

FALL 2020 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.

IDS2420 Heretics, Rebels & 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 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 gain knowledge and critical thinking skills that assists them as they navigate a range of perspectives and trajectories related to the world's many different Muslims.

IDS3317 Demons/The Antichrist/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 are examined in their historical contexts. Traditions regarding Satan and other evil personages are traced historically so that students have a sense of how an understanding of these figures changed over time.

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

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 Intro 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 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).*

REL2315 Religions of South 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.

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).*

REL3128-01 Topics in American Religion

Dr. McTighe

May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

REL3128-02 Topics in American Religion

Dr. Drake

May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

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

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).*

REL 3152 Religion, Race and Ethnicity

Staff

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

REL3170 Religious Ethics

Dr. Kalbian & 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).*

REL3171-01 Topics in Ethics

Dr. Kelsay

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.

REL3171-02 Topics in Ethics

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.

REL3171-03 Topics in Ethics

Dr. Day

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.

REL3293 Topics: Biblical Studies

Dr. Kelley

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.

REL3340 The Buddhist Tradition

Dr. Yu & 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.*

REL3351 Japanese Religions

Dr. 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.

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).*

REL3367 Islam to Modern World

Dr. Hefner

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 posed by "Westernization" and "modernization?" Moreover, it explores the relatively new phenomenon of Islam in America.

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

Staff

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).*

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).*

REL4190-01 SEM: Religion & Culture

Dr. Kelsay

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: Religion & Culture

Dr. Cecil

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.

REL4304-01 SEM: History of Religions

Dr. Hazard

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 SEM: History of Religions

Dr. Hefner

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.

REL4304-03 SEM: History of Religions

Dr. Drake

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 SEM: History of Religions

Dr. McTighe

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 4359-01 SP Topics Asian Rel: Asia Monks & Rulers

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 4359-02 SP Topics Asian Rel: Body, Healing, Asceticism

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.

REL4366 SEM: Shi'ite Islam

Dr. 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.

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.

RLG5195-01 SEM: Religion & Culture

Dr. Kelsay

RLG5195-02 SEM: Religion & Culture

Dr. Cecil

RLG5195-03 SEM: Religion & Culture

Dr. Corrigan

RLG5204 Classical Hebrew Texts

Dr. Levenson

RLG5297 SEM: Biblical Studies:

Dr. Goff

RLG5305-01 SEM: History of Rel

Dr. Drake

RLG5305-02 SEM: History of Rel

Dr. McTighe

RLG5305-04 SEM: History of Rel

Dr. Hefner

RLG5305-05 SEM: History of Rel

Drs. Dupuigrenet & Hazard

RLG5318 Classical Chinese

Dr. Yu

03/24/2020

RLG5354-01	SEM: SP Topics Asian Rel	Dr. Buhrman
RLG5354-02	SEM: SP Topics Asian Rel	Dr. Yu
RLG5367	SEM: Shi'ite Islam	Dr. Gaiser
RLG5497	SEM: Religious Thought	Drs. Kelsay & Twiss
RLG5516	XTY After the New Testament	
RLG5906	Directed Individual Study	
RLG5937-1	Special Topics: REP Colloquium This course consists of special topics in religious studies.	Dr. Twiss
RLG5937-2	Special Topics: ARH Colloquium This course consists of special topics in religious studies.	Dr. Corrigan
RLG5971	Master's Thesis A maximum of six semester hours is required.	
RLG6904	Readings for Exams This course is designed for graduate students who have completed all of their required coursework and are preparing for their examinations.	Multiple
RLG6980	Dissertation	Multiple
RLG8964	Doctoral Exams	Multiple