

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).*

**REL3431 Critics of Religion**

**Lauren Lovestone**

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 LS Ethics & Social Responsibility.*

**REL3505 Christian Tradition**

**Dr. Dupuigrenet**

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

**REL3541 American Protestant Thought**

**Andrew Gardner**

This course traces the historical development of American protestant thought by examining the writings of influential American protestant thinkers from different time periods, and by considering the social and intellectual forces that influenced their differing conceptions of Christian life. *Meets LS Scholarship in Practice & Cultural Practice.*

**REL3607 The Jewish Tradition**

**Dr. Kavka**

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).*

**REL3935      Demons & Mythology of Evil**

**Dr. Cuevas**

This course focuses on selected topics and themes in the academic study of Buddhism. The course may explore key subjects and theories in Buddhist studies, including philosophy, history, sociology, anthropology, literature, and art history intended to introduce students to the diversity of Buddhist traditions throughout Asia, Europe, and North America and to help them develop critical skills necessary for evaluating a variety of scholarly approaches to the subject. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. May be repeated within the same semester. *Meets LS Cultural Practice and Diversity: Cross Cultural Studies.*

**REL4044      What is Religion?**

**Dr. 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      Ethnographic Field Methods**

**Dr. Hellweg**

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      Pilgrimage**

**Dr. Falcasantos**

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      Biblical Studies: Bible as Book      Dr. Dupuigrenet**

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. Instructor permission required.

**REL4290      Early Jewish-Christian Relations      Dr. 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. Instructor permission required.

**REL4290      Race Inequality in Biblical World      Dr. Kelley**

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. Instructor permission required.

**REL4304      Islamic Sectarianism      Dr. Gaiser**

This course studies problems and issues in the history of religions. Topics vary. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

**REL4304      Pure Land Buddhism      Dr. Yu**

This course studies problems and issues in the history of religions. Topics vary. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

**REL4304      UG History of Religions      Dr. McVicar**

This course studies problems and issues in the history of religions. Topics vary. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

**REL 4359      SP Topics Asian Rel: Buddhism & Magic      Dr. 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.

**REL 4359      SP Topics Asian Rel: Japanese Ghosts & Monsters      Dr. Buhrman**

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.

**REL 4359      SP Topics Asian Rel:      Dr. Cecil**

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.

**REL4491      Freedom of Conscience**

**Dr. Twiss**

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

**REL4905      Directed Individual Study**

This course consists of supervised reading and research on selected topics.

**REL4932      Honors Work Religion**

In this course, students completing this program are awarded their diploma "With Honors in Religion." Interested students should consult with the advisor of the program.

**GRADUATE COURSES**

**RLG5035      Introduction Study Religion**

**Dr. Kelsay**

This course is a graduate introduction to the history, present status, principal issues, and methodologies in the academic study of religion.

**RLG5195      Ethnographical Field Methods**

**Dr. Falcasantos & Dr. Hellweg**

**RLG5204      Classical Hebrew Texts**

**Dr. Levenson**

**RLG5297      SEM: Biblical Studies: Bible as Book**

**Dr. Dupuigrenet**

**RLG5297      SEM: Biblical Studies: Early Jewish-Xtian Relations**

**Dr. Levenson**

**RLG5305      SEM: History of Rel: Pure Land Buddhism**

**Dr. Yu**

**RLG5305      SEM: Islamic Sectarianism**

**Dr. Gaiser**

**RLG5305      History of Religions: Spying and U.S. Religion**

**Dr. McVicar**

**RLG5318      Classical Chinese**

**Dr. Yu**

**RLG5346      Japanese Ghosts & Monsters**

**Dr. Buhrman**

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.

**RLG5346      Buddhism & Magic**

**Dr. Cuevas**

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     SEM: Asian Religions: Pilgrimage in South Asia     Dr. Cecil**

**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 Liberty as a Right     Dr. Twiss**

**RLG5906     Directed Individual Study**

**RLG5937-1     Special Topics: ARH Colloquium     Dr. Corrigan**

This course consists of special topics in religious studies.

**RLG5937-2     Special Topics: REP Colloquium     Dr. Twiss**

This course consists of special topics in religious studies.

**RLG5940 Supervised Teaching**

A maximum of three hours may apply to the master's degree.

**RLG5971 Master's Thesis**

A maximum of six semester hours is required.

**RLG6176     SEM: Ethics/Politics: Religion, Science, & Conflict     Dr. Kelsay**

**RLG6298     SEM: Hebrew Bible Proseminar     Dr. Goff**

This course is a seminar in scriptures and interpretation that encourages research in selected aspects of the interpretation of sacred texts in a particular tradition or traditions.

**RLG6498     SEM Religious Thought: Rel & Space in America     Dr. Corrigan**

This course is a seminar in religious thought designed to encourage research in the area of religious thought through inquiry into specific themes, persons, or movements.

**RLG6904     Readings for Exams     Multiple**

This course is designed for graduate students who have completed all of their required coursework and are preparing for their examinations.

**RLG6980     Dissertation     Multiple**

**RLG8964     Doctoral Exams     Multiple**