

FALL 2022 RELIGION COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

HBR2222 Intermediate Hebrew

Dr. Goff

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.*

IDH3140 Freedom & Religion: Muslim & Liberal Perspectives

Dr. Moret

This course addresses issues such as free speech, sexual mores and identity, and compulsory military service. The course examines the ways that Muslims and liberals negotiate the notions of freedom and religion. *Prerequisite: Admission to the Honors Program.*

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

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

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. development of early Christianity. *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.

REL3112 Religion and Fantasy

America Wolff

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.*

REL3128-02 Topics in American Religion Abolition

Dr. McTighe

May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

REL3128-03 Topics in American Religion Xianity, Art & Materiality

Dr. Hazard

May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

REL3138-01 Religious Intolerance in America

Dr. Corrigan

This course examines the long and ongoing history of religious intolerance in America with respect to a wide range of religious groups and agnostic/atheistic persons, and with an eye to the ways in which religious intolerance intersects with race, ethnicity, class, and gender.

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

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

Dr. Drake & 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

Dr. Lane & 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. Kelsay

Topic: Courage in Ethics & Film. 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

Dr. Zhang

Topic: East and West. 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: Mid East & N Africa Politics. 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.

REL3171-04 Topics in Ethics

Dr. Day

Topic: Honors: Virtues of Sabotage. 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.

REL3171-05 Topics in Ethics

Dr. Cole

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.

REL3171-06 Topics in Ethics

Dr. Cecil

Topic: Religion and Ecology. 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.

REL3171-07 Topics in Ethics

Dr. Reid

Topic: Religion and Food. 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.

REL3180 Religion & Bioethics

Staff

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

REL3293-01 Topics in Biblical Studies

Dr. Durdin

Topic: Religion in Greece & Rome. 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.

REL3293-02 Topics in Biblical Studies

Dr. Kelley

Topic: Ancient Forgeries. 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.

REL3337 Goddesses, Women, and Power in Hinduism

Dr. 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.

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.

REL3358 Tibetan/Himalayan Religions

Staff

This course is an historical and thematic survey of the religions of Tibet and the Himalayas, including Nepal, Bhutan, and Sikkim. The course emphasizes significant facets of this region's rich cultural heritage, including religion, literature, art, and politics.

REL3363 Islamic Traditions

Dr. Gaiser

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).*

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. Dupuignenet

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

REL3935 Topics in Buddhism

Dr. Yu

Topic: Buddhist Ethics. 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.

REL4044 What is Religion? What is Religious Studies?

Dr. McVicar

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

Topic: Researching Religion. 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. Kelsay

Topic: Osama bin Laden. 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. Gaiser

Topic: Qur’anic Studies. 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. Cuevas

Topic: Buddhist Biography. 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 4359-01 SP Topics Asian Rel: Asia Monks & Rulers

Dr. Yu

Topic: Pure Land Buddhism. 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. Zhang

Topic: Comparative Religious Ethics. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. *Prerequisite: instructor permission required.*

REL4905 Directed Individual Study

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

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: Researching Religion.

RLG5195-02 SEM: Religion & Culture

Dr. Kelsay

Topic: Osama bin Laden.

RLG5195-01 SEM: Religion & Culture

Drs. Drake & McTighe

Topic: Religion, Race, & Health.

RLG5204 Classical Hebrew Texts

Dr. Goff

Topic: Intermediate Hebrew. 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.*

RLG5297-01 SEM: Biblical Studies

Dr. Kelley

Topic: Ancient Forgeries.

RLG5297-02 SEM: Biblical Studies

Dr. Goff

Topic: Dead Sea Scrolls.

RLG5305-01 SEM: History of Rel

Dr. Gaiser

Topic: Qur'anic Studies.

RLG5305-02 SEM: History of Rel

Dr. Durdin

Topic: Religion in Greece & Rome.

RLG5305-03 SEM: History of Rel
Topic: American Religion 1791-1861.

Dr. Hazard

RLG5318 Classical Chinese Religious 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 Religions

Dr. Cuevas

Topic: Buddhist Biography. 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. Yu

Topic: Pure Land Buddhism. 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.

RLG5497 SEM: Religious Thought

Dr. Zhang

Topic: Comparative Religious Ethics.

RLG5906 Directed Individual Study

RLG5937-1 Special Topics:

Dr. Kelsay

This course consists of special topics in religious studies.

RLG5937-2 Special Topics:

Dr. McVicar

This course consists of special topics in religious studies.

RLG5937-3 Special Topics:

Dr. Hellweg

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

04/06/22

RLG8964	Doctoral Exams	Multiple
RLG8985	Dissertation Defense	
SRK5237	Int Read in Sanskrit II	Dr. Cecil