

## FALL 2021 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.

**IDS3197 Responses to the Holocaust** **Dr. Kavka**  
This course examines various responses – literary, theological, and cinematic – to the attempted destruction of the Jews of Europe during World War II. *Meets LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and State mandated writing requirements (W). E-series.*

**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).*

**REL3112 Religion and Fantasy**

**Rebekah Gordon**

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) and State mandated writing (W) requirements.*

**REL3128-01 Topics in American Religion**

**Dr. Drake**

May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

**REL3142 Religion, the Self & Society**

**Dr. Day**

This course covers interpretation of religious phenomena by the major social theorists of modern times. The course is divided into two parts: the psychology of religion and the sociology of religion. *Meets LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL).*

**REL 3145 Gender and Religion**

**Dr. McTighe & 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), Diversity in cross cultural studies (DIV-XCC), and State mandated writing (W) requirements.*

**REL 3152 Religion, Race and Ethnicity**

**Staff**

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

**REL 3160 Religion and Science**

**Dr. Buhrman**

This course provides an historical and philosophical analysis of major questions in the relationship between religion and science. *Meets Liberal Studies: history requirement.*

**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), Diversity in cross cultural studies (DIV-XCC), and State mandated writing (W) requirements.*

**REL3171-01 Topics in Ethics**

**Dr. Day**

Topic: Marxism. 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**

Topic: Islamic Ethics. 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**

**Staff**

Topic: Religion and Law. 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.

**REL3224 The Hebrew Prophets**

**Dr. Goff**

This course analyzes the prophetic books of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the twelve minor prophets. The course examines the role of prophecy elsewhere in the

Hebrew Bible (as in the Elijah stories) and situates the biblical prophets within the broader context of prophecy, as a religious and social phenomenon in the ancient Near East. *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.*

**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 Syeda Butool**

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 Drs. Hellweg & Dr. Williams**

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.*

**REL3484 New Religious Movements Dr. McVicar**

This course studies the major beliefs, practices, and institutional forms of Christianity in historical perspective. *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL), Diversity in Western Experience (DIV-YWE) and Upper-Division writing requirements.*

**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).*

**REL3936-02 Special Topics in Religion Drs. Kelley & Levenson**

Topic: Slavery and Race in Antiquity. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL).*

**REL4044 What is Religion? Dr. Hazard**

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. Williams**

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.

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

**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.

**REL4491-01 SEM: Religious Thought**

**Dr. McVicar**

US Conservatism & Religious Rights. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. *Prerequisite: instructor permission required.*

**REL4491-02 SEM: Religious Thought**

**Dr. McTighe**

Scholarship and Practice of Abolition. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. *Prerequisite: instructor permission required.*

**REL4510 Christianity after the New Testament**

**Dr. Kelley**

This course covers major developments in the history and theology of Christianity in the first three centuries of the Common Era. *Prerequisite: REL2240 or instructor permission.*

**REL4905 Directed Individual Study**

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

3/25/2021

**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. Hellweg**

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. Williams**

Topic: Research Methods.

### **RLG5204 Classical Hebrew Texts**

**Dr. Levenson**

This course consists of intensive work on specific religious texts in classical Hebrew (ancient or medieval). Choice of texts will vary by semester. *Prerequisite: HEB2230 or instructor permission.*

### **RLG5305-01 SEM: History of Rel**

**Dr. Hazard**

Topic: American Religion: 1791-1861.

### **RLG5318 Classical 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. *Prerequisite: one year of Chinese language or familiarity with written Chinese.*

### **RLG5354-01 SEM: SP Topics Asian Rel**

**Dr. Yu**

Topic: Chinese Religions. 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.

### **RLG5354-02 SEM: SP Topics Asian Rel**

**Dr. Cuevas**

Topics: Buddhist Historiography. 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.

### **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. *Prerequisite: basic reading knowledge of classical Tibetan. Instructor permission required.*

### **RLG5497-01 SEM: Religious Thought**

**Drs. Kelsay & Twiss**

Topic: Just War & Military Ethics.

### **RLG5497-02 SEM: Religious Thought**

**Dr. McVicar**

Topic: US Conservatism & Religious Rights.

**RLG5516 Christianity after the New Testament**

**Dr. Kelley**

This course covers major developments in the history and theology of Christianity in the first three centuries of the Common Era. *Prerequisite: REL2240 or instructor permission.*

**RLG5906 Directed Individual Study**

**RLG5937-1 Special Topics: REP Colloquium**

**Dr. McVicar**

This course consists of special topics in religious studies.

**RLG5937-2 Special Topics: Slavery & Race in Antiquity**

**Drs. Kelley & Levenson**

This course consists of special topics in religious studies.

**RLG5937-3 Special Topics: REP Colloquium**

**Dr. Twiss**

This course consists of special topics in religious studies.

**RLG5971 Master's Thesis**

A maximum of six semester hours is required.

**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**

**Dr. Kelsay**