

FALL 2019 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.

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

Dr. Goff & 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 Intro to the New Testament

Dr. Kelley & 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).*

REL3112 Religion and Fantasy

Dr. Day

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. DuBois

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

Dr. Wells & Staff

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

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 Topics: Buddhist Ethics

Dr. Yu

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.

REL3171 Topics: Hum Rights/Crimes Against Hum

Dr. Twiss

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.

REL3171 Topics in Ethics

Dr. Day & Staff

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.

REL3340-1 TheBuddhist 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.*

REL3363 Islamic Traditions

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

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

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. 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 Topics in Buddhism

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.*

REL3936 Special Topics: Religion, Prisons & Abolition

May be repeated to a minimum of nine semester hours.

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).*

REL4290 Biblical Studies: Gospels of Matthew & Mark

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.

REL4304-01 Religion & Technology

Dr. Buhrman

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 -02 Islam in Spain & N Africa

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.

REL4304-04 Disaster & Apocalypse

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: Buddhist Tantra

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: Chinese Buddhism

Dr. Yu

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 Religious Thought

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

REL4510 XTY After the New Testament

This course covers major developments in the history and theology of Christianity in the first three centuries of the Common Era.

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. Kavka

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

RLG5195 Place, Space & Religion

Dr. Cecil

RLG5204 Classical Hebrew Texts

Dr. Levenson

RLG5297 SEM: Biblical Studies:

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RLG5305-01 SEM: History of Rel: Religion & Technology

Dr. Buhrman

RLG5305-02 SEM: Islam in Spain & N. Africa

Dr. Gaiser

RLG5305-04 SEM: Idea of Black Religion

Dr. McVicar

RLG5318 Classical Chinese

RLG5354-01 SEM: Buddhist Tantra

Dr. Cuevas

RLG5354-02 SEM: Chinese Buddhism

Dr. Yu

RLG5356 Readings in Tibetan

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

Dr. Kalbian

RLG5516 XTY After the New Testament

RLG5906 Directed Individual Study

RLG5937-1 Special Topics: REP Colloquium

Dr. Twiss

This course consists of special topics in religious studies.

RLG5937-2 Special Topics: ARH Colloquium

Dr. Corrigan

This course consists of special topics in religious studies.

RLG5971 Master's Thesis

A maximum of six semester hours is required.

RLG6176 SEM: Ethics/Politics:

RLG6298 SEM: Scriptures

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 in Colonial Americas

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

RLG8985 Dissertation Defense