

SPRING 2021 RELIGION COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

HBR1103 Beginning Hebrew II

Prof. Levenson

A continuation of HBR 1102 or 1120, completing the study of Biblical Hebrew grammar and reading closely four or five chapters from the Hebrew Bible (for example, Ruth, Jonah, or Genesis 1-4). Prerequisite: One semester of either Biblical or Modern Hebrew or permission of the instructor. Note that students may take both HBR 1103 and HBR 1121 (Modern Hebrew II). *Meets the foreign language requirement for the BA degree. No language laboratory required.*

IDS2420 Heretics, Rebels and Militants

Prof Gaiser

This 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. *History, Writing and X cross-cultural.*

IDS3197 Responses to the Holocaust

Prof Kavka

This course examines various responses - literary, theological, and cinematic - to the attempted destruction of the Jews of Europe during World War II. *Humanities & Cultural Practices, and Writing.*

REL1300 Introduction to World Religions

Prof 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

Prof. Corrigan, Hazard & 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

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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 **Prof. 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).*

REL2350 Religions of E. Asia **Prof. Buhrman**
This course is an introduction to the history, thought, and practice of religion in China, Korea, and Japan. Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, and popular religious traditions from ancient through modern times are covered. *Meets Humanities and Cultural Practices, X (Cross-Cultural).*

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).*

REL3142 Religion, the Self, and Society **Prof. 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.

REL3145 Gender and Religion **Prof. McTighe, Williams & 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 **Multiple**
This course examines the relation between race, ethnicity and religious beliefs in a cross-cultural context.

REL3170 Religious Ethics **Multiple**
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 in Ethics **Multiple**
This course considers themes and problems in modern ethics. The class format will include lecture, discussion, and film. *Meets Liberal Studies: Ethics and Social Responsibility (ETH/SR).*

REL3180 Religion & Bioethics **Prof. Kalbian**

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The course offers an introduction to theoretical and practical issues in bioethics from the perspective of a variety of religious and secular positions.

REL 3293 Topics in Biblical Studies

Prof. Goff

This course focuses on selected topics dealing with biblical writings in their ancient historical contexts and/or their interpretation in later period. *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL).*

REL3337 Hindu Goddess, Women

Prof. Cecil

This course studies female power in Hindu cosmology, mythology, and society. A study of Hindu goddesses, women, and female symbolism and the multifaceted relationship among them. *Humanities and Cultural Practice and X cross-cultural.*

REL3340 The Buddhist Tradition

Profs. Cuevas & 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

Staff

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); and the development of the Muslim community and its principal institutions (schools of thought, law, theology, cultural life, and mystical traditions).

REL3367 Islamic Traditions II: Islam up to the Modern World

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

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.

REL3505 Christian Tradition

Prof. Dupuigrenet & Staff

This course explores Christianity from its origins and growth in the Mediterranean world, through the Reformations, and into the present day. Students will gain a panoramic view of global Christianities and the ability to apply a range of approaches in studying its growth and diversification. This will facilitate a wide discussion of its contents, context, and contemporary implications. *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL).*

REL3936 Special Topics: Religion

Profs. Kelley & Durdin

Beyond mainstream ritual practices, a range of emotional, embodied, mystical activities proliferates—from spirit possession, trance, and shamanism to ecstatic healing and prophecy. While public opinion and popular media may deride these practices, they incarnate the deepest longings for and grandest visions of the divine and often anchor the same theologies that condemn them. This course explores such forms of mysticism around the world—in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Our aim is to understand the logics behind these practices that make them sources of power for practitioners. Because women, the poor, marginal men, sexual minorities, and transgendered persons often play key roles in such movements, issues of politics, economics, gender, and sexuality take center stage. Due to the many ways of explaining mystical experiences, we will compare neurological, psychological, psychiatric, sociological, and theological approaches. The course will take an ethnographic approach, one that sees transcendent experience as immanent in cultural practice.

REL4044 What is Religion?

Prof. Hellweg

This course is a survey of how theorists in the modern era have answered questions about the original essence, and function of religion, as well as an examination of the methods by which religion is studied in a scholarly environment. *Meets Upper-Division Scholarship in Practice (UD-SIP) and Oral Communication Competency (OCC).*

REL4190 SEM:

Prof. Twiss & 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.

REL4215 Judaism/Braeco-Roman

Prof. 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.

REL4304 SEM:

Profs. Hazard & 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.

REL4359 SP Topics Asian Rel:

Prof. 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.

REL4905 Directed Individual Study

REL4914 Latin Religious Text

Prof. Levenson

This course consists of readings in Latin of selected religious texts. Topics vary. A basic knowledge of Latin grammar is presumed. May be repeated to a maximum of twelve semester hours.

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REL4932 Honors Work Religion Prof. Twiss

GRADUATE COURSES

RLG5195-1 SEM: Religion & Culture Prof. Williams

RLG5195-2 SEM: Religion & Culture Prof. Kelsay

RLG5204 Classical Hebrew Texts: Prof. Levenson

RLG5292 Near Eastern Language Prof. Levenson

RLG5305 SEM: History of Rel: Multiple

RLG5318 Class Chinese Texts Prof. Yu

RLG5354 SP Topics Asian Rel: Prof. Yu

RLG5356 Readings in Tibetan Religious Texts Prof. 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.

RLG5612 Judaism/Greco-Roman Prof. Levenson

RLG5906 Directed Individual Study

RLG5911 Supervised Research

RLG5915 Sanskrit Texts Prof. Cecil

RLG5937 Special Topics: ARH Colloquium Multiple

RLG5971 Master's Thesis

RLG6298 SEM: Scriptures/Inte Prof. Goff

RLG6498 SEM Relig. Thought: Prof. Corrigan

RLG6904 Readings for Exams Multiple

RLG6980 Dissertation Multiple

RLG8964 Doctoral Exams Multiple

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RLG8976 Master's Thesis Defense

RLG8985 Dissertation Defense