REL127 Catholicism and Ideology in the Hispanic World
Catholicism has played a number of roles in the cultural politics of the Hispanic world, appearing as a place of national being, resistance, and conservatism. In this course, we will read a number of texts from different periods and national contexts with a view to understanding how writers and intellectuals from Spain, Latin America, and the U.S. engage with Catholicism and the historical conditions under which they do so.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-LAST
Identical With: FIST127, LAST127
Prereq: None

REL151 Introduction to the Study of Religion
This course will examine the many ways in which religion is understood and practiced by a variety of communities as well as the ways it is critically engaged and understood by scholars in the field of religious studies. The three divisions of the curriculum of the Department of Religion (religious traditions, thematic approaches, and method and theory) will be represented in the course's examples and approaches. Topics covered in this course include religious violence and conflict, the significance of myth and narrative in providing schemes of meaning, the production of community solidarity and difference through rituals, the construction and transmission of traditions through texts and objects, and religious conflict.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

REL201 Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
The Hebrew Bible, also known as the Old Testament, is a diverse collection of writings spanning a millennium in time and reflecting the societies, beliefs, ideas, and institutions of the people of ancient Israel. This course introduces the Hebrew Bible in its complex historical, religious, and literary dimensions and seeks to introduce students to the variety of approaches modern readers bring to a reading of the Bible. We will combine close readings of the biblical texts in translation with contemporary approaches to the Hebrew Bible and its context in the ancient Near East.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI, HA-RELI, HA-RELI, HA-RELI
Identical With: MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203, CIST244, MDST203
Prereq: None

REL202 Jews & Judaism: Race, Religion, Culture
What is a Jew? Are Jews white? Must a Jew believe in God? What is at stake when defining someone as a Jew? Using sources ranging from the Hebrew Bible to the television show Transparent, this course examines various facets of Jewish life, paying special attention to contesting definitions of Jewishness as race, religion, and culture. Building on a chronological discussion of Jewish history, we will ask theoretical questions such as the relation between gender and biblical interpretation, the relevance of religious law in contemporary society, and the challenges of diasporic thinking to national sovereignty.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

REL204 Judaisms
This course will examine varieties of Jewishness in its contemporary and historical forms. We will focus on topics and texts that provide a focal point from which to discuss significant religious, historical, and cultural components of Jewish traditions. The course texts draw on several types of literature, including philosophical and theological writings about God, Yiddish short stories, American graphic novels, ethnographic studies of Jewish communities, personal narratives, and critical histories. This wide array of texts is intended to introduce students to Jewish history, thought, practice, stories, and identities from different gendered, geographical, and cultural perspectives.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: CIST241, CIST241, CIST241, CIST241, CIST241, CIST241, CIST241
Prereq: None

REL205 Hindu Lives
Through fiction, autobiography, biography, art, a comic book, a city, and a village, this course explores some of the myriad understandings of what it is to be Hindu. In an effort to introduce students to Hindu culture and religion, a number of approaches shall engage the questions, What is Hindu dharmam? And What is it to be Hindu? The class will also investigate the issue of “Hinduism,” a term created in the 19th century to identify a Hindu “religion” rejected by many 21st-century Hindus. This issue expresses just one of many arising from the Indian experience of contact with the West. Overall, the course immerses students in the lives of Hindu individuals and communities so that we, as a class, can draw our conclusions about Hindu practices and meanings in different political, mythic, social, and cultural contexts.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

REL206 Neo-Confucian Chinese Philosophy
This course will present critical discussion of issues central to Neo-Confucian (11th-19th centuries CE) philosophers that in many cases are still central in Chinese thought today. Topics will include the relation between knowledge and action, Neo-Confucian conceptions of idealism and materialism, and the connection between Neo-Confucian philosophy and spirituality.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-PHIL, HA-PHIL, HA-PHIL, HA-PHIL
Identical With: PHIL259, CEAS256, PHIL259, CEAS256, PHIL259, CEAS256, PHIL259
Prereq: None

REL207 Buddhist Psychology in Modern Perspective
The Buddhist tradition preserves a sophisticated model of mind and behavior in the early literature of the Pali Canon, along with a profound set of practices for transforming human experience from unhealthy to healthy states. Much of this lore is of great interest to modern psychologists, scientific researchers, and philosophers of mind, and is having an impact on a wide range of contemporary
fields. This course begins with a survey of the core ideas of Buddhist psychology as they are presented in classical texts, then goes on to explore how these ideas are influencing the work of mental health professionals, cognitive scientists, social scientists, and others.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI208 The Buddha: His Life and Teachings
Few human beings have had as much impact upon the world as Siddhartha Gautama Shakyamuni, known to us as the Buddha. This course looks closely at the world he inhabited, the ways he transformed it, and the body of work left behind after a lifetime of teaching. Beginning with challenges into interpretation and literary sources, the course consists of equal parts historical and doctrinal investigation of the classical texts of the Pali Canon. We seek to get a sense of both the man behind the myth and the meaning of his message, while appreciating in the process the extent to which all such investigation is shaped by one’s own cultural and historical viewpoints.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI209 Unthinkable Suffering: The Problem of "the Problem of Evil
This course will explore the difficulties of reconciling the existence of evil and suffering in the world with the existence of an omnipotent and benevolent God. How have Christian philosophers and theologians sought to justify God by redefining, relativizing, or even explaining away evil? We will explore traditional efforts to set forth "theodicies," or justifications of God's goodness, as well as the inadequacy of these schemes in the face of the horrors of the 20th century. How is it possible to account for evil that surpasses all understanding or suffering that is too great to explain away? How, in other words, can thinking think the unthinkable?

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI, HA-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI210 Thinking with Demons
As the perennial bad boy of Judeo-Christian tradition, the devil has exerted an enduring fascination on Western culture for two millennia and counting. He and his kind remain so compelling in part because they tap into both our most profound anxieties and our deepest desires. This course will explore the myriad of ways humans across the centuries have found demons useful to "think with," employing them to everything from explaining the existence of evil to justifying violence against others. It will also introduce you to the conventions of college-level writing, and to the perspectives of different academic disciplines, which the many aspects of the demonic provide an ideal opportunity to explore. The first half of the course will focus on the devil and demons in ancient and medieval culture, emphasizing their critical impact on the formation of medieval Christianity. The second half will address the role of the demonic in European culture after 1500, including the great witch trials and the fears of the diabolic that emerged as part of colonial encounter, before considering the way ideas of the devil continue to function in contemporary society.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST

RELI211 Religion, Peace, and Violence: Muslim, Hindu, Christian, and Secular Politics
Why did Martin Luther King, Jr believe that Christianity could cure American racism, while Malcolm X thought the religion promoted it? If Islam is a religion of peace as advocated by many Muslims, how do we understand the so-called Islamic State’s reign of terror? How has Hindu nationalism led to violence against Muslims and Christians if Mahatma Gandhi demonstrated the essential tolerance of Hindu traditions? Secularists often claim that removing religion from politics creates a more peaceful society, yet the most violent states in the past century have been科技股份 secessionary ones.

This seminar looks to explore the complexities of present-day religions and politics by investigating specific case studies in Egypt, India, France, and the U.S. While developing a better understanding of Muslim, Christian, Hindu, and secular traditions (no background in these necessary), we will develop analytic tools to critically comprehend the political dynamics of modern religions and the religious dynamics of contemporary politics.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI212 Introduction to the New Testament
The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to those writings of the earliest Christians that came to be included in the New Testament. These writings will be examined critically with respect to their social-historical origin, religious content, and place within the development of early Christianities. Interpreting early Christian texts constitutes the most important task in the study of the New Testament. We will, therefore, focus on a close reading of the New Testament in light of historical situations and social contexts in the Greco-Roman world, having as one of the chief aims of the course the acquisition of critical skills in reading and understanding the New Testament.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI, HA-RELI
Identical With: MDST214, MDST214, MDST214, MDST214
Prereq: None

RELI213 Refugees & Exiles: Religion in the Diaspora
Recent years have seen the on-going tragic refugee crisis, with millions of people being displaced because of war and ecological disasters. That this crisis also has religious overtones is evident by the so-called “Muslim Ban” in the United States or the rhetoric used by right wing leaders across Europe. This course deals with the meaning of refugee, exile, and diaspora through three perspectives: philosophical, historical, and literary. A variety of case studies—including the contemporary refugee crises in the Middle East, the black transatlantic, and the destruction of the temple in the Hebrew Bible—will raise for us various questions: What does it mean to be violently forced to leave one’s home? How is it possible to make sense of such a tragedy? What ethical responsibility do we have toward refugees? What creative power can diaspora muster to the rescue of culture? Assignments in this course will be based on an analysis of a refugee crisis selected by the students.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: CJST214
Prereq: None
RELI214 Buddhism and the Body: Desire, Disgust, and Transcendence
This is a course about the body, and the various ways that Buddhists have constructed, disciplined, despised, and venerated the human body. We will explore the Buddhist body in its various incarnations: the disciplined monastic body of monks and nuns, the hyper-masculine body of the Buddha, the sacred corpses of saints, the body given away in sacrifice, the body as marker of virtue and vice, the sexual body, the body transformed in ritual, and the body as understood in Buddhist medicine. Careful attention to ancient and modern Buddhist writing should enrich our understanding of what it means to inhabit a human body.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: FGSS215, FGSS215, FGSS215, FGSS215
Prereq: None

RELI215 Politics and Piety in Early Christianities
This course is an introduction to the political, social, and religious world of Christianities during the first three centuries of the Common Era. Through discussion sessions, it will explore the controversy between emerging orthodoxy and heresy and its propagandistic impact upon the development of church organizations, interpretations of sexuality and the roles of women, the rise of gnosticism, and the formation of the Christian Bible.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: MDST215, CCIV212, MDST215, CCIV212, MDST215, CCIV212,
MDST215, CCIV212, MDST215, CCIV212, MDST215, CCIV212, MDST215,
CCIV212, MDST215, CCIV212
Prereq: None

RELI216 Secularism: An Introduction
This course traces the idea and ideal of secularism from classic enlightenment texts to its contemporary incarnations: both liberal democratic principles of the separation of church and state as well as state-sponsored atheism in the Soviet Union and China. This is not an examination of secularization as a historical process, but rather secularism as an ideological project, encompassing both secularism as a realpolitik approach to governing multireligious societies, the utopian ideals of secular humanism, and the relationship between secularism and the idea of religious freedom as a universal human right.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI271, REES216, RELI271, REES216, RELI271, REES216,
REES216, RELI271, REES216, RELI271, REES216, RELI271, REES216,
RELI271, REES216, RELI271, REES216, RELI271, REES216, RELI271,
REES216, RELI271, REES216
Prereq: None

RELI217 Jewish Graphic Novels
This course will explore issues in Judaism and the Jewish experience through the medium of the graphic novel. Students will not only gain proficiency in critically reading graphic novels and sequential art, they will also gain a grasp on some of the major issues in Jewish history including (but not limited to) immigration, life in America, the Holocaust, and Israel/Palestine.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI
Identical With: CJST243
Prereq: None

RELI218 From Exile into Paradise: Dante’s "Divine" Comedy
Where will I go after I die? Is there an afterlife, and if so, will I be saved, damned, or something in between? Just as importantly, who has the power to tell me about the Hereafter, and so to shape my actions in this world? The Church? The government? God himself? Or the makers of art and literature? These are the questions that the Comedy poses and they remain highly relevant today. Dante’s remarkable poem can be read in many ways: as religious praise, as historical commentary, as a journey to self-knowledge, and as philosophical discourse. Our aim is to gain understanding of how these different modes of writing come together both in Dante’s time as well as in the critical reception of the poem.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN, HA-RLAN
Identical With: FIST226, ITAL226, COL234, MDST226, FIST226, ITAL226, COL234,
MDST226, FIST226, ITAL226, COL234, FIST226, ITAL226, COL234, FIST226,
ITAL226, COL234, MDST226, FIST226, ITAL226, COL234, MDST226, FIST226,
ITAL226, COL234, FIST226, ITAL226, COL234, FIST226, ITAL226, COL234,
MDST226, FIST226, ITAL226, COL234, MDST226, FIST226, ITAL226, COL234,
FIST226, ITAL226, COL234, FIST226, ITAL226, COL234, MDST226, FIST226,
ITAL226, COL234, FIST226, ITAL226, COL234, MDST226, FIST226, ITAL226,
COL234
Prereq: None

RELI220 Modern Christian Thought
This course will provide an introduction to the field of Christian thought by exploring the relationship between conceptions of God and conceptions of selfhood, from St. Augustine through liberation, feminist, process, and neo-orthodox theologies. How do the ways people think about God reflect, support, or even interrupt the ways they think about the human subject? And what are the politics of thinking in different ways about the relationship between God and humanity?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI, HA-RELI, HA-RELI
Identical With: COL220, COL220, COL220, COL220, COL220, COL220, COL220,
COL220, COL220
Prereq: None

RELI221 Islam and Muslim Cultures
This course provides an introduction to Islam and Muslim societies. It familiarizes students with the basic teachings and practices of Islam and examines commonalities and diversity in how Islam has been and continues to be practiced by Muslims, paying particular attention to peoples and places in South Asia and the Middle East. We further examine colonial and postcolonial relations through which the West and Islamic world have come to be understood as mutually distinct and antithetical to one another and as historical and contemporary forms of global and transnational interrelatedness that belie simplistic binaries and oppositions.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI222 Chinese Buddhist Philosophy
This seminar will focus on three of the key themes in Chinese Buddhist philosophy: interdependence, universal Buddha nature, and emptiness. On each theme, we will read classic scriptural materials, philosophical discussions by Chinese Buddhist thinkers from the 7th-12th centuries, contemporary secondary scholarship, and—in some cases—critical reactions by contemporary Buddhists.
Our goals will be both to understand the Buddhist doctrines and to critically evaluate them as philosophy.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PHI, SBS-PHI, SBS-PHI
Identical With: PHIL322, CEAS322, PHIL322, CEAS322, PHIL322, EAST322, PHIL322, CEAS322, PHIL322, PHIL322, EAST322

RELI224 Hasidism: European Origins and American Identities
This course approaches Hasidism as a significant Jewish movement that began in the 18th century and continues today. The course is structured as two case studies. The first half of the course addresses how Hasidism emerged and the mystical content of Hasidic teachings, and the second half of the course focuses on questions of Jewish authenticity, identity, racialization, gender roles, and civil rights in the United States.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI227 The Jews of the Islamic World from Muhammad to Modernity
The current state of Jewish-Islamic relations is tragically fraught with mutual suspicion and competing historical narratives that are manifest as much in the religious as in the political arena. In the midst of this fractious debate, it is sometimes forgotten that Jews were for centuries a vital presence throughout the Islamic world and contributed in rich and dynamic ways to Islamic civilization right up to contemporary times. This course explores the complex historical relationship of the Jews of the Islamic world from the rise of Islam in the seventh century to the mass exodus of Middle Eastern and North African Jewry from their ancestral communities in modern times.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI228 Classical Chinese Philosophy
Topics in this critical examination of issues debated by the early Confucian, Daoist, and Mohist philosophers will include the nature of normative authority and value, the importance of ritual, and the relation between personal and social goods.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-PHI, HA-PHI, HA-PHI, HA-PHI
Identical With: PHIL205, CEAS261, PHIL205, CEAS261, PHIL205, CEAS261, PHIL205, EAST261, PHIL205, CEAS261, PHIL205, CEAS261, PHIL205, EAST261, PHIL205, CEAS261, PHIL205, CEAS261, PHIL205, CEAS261, PHIL205, EAST261

RELI229 Tibetan Buddhism: from Ancient India to Shangri-La
This seminar will explore both the philosophies and practices of Tibetan Buddhism as well as the ways Tibetan Buddhism has been mythologized by Tibetans and non-Tibetans alike. We will begin with a review of Indian Buddhism, placing particular emphasis on Tantric thought and practices. We will then focus on the subsequent development and core practices of Tibetan Buddhism’s key schools, drawing on careful analyses of histories, myths, biographies, and religious discourses. Finally, we will explore the ways in which Tibet and Tibetan Buddhism has been mythologized in the minds of westerners and others. We will pay special attention to the intersection of these imaginings with contemporary Tibetan nationalist movements to apply our insights to the analysis of present-day realities. Readings will draw from primary Buddhist texts, histories, autobiographies, and scholarly journals, and will be complemented by in-class film screenings.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: CEAS343, CEAS343, CEAS343, EAST343, CEAS343, CEAS343, CEAS343, CEAS343, CEAS343, CEAS343, EAST343

RELI230 Muslim/Western Engagements in Film and Performance
Examining contemporary films and performances by Americans, Britons, Egyptians, Indians, Pakistanis, and Afghans offers the opportunity to challenge the simplistic binaries of West versus Islam upon which popular representations often rely. Themes that will be explored include Muslim emigration, European imperialism and colonialism, religion and secularism in the formation of national identity, terrorism and state violence, representation of gender differences, and the problem of multiple identities. Performances will include a one-woman play, Hip Hop, suli “qawwali” music. Films will include “The Kingdom of God,” “Battle for Algiers,” “Of Gods and Men,” “Baby Doll Night,” “The Beauty Shop of Kabul,” “Restrepo,” “Khuda ke Liye,” “My Name Is Khan,” “Babel,” “AmericanEast,” and “Brick Lane,” plus episodes of “Battlestar Galactica.”

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI232 Religions of China: The Ways and their Power
In this course, we examine the religious worlds of China from antiquity to the present. Not only will we read key works of Chinese philosophy from the Confucian, Daoist, and Buddhist traditions, we will also investigate how these traditions find expression in art and architecture, poetry and prose, and in the lived realities of Chinese history.

In this exploration of Chinese religions, we will pay special attention to the question of what “counts” as religion, to the role of the state in defining and establishing Chinese religions, and to the power of new religious movements to intervene dramatically (and sometimes violently) in Chinese history.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI, HA-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI233 The People of the Book: Jewish Cultures and Jewish Canons
This seminar will explore both the philosophies and practices of Jewish cultures and Jewish canonical literatures have long existed in a mutually reinforcing and creative tension. This course is designed as an introduction to Jewish cultural and religious canonical literature, from biblical antiquity to modern times, through the lens of the religious, political, and social contexts of Jewish history. We will trace the evolution of Jewish literature from its origins in ancient Israel to its reinvention in modern America, paying careful attention to the process of evolution and expansion by which new ideas and changing sensibilities were either integrated with, or broke from, the voices of the past as they responded to the challenges of the present.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
In our study of Jewish mysticism, we will take the core texts of the mystical tradition as our starting point, while paying close attention to alternative forms of creative expression, from poetry and storytelling to music and dance.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI239 Modern Shamanism: Ecstacy and Ancestors in the New Age

The wise and mysterious native shaman has long held a particular fascination for Western scholars of religion, but does this figure even exist? What does it mean to be a practicing shaman today? Beginning with Eliade's definition of "archaic ecstasy," we examine the idea of the shaman, its role in the New Age movement, and the challenges faced by contemporary indigenous shamans, from negotiating international Intellectual Property Rights law to Ayahuasca tourism. Course materials are supplemented by A/V materials from the instructor's fieldwork in Siberia.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: REES282, REES282, REES282, REES282, REES282, REES282
Prereq: None

RELI240 Religion in the Roman Empire

An introduction to the religious practices of ancient Rome, from the Republic to the Empire and its conversion to Christianity. Attention will be given to the gods and their veneration, divination and sacrifice, religion and the family, religion and the state, and official attitudes toward foreign cults.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI242 Buddhism: An Introduction

This course is an introduction to Buddhism in its major historical variations. Using both selected secondary sources and primary texts in translation, we will examine Buddhism as the product of two ongoing and historically situated discourses: the one belonging to scholars of Buddhism, and the other to the tradition itself. The course begins with the mainstream tradition of early India, continues through the Mahayana transformation in South and East Asia, and concludes with a comparative look at the Buddhist traditions of Tibet and Japan and the relevance of these movements for contemporary "Western" Buddhism.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI250 Islamic Movements and Modernities

The so-called Islamic State grabs headlines daily with criminal acts primarily committed against other Muslims, but also against non-Muslims. Its violence has overshadowed even al-Qaeda and the Taliban in media coverage. This seminar will track the development of these groups as well as the many more Islamic movements that reject violence and seek peaceful social change. Indeed, many Muslims object to the name "Islamic State" because they recognize the group as neither Islamic nor a legitimate state.
The seminar examines how specific Muslim communities in the Middle East, South Asia, and the U.S. have engaged the modern conditions of Western imperialism, nationalism, and globalization and shaped their own forms of modernity. It also investigates the increasingly digital, transnational, and intercultural realms of Muslim experiences.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI253 Islamic Civilization: The Classical Age
This course surveys the historical development of Islamic civilization from the time of the Prophet Muhammad to the rise of the "gunpowder empires" of the 16th century. Special emphasis will be placed on the unique cultural forms this civilization developed and the emergence of Islam as a world religion. This course primarily deals with the political, intellectual, and social history of the Muslim peoples of the Middle East and only secondarily with Islam as a system of religious belief.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST231, MDST251
Prereq: None

RELI257 Protestantism: From the Reformation to the Religious Right
This course studies the impact Protestant theology and piety have had on society, culture, politics, and the economy of Western nations. After an introduction to the major strands of the Reformation in Europe (Lutheran, Calvinist, Anabaptist, and Anglican), the course will focus on the English-speaking world, the United States in particular. Topics will include religion in Wesleyan's history, African American Protestantism, liberal Protestantism in the early 20th century, and the rise of fundamentalism, evangelicalism, and Pentecostalism in the late 20th century. The last part of the course will focus on the United States as a nation both highly secularized and highly religious. Particular emphasis will be given to issues of church-state relations, the culture wars, and the political influence of the Religious Right.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST261, AMST261, HIST261, AMST261, HIST261, AMST261, HIST261, AMST261, HIST261, AMST261, HIST261, AMST261, HIST261, AMST261, HIST261, AMST261, HIST261, AMST261, HIST261, AMST261, HIST261, AMST261, HIST261, AMST261, HIST261, AMST261, HIST261, AMST261, HIST261, AMST261
Prereq: None

RELI259 Islam and/in the West
Is there a "clash of civilizations" between Islam and the West? What distinguishes the two and why the conflict? This course, which assumes no familiarity with Islam, explores these questions and the assumptions underlying them. Through a historical and thematic exploration, we will delve into the notions of difference and the interests these have served, as well as the cultural, religious, and political dimensions of interaction at specific historical moments. These will include Arab imperialism, the Crusades, the Spanish Reconquista, European imperialism, Zionism, Islamist revivalism, Western Muslims, and the War Against Terror.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI261 Jewish History: From Biblical Israel to Diaspora Jews
The survey course on the history of Jews will cover the long period from biblical times to 16th century, a period during which Judaism, Christianity, and Islam formed, shaping the foundation of mutual attitudes among these groups for centuries to come. The course will examine transformations of identity from biblical Israelites to Jews living among Christians and Muslims. We will discuss stereotypes and presuppositions of Jewish life and history, including what the historian Salo W. Baron dubbed the "lachrymose concept of Jewish history"-- Jewish history as history of suffering. The course will illuminate the experience of Jews whose lives, and deaths, demonstrate that they were active actors rather than just passive victims of historical events. We will discuss the mutual influences of Jews and non-Jews on their cultures and experiences. The readings will consist mostly of primary historical sources on Jewish culture, politics, economic activities, social and legal status, and the Jews' relations with non-Jews: Christians and Muslims.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

RELI262 Jewish History: From Spanish Expulsion to Jon Stewart
This course explores Jewish history from the 16th century through to the modern era, reaching toward modern American and Israeli history and culture. The modern Jewish experience has often been characterized as an era of increasing participation of Jews in the civil society and was juxtaposed to the premodern era of the ghettos. This course will challenge these dichotomous stereotypes and introduce students to the complexity of the Jews' experience, their active involvement in the political and cultural processes that were taking place in the non-Jewish environment during both premodern and modern periods. As in HIST247, we will see Jews as a part of the social and cultural fabric rather than an "alienated minority" whose history is separate from that of their surroundings. We'll explore the transformations from what some called a traditional society defined by religious identities into a modern society of complex religious, ethnic, cultural, and political identities. We'll look at the acceptance of and resistance to the new ideas brought by the Enlightenment and explore the consequences of secularization of the society, including the rise of modern anti-Semitism; Jewish and non-Jewish nationalism; Zionism; questions of women, gender, and sexuality; migrations; and Jewish-Arab relations before and after the establishment of the State of Israel, and modern Jewish culture in America.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Prereq: None

RELI268 Anthropology of Black Religions in the Americas
This course examines Afro-Creole religions and cultural expressions in selected communities throughout the Atlantic world. How were religious communities created under colonial domination? Under what conditions were religions shaped, and what shapes did they take? How are African-based religions produced through aesthetics and the ritual arts of spiritual talk and sermons, song, dance, drumming, and medicine-making? How do these religions continue to survive, thrive, and, in some cases, grow in the current historical period? This course will pay special attention to the yearly ritual cycle and its attendant festivals: Christmas, Carnivals, Lent, Easter, saints' days, feasts, and pilgrimages, as well as the emergent spiritual and aesthetic traditions such as Capoeira and Rara. We will study Orisha religions like La Regla de Ocha, or Lukumi, in Cuba.
and the Latino United States; Candomble in Brazil; Vodou in Haiti; and Garifuna traditions and spiritism in Puerto Rico.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI

RELI270 Magical Money and Enchanted Capitalisms

In the early days of the 20th century, Max Weber foresaw that with the rise of capitalism and modernity the world would become increasingly disenchanted. Now, at the turn of the 21st century, people all over the world experience capitalism as a realm of enchantment. In Malaysia, ghosts possess factory workers; in South Africa, capitalism produces zombies; and in Bolivia, mines eat their miners. Instead of Weber’s “iron cage,” we live in a world of “voodoo economics” where Korean shamans conduct ceremonies to bless new businesses, Russian psychics curse business competitors, and prosperity theology preaches that God will make you rich. This class explores the enchantment of the financial sphere, combining theory on the disenchantment of modernity (Max Weber) and commodity fetishism (Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, William Pietz) with ethnographic accounts of how capitalism and the economy become mystified and enchanted.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI

RELI271 Secularism: An Introduction

This course traces the idea and ideal of secularism from classic enlightenment texts to its contemporary incarnations: both liberal democratic principles of the separation of church and state as well as state-sponsored atheism in the Soviet Union and China. This is not an examination of secularization as a historical process, but rather secularism as an ideological project, encompassing both secularism as a realpolitik approach to governing multi-religious societies, the utopian ideals of secular humanism, and the relationship between secularism and the idea of religious freedom as a universal human right.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI

RELI272 Thinking After the Holocaust

The Holocaust is an epoch-making event that challenges many ideas about the modern world, human nature, and God. In this course, we examine some of the difficult questions raised in the aftermath of this catastrophe: Can one adequately represent such a catastrophe in words and images? What is the relation between modern bureaucracy and genocide? How have Jewish thinkers answered the question: Where was God during this dark period? Is it possible to forgive such atrocities, and if so, who has the right of forgiveness? In our search for answers, we will engage various sources, including philosophical and theological texts, films, and memorial sites.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI

RELI273 Vodou in Haiti—Vodou in Hollywood

The Afro-Creole religion of the Haitian majority is a complex system of inherited roles and rituals that Afro-Creole people remembered and created during and after plantation slavery. Called “serving the spirits,” or “Vodou,” this religion and cultural system continues as a spiritual method and family obligation in Haiti and its diaspora and draws constantly on new symbols and ideas. Vodou has also captured the imagination of Hollywood and television, and the entertainment industry has produced numerous films and television episodes, and now computer games, with “Voodoo” themes. This course explores the anthropology of Vodou as a religious practice and relates it to the cultural studies of North American representations of Vodoo. We will ask: What constitutes the thought and practice of Haitian Vodou? How is Vodou represented in American media? How can we analyze the patterns and tropes that operate in images of Voodoo? We will explore questions of religious ritual, political resistance and orality, secrecy and spectacle, authenticity and commodification, racism, media studies, and the ethics of representation.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI

RELI274 Romans and Christians: The World of Late Antiquity

The emperor Diocletian’s administrative and financial reforms, closely followed by the conversion of Constantine to Christianity, mark a watershed in the history of the late Roman Empire. From AD 284 (accession of Diocletian) until the establishment of the Germanic successor kingdoms (roughly in the 6th century)—the period known as late antiquity—the Roman West presents a fascinating picture of cultural change. In this course we will study the period (4th to 6th century) from three different perspectives: the conversion of Romans to Christians and of Christians to “Romans”; the material world of late antiquity—especially the changes to the city of Rome—and the art, architecture, and literature of the period; and the rise of the cult of the saints and of monasticism and the lives of the holy men and women. The course will conclude with an epilogue pursuing these themes in Ostrogothic Italy and Merovingian Gaul.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CLAS, HA-CLAS, HA-CLAS

RELI275 Religions Resist Modernity

Why did the Taliban forbid television? Why do creationists reject evolution? Why did Gandhi insist that Indian nationalists spin their own thread? Throughout the last century, resistance has risen to modernity, and religion has played an increasingly important role in challenging the globalization of modern Western values. This seminar will explore how Europe transformed itself into a modern
society with worldwide influence. Then it will investigate how the Lakota Sioux, Christian creationists, Mohandas Gandhi, the Branch Davidians, and the Taliban each have used religion in an attempt to resist some aspect of modernity, either outside the Western world or within it.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI381, RELI381
Prereq: None

RELI276 The Gospels and Jesus
In this examination of the history and literature of the earliest writings about Jesus, attention will be given to the literary forms used in the composition of gospel literature, the social and religious functions of the traditions within believing communities, the role of imagination in the production of gospel texts, and the diversity of interpretations of Jesus in the early church. Readings will focus on the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Thomas, and "Q.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI277 Arts of Zen in East Asia
Zen (or Ch’an in Chinese, Sun in Korean), a school of Buddhism that originated in China and later spread to Japan and Korea, is considered a gateway to East Asian thought and a force that challenges modern materialism. The nature of abstraction, spirituality, and spontaneous enlightenment in Zen Buddhism can be best characterized in the arts associated with this religious school, which include ink painting, calligraphy, ceramics, and garden design. In this course, we will look at how the ideas of Zen were elucidated in the visual arts by examining major works produced in East Asia from the 13th through the 20th centuries. We will also examine the ways in which art was incorporated in the practice of Zen rituals, especially those related to meditation, gardening, and the tea ceremony, and how they were juxtaposed with literary k’an (gong’an in Chinese and kong’an in Korean) to form visual and textual mind puzzles based on allusions and wordplay. Through a comparative approach, we will analyze the development and changes in the form, style, and iconography of Zen art in East Asia, while tracing the history of Zen Buddhism and the transformation of its underpinning philosophical concepts related to enlightenment, nothingness, and beauty. The goal of this course is to form an in-depth appreciation for the arts of Zen in their historical, philosophical, and cultural context.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART
Prereq: None

RELI278 American Jewish Humor
This course is a look at American Jewish history through one particular lens—that of the peculiar phenomenon of Jewish humor. There is a long history of Jews and humor which has nothing to do with the immigrant experience in America, but the immigrant experience in America nonetheless has a great deal to do with the humor that has been produced by Jews in this country, particularly in the 20th century. We will be reading some historical background on American Jews and some humor theory as our foundation for our understanding of film viewings, short stories, stand-up comedy performances and musical recordings. By looking at the way Jewish humor changed throughout the 20th century, we should in the end be able to chart the way the lives of American Jews were changing and have a deeper understanding of the American Jewish experience.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Identical With: CJST278, AMST292, CJST278, AMST292, CJST278, AMST292
Prereq: None

RELI279 Liberation Theology and Pentecostalism in the Americas and Africa
This course tackles the question: if liberation theology advocates a preferential option for the poor, why do the poor in the Americas often choose a preferential option for evangelical Protestantism? We will examine how liberation theology offers those concerned with human rights a moral compass for future action. For liberation theology, “the poverty of the poor is not a call to generous relief action, but a demand that we go and build a different social order” (Gutierrez, 1983). Indeed, liberation theology has been a powerful influence in many human rights movements in the Americas, from the Sandinista revolution to social movements in grassroots Brazil and Haiti. In contrast, for evangelical Christianity, the common good is a by-product of the righteous lives of believers as they enact the outward signs of personal salvation. This course examines both religious thought and analysis of various Christianities of the Americas and Africa, with particular attention to the ways religious thinkers and communities grapple with and resolve questions of human rights, evangelizing, and structural inequalities that arise in the recent era of globalization and neoliberal capitalism. Other topics will include the prosperity gospel, the growth of Christian NGOs, gender and machismo, and spiritual warfare. Case studies will include readings on Colorado Springs in the United States, Colombia, Brazil, Haiti, and Zimbabwe.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI280 Mixed in America: Race, Religion, and Memoir
This course examines the history of mixed-race and interfaith identities in America. Using the genre of the memoir as a focusing lens, we will look at the various ways that Americans of mixed heritage have found a place, crafted an identity, and made meaning out of being considered “mixed.” How has being multiracial or bi-religious changed in the course of history in the United States? What has occasioned these changes, and what patterns can we observe? We will explore questions of racial construction; religious boundary-making; rites of passage; gender, sexuality, and marriage; and some literary and media representations of mixed-heritage people.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: AFAM282, AMST242, AFAM282, AMST242, AFAM282, AMST242
Prereq: None

RELI284 What Makes the Sacred Sacred?
Sacred, sacredness, sacrifice, sacrament, sacristy, sanctity, sacram, sanction, saint, consecrate, sacrosanct, sacrilege, desecrate. The notion of sacredness has pervaded the English language in myriad ways over nearly a millennium. What, then, makes the sacred sacred? Is sacredness universal? If so, what defines it? If not, why do Anglophones use the term sacred as if it is? Are there parallels among different religious cultures and their literatures? Are these parallels close enough that the English term sacred can be translated into other languages? This course will explore these questions using multidisciplinary methods and diverse readings reflecting various cultures’ views of social and cosmic order. We will interrelate readings of primary and secondary sources by using four themes.
(sacred places, invoking the sacred, sacred bodies, and sacred nation) to examine five traditions (Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Lakota).

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI

REL285 Religion and National Culture in the United States
This lecture/discussion course offers sustained analysis of the role of religion in the intellectual life of the nation. We will examine both the work of American theologians and the ways that other American intellectuals have thought about religion and its function as a language of authority in both state and society.

We will consider the ramifications of conceptions of the United States as a Protestant and millennial nation and the challenges to that conception posed by the growing diversity of religions in the country. The variety of spiritual practices and the clashes between religion and science generated debates that continue to haunt both the study of religion and political life. From participation in a transatlantic evangelical culture to the rise of the social gospel and theological modernism through the fundamentalist response to liberal religion and Darwinism, the course charts the influence of Protestant Christianity in American culture and evaluates claims about the development of a distinctively American religious style. The replacement of overt anti-Catholicism and anti-Semitism with the notion of a Judeo-Christian heritage that celebrated the incorporation of Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish traditions into American civil religion figures as the central dynamic of the 20th century. The course concludes with a consideration of the culture's surprising resistance to the secularist tendencies of most other Western powers and the continuing centrality of religion(s) in the national culture.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST

REL286 The Examined Life: Religion and Philosophy on the Art of Living
What kind of life is worthy of a human being? How do you examine what W. B. Yeats called "the dark corners of your own soul" with the same scrutiny you give the world around you? To live a noble life is the most critical challenge we face as individuals, the courage to confront ourselves and our most cherished assumptions, and to face the world, in turn, as a conscious steward. To live an examined life, as Socrates implored over twenty-four hundred years ago, is to be actively engaged in the world and to take ownership of our choices. It is to live in the sacred space between thought and action, truth and justice, philosophy and life.

Both philosophy and religion, for all their differences, ask the same perennial questions of humanity: How do you create a flourishing human life? Philosophy is not the possession of wisdom, but the love of wisdom, an orientation to truth and justice constantly in-the-making, demanding renewed devotion to conscious living. Diverse religious traditions, in turn, define the religious life as the striving for sanctity and human wisdom, in short, a way of life in harmony with the deepest truths of existence. In this seminar, we will explore classics of religious thought and Western philosophy as complementary responses to the deepest questions of humanity and the quest for a noble life. We begin at the beginning, with Socrates' challenge that the unexamined life is not fit for a human being, and explore how this challenge was put into practice in medieval and modern times. We will conclude with contemporary philosophers, both religious and secular, who challenge us anew to live up to the ancient Socratic ideal.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST

Prereq: None

REL288 Buddhism in America: The Dharma Comes to Main Street
This seminar will investigate the history and diverse forms of Buddhist thought and practice in America. We will begin with an introduction to fundamental Buddhist teachings, practices, and Asian traditions. Then, we will follow Buddhism's transmission to America in the 19th century, and unpack its subsequent history and role in the lives of both diaspora and convert Buddhist communities. We will explore African-American understandings of Zen, and a community of first generation Thai immigrants practicing Theravada in Philadelphia; American convicts practicing Buddhist meditation in prison; and a multidenominational Buddhist temple in Virginia adapting to life in a conservative evangelical Christian community. Readings will include primary Buddhist texts, autobiographies and anthropological case studies, and will be complemented by in-class film screenings. Students will also conduct one-on-one interviews, paying careful attention to the ways in which class, gender, and ethnicity shape the American Buddhist experience.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI

Identical With: CEAS286, CEAS286, EAST286, CEAS286, CEAS286, EAST286

Prereq: None

REL289 Religion and Indigenous Identity Politics
From stereotypes about wise old Indians to contemporary U.S. repatriation legislation, religious practice figures prominently in indigenous identity politics around the world. Religion can be profoundly sustaining to native communities and, at the same time, fraught with stereotypes and contradictory demands. This class examines these stereotypes, contradictions, and convictions with empathy and a critical eye.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI

Identical With: REES289, REES289, REES289

Prereq: None

REL290 Jews Under Christianity and Islam: Borders, Boundaries, and Coexistence
This course will focus on the relationship between legal, religious, and real-life interaction among different religious groups. We will explore how mutual attitudes of Jews, Christians, and Muslims have been shaped throughout centuries, from the rise of these religious groups through the premodern period. We will examine how each religious tradition constructed the "other" and sought to create boundaries to prevent intermixing and religious corruption while at the same time dealing with real-life issues of daily contact. We will try to find answers to the following questions: What was the Jews' attitude toward non-Jews? How did Jews fare in Christian and Muslim traditions? We will also discuss the relationship between religious ideals present in sacred texts and prescriptive literature of each tradition and historical reality of everyday life: Were all the laws applied to daily intercourse? Students will be exposed to a wide range of primary sources. Secondary sources will be used to illustrate current scholarly debates on the topics relevant to the course. We will read considerable sections of the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, the Qur'an, the Talmud, the Church fathers, and later works, including rabbinic responsa, polemical works, and legal documents.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST301, MDST301, HIST301, MDST301, FGSS290, FGSS290, FGSS290, FGSS290
Prereq: None

RELI291 What Makes the Sacred Sacred? The Consequences of the Ultimate Comparison
What are the political, social, and religious consequences when the term "sacred" is used to describe an object, place, time, or person? Using examples such as Jewish, Christian, and Muslim views of Jerusalem, Lakota Sioux recognition of wicasa wakan (medicine men), and Hindu engagements with divine images, this seminar will explore this question as well as the translatability of the word for non-Christian and non-Western views of social and cosmic order.

Sacred, sacrifice, sacrament, saint, consecrate, sacrilege, desecrate. The many words associated with it demonstrate how the idea of sacredness pervades the English language. "Sacred" serves as a common qualifier that implicitly suggests a similarity in the structure of religious practices, experiences, and worldviews, while describing a difference between the mundane and the spiritual or religious. European imperial project made such a universal use of the notion, whitewashing important divergences with non-Christian religions. So what makes the sacred sacred? And how do communities used notions like (and unlike) sacrality to know and engage natural, human, and superhuman environments?

This course is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this seminar do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-CHUM, SBS-RELI, SBS-CHUM, SBS-RELI
Identical With: ARHA239, ARHA239, CHUM336, ARHA239, CHUM336, ARHA239, ARHA239, CHUM336, ARHA239, CHUM336, ARHA239, CHUM336, ARHA239, CHUM336, ARHA239, ARHA239, CHUM336, ARHA239, CHUM336, ARHA239, CHUM336
Prereq: None

RELI292 Reason and Revelation: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion
Throughout the medieval period in Europe, philosophy and theology were thought to be compatible, if not completely coextensive. With the dawning of modernity, however, a distinction of mutual suspicion began to emerge between the secular and sacred disciplines. Broadly speaking, the discipline of philosophy can be said to be the effort to evaluate the claims of revelation and reason in terms of one another and to reveal a deep consonance or dissonance between the two. We will examine some of the major texts within this field, whose authors include deep skeptics, committed Christians, committed anti-Christians, secular and nonsecular Jews, feminists, ethicists, idealists, empiricists, and romantics. Themes to be explored include proofs of God's existence--along with refutations of those proofs and rebuts to those refutations--the problem of evil, religious ethics, religious experience, the possibility of a "universal religion," and the relationship between monotheism and gender.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI, HA-RELI, HA-RELI
Identical With: PHIL282, PHIL282, PHIL282, PHIL282, PHIL282, PHIL282, PHIL282, PHIL282
Prereq: None

RELI294 Rabbis, Rebels, and Reformers: Jewish Philosophy Through the Ages
How has the philosophical quest contributed to Jewish thought, and how has Judaism contributed to the philosophical tradition? This course offers an introduction to the classics of Jewish philosophy and theology through the ages. We begin with the Bible, which bears witness to the earliest encounter of Torah and philosophy. We will explore the growth of philosophical thought in Hellenistic Jewish culture and its flowering in the medieval Islamic world. We will then focus on the engagement of Jewish thinkers with the philosophical problems of modernity, from Benedict Spinoza to Abraham Joshua Heschel. Among the questions we will consider in class are the role of reason in religion, the relationship between Jewish and non-Jewish wisdom, and the effort to update Jewish modes of thought and its ancestral tradition to the burning questions of each generation.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI310, HIST276, HIST276, HIST276, RELI310, HIST276, HIST276, HIST276
puzzlingly, how is it that Christian thought is not entirely disabled by this claim? What does it mean? Which "God" is it that "we" have killed, and how? Even more has appeared on magazine covers, T-shirts, and coffee mugs, but what, exactly, does it mean to say directly. Above all, we will ask why this body of work appears under names other than Kierkegaard's and what they had to say that couldn't be said directly.

This advanced seminar will explore various post-Nietzschean attempts to come to terms with the eclipse of the very source of traditional Christian thinking and will track the ways in which these strategies resonate with premodern, mystical theologies.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI, HA-RELI, HA-RELI, HA-RELI
Identical With: MDST305, MDST305, MDST305, MDST305, MDST305, MDST305, MDST305, MDST305
Prereq: None

RELI305 Gender and Islam: Beyond Burkas, Fatwas, and the Shariah

How have gender, sexuality, and feminism been understood and elaborated by Muslims from the 19th century to the present day? Focusing on the Middle East and South Asia, this course will examine how these understandings and elaborations have not only emerged in relation to Islamic precepts and practices but also through ongoing historical interrelations between what have come to be designated and differentiated as the West and the Muslim world.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-FGSS, SBS-FGSS, SBS-FGSS
Identical With: FGSS305, FGSS305, FGSS305, FGSS305, FGSS305, FGSS305
Prereq: None

RELI306 The Variety of Religious Expressions: Movements, Mediation, and Embodiment in an Anthro. Perspective

This course takes as its point of departure today's global proliferation of religious movements and media and explores the following questions: What are the similarities and differences among India's Hinduuta movement, Christian Evangelical groups in the United States, Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood in the Middle East, and protests led by Buddhist monks in Myanmar? What role do various forms of mediation--including the body and embodied practice--and religious texts, cassette sermons, television serials, documentaries, the Internet, and blog sites play in promoting, shaping, spreading, and containing religious practices and belief? A seminar designed for mid- to upper-level undergraduate students who want to learn about the myriad forms of religious expression in today's world, this course consists of three thematic sections. In the first section, we will explore various theorists' attempts to carve out a universal category of religion and the ways in which this categorization has been problematized. In the second thematic section, our class will examine how "religion" comes to be separated analytically from other categories of experience such as politics, economics, and the secular, and we examine how interrelations between these categories are reestablished. In the third and final thematic section, students will bring their sharpened analytic faculties to bear on contemporary religious expressions and examine a variety of contemporary religious media and movements.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: ANTH313, ANTH313, ANTH313, ANTH313, ANTH313, ANTH313
Prereq: None

RELI307 Ritual

Religion can be defined through beliefs or traditions or texts, but it always takes physical form through ritual. Ritual is the one universal in religion, but the question of how to understand ritual is possibly the most contested question in the study of religion. Can a ritual be read like a text? How do symbols produce effects, and how should we understand these effects? What is performative speech and how does it work? How does ritual behavior reflect and shape social relationships? This course introduces students to the major approaches of studying ritual. The readings draw heavily, but not exclusively, on anthropological
approaches to ritual, both classic texts and recent innovative approaches focusing on language and embodiment. Students will be required to do practical fieldwork observations of rituals so that they can put these texts in dialogue with their research experience.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: ANTH303, ANTH303
Prereq: None

RELI308 Funny, You Don’t Look Jewish: Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Judaism
This course will give advanced students the opportunity to engage deeply with critical current issues in Judaism, including race, gender, and sexuality. In both the U.S. and Israel, issues of Jewish whiteness (or not), straightness (or not), and maleness (or not) dominate conversations about the direction Judaism will take in the 21st century and how Judaism can remain relevant in an increasingly globalized and secularized world.

Students in this course will read contemporary scholarship on those who have been traditionally pushed to the margins of Judaism and will be asked to wade into murky ethical waters as they think about the power of naming and who has the authority to determine "in" and "out."

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: FGSS313, CJST308
Prereq: None

RELI310 Constructing Hinduism and Islam
What is Hinduism? What is not? Is Islam a religion or a way of life? What is the difference? The meanings of few words are as greatly contested as that of "religion." For Western (primarily Christian) observers, Hinduism and Islam have acted as foils for their self-perceptions of faith, practice, modernity, and culture. More significantly, Western scholars of religion, in the course of their studies, have influenced the self-understanding of those who identify themselves as Hindu and Muslim. The concept of religion continues to play a significant role in both nation formation and international affairs. Using theory critiquing the category of religion, we will explore the application of this term by Westerners in South Asia and the Middle East and investigate the continuing debate regarding the identities of these religions both by those within and outside these traditions.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: HIST276, RELI297, HIST276, RELI297, HIST276, RELI297, HIST276, RELI297, HIST276
Prereq: None

RELI311 Ethnicity, Religion, and Class in the Middle East and the Balkans
The dissolution of empires, Ottoman and Soviet, produced dramatic changes in the economic and social structure of the Middle East and the Balkans, leading to the emergence of new, competing social identities. This course will examine issues of nationalism versus religious identities, class struggle versus anti-Western struggle, and the changing role of the minorities, both religious and ethnic, in the larger society in the 19th- and 20th-century Middle East and Balkans.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST311, HIST311, HIST311, HIST311, HIST311, HIST311, HIST311, HIST311
Prereq: HIST234 OR HIST228

RELI312 Indigenous Religion and the New Age: Inspiration or Appropriation?
Is imitation the sincerest form of flattery? This course examines the way in which indigenous religious practices, images, and ideas become appropriated into New Age religion. In GOD IS RED, Native American philosopher Vine Deloria Jr. argued that indigenous religion is superior to western Christianity and the Christian West has much to learn from it, but many indigenous people understandably object when their practices are copied by outsiders, decontextualized, and used to make a profit. Where is the line between respectfully learning from and disrespectfully appropriating? Why are indigenous practices so appealing to the New Age? How do New Age desires intersect with the needs and desires of contemporary indigenous practitioners, as well as national legal structures and neo-liberal economies? What are the contexts within which decontextualized indigenous practices and ideas become re-contextualized as New Age? We will read and deconstruct the classic manifesto of New Age spirituality THE TEACHINGS OF DON JUAN, examine the Ayahuasca patent case, and consider questions of intellectual property, cultural appropriation, and spiritual tourism.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM, HA-CHUM
Identical With: CHUM312, CHUM312, AMST312, CHUM312, CHUM312, AMST312
Prereq: None

RELI315 Ethics and Action in the Buddhist Cosmos
We often think about nirvana, or "enlightenment," as the ultimate goal of Buddhist practice. But the reality is much more complex. Buddhist traditions imagine a huge range of positive outcomes for moral behavior: immediate material benefits, rebirth in a better body or in a wealthier family, and enjoyment of gold-paved heavens or eternally blissful Pure Lands.

In this seminar we will read Buddhist scriptures, commentaries, biographies, narrative anthologies, and scholarly works that trace the many ways of thinking about ethics, action, and rebirth in the vast Buddhist cosmos. We will tour Buddhist heavens and hells, Pure Lands and political dystopias, as well as the complex worlds of Buddhist modernity. Along the way we will begin to think about key issues in the study of religion: narrative and ethics, magic and material culture, cosmology and sacred presence, modernity and globalization.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: CEAS345
Prereq: None

RELI319 Zionism: A Political Theology
This seminar examines the political theology of Zionism by focusing on the intersections of secular aspirations and theological notions embedded in the ideology and practice of the national Jewish mission.

To this end, the seminar is designed to explore the modern concept of political theology. In analyzing a range of selected primary and secondary sources, it will also bring this concept to bear on an understanding of the Zionist secular adaptations of theological concepts, such as heresy, faith, inner-experience, and redemption. Finally, the seminar will focus on how this type of political-theology informed the national Jewish language, symbolism, literature, social institutions, and social and political imagination.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CHUM, HA-CHUM
This seminar will seek to investigate the complex and changing status of women in relationship to Buddhist doctrine and practice. Using Buddhist texts that present traditional views of women as well as a variety of contemporary materials that reveal aspects of the lives of Buddhist women in ancient and contemporary times, we shall attempt to understand the values and concerns that drive, restrain, and/or empower such women.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-REL, SBS-REL, SBS-REL, SBS-REL
Identical With: FGSS264, CEAS350, FGSS264, CEAS350, FGSS264, EAST350

RELI351 Jews and Christians in Medieval England: Debate, Dialogue, and Destruction
This course will consider relations between the Jewish minority and their Christian neighbors in England before the Jews' expulsion in 1290 and also the effect of the expulsion on subsequent Christian writing. We will read texts originally written in Hebrew, French, and Latin (in translation) as well as English to get a sense of the conversations that took place between two groups that were both inextricably bound together and set apart by centuries of conflict and persecution. Among the issues we will explore are the Christian study of Hebrew biblical commentary; the popularity of the Jewish-Christian debate as a literary form; the Crusades; competing Jewish and Christian apocalyptic programs; and the curious afterlife of Insular Jews in Middle English literature.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL, HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL351, MDST351, CJST351, ENGL351, MDST351, CJST351, ENGL351, MDST351, CJST351, ENGL351, MDST351, CJST351, ENGL351, MDST351, CJST351, ENGL351, MDST351, CJST351, ENGL351, MDST351, CJST351, ENGL351, MDST351, CJST351, ENGL351, MDST351, CJST351, ENGL351, MDST351, CJST351, ENGL351, MDST351, CJST351, ENGL351, MDST351, CJST351, ENGL351, MDST351, CJST351, ENGL351, MDST351

RELI333 Global Christianity
Christianity is now the religion of 1.6 billion people, stronger in southern countries than in its long-time homeland of Europe. This course investigates the ways Christianity shaped, and was shaped by, contact with different world cultures and the ways the globalization of Christianity interacted with other global phenomena like imperialism, nationalism, and modernization. The focus will be on Catholicism and Protestantism in Asia and Africa, but students interested in other branches of Christianity, or other areas of the world, will be encouraged to write papers on the area of their interest.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST265, HIST265

RELI348 Magic, Sex, and Scholasticism: Tantric Traditions in Asia and Beyond
The word "tantra" conjures many images: ritual feasts on illicit substances, sexual union in the service of religious transformation, alchemical journeys, and explorations of the erotic, the terrifying, and the sublime. But what precisely did tantra look like in practice? Were the worlds of tantra imagined by marginal outcasts? Monastic elites? Or were they just the wild fantasies of Western imperialists?

In this course, we will immerse ourselves in the worlds of tantra, through scriptures, ritual manuals, and art. We will read scholarship on tantra to probe the social and philosophical contexts in which tantra thrived. Finally, we will investigate the history of Western encounters with and appropriations of tantra, from Aleister Crowley to Sting.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI
Identical With: FGSS348
Prereq: None
from the Jewish tradition, we will explore the implications of Jewish power and powerlessness in contemporary Jewish literature and film.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI373 Religion, Science, and Empire: Crucible of a Globalized World
The development of modern science—and of modernity itself—not only coincided with the rise of European imperialism, it was abetted by it. Meanwhile, religion was integral to both the roots of European science and Western encounters with others. This class will explore how the intersections of religion, science, and empire have formed a globalized world with examples of European engagement with the Americas, Middle East, and, particularly, India from the age of Columbus through to the space race. We will examine how the disciplines we know today as biology, anthropology, archaeology, folklore, and the history of religions crystallized in the crucible of imperial encounter and how non-Westerners have embraced, engaged, and resisted these epistememes.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: SISP373
Prereq: None

RELI375 Relic and Image: The Archaeology and Social History of Indian Buddhism
This course investigates the social history and material culture of Indian Buddhism from the 5th century BCE through the period of the Kushan empire. The course begins with the examination of the basic teachings of Buddhism as presented in canonical texts and consideration of the organization and functioning of the early Buddhist community, or sangha. The focus then shifts to the popular practice of Buddhism in early India and the varied forms of interaction between lay and monastic populations. Although canonical texts will be examined, primary emphasis in this segment of the course is given to the archaeology and material culture of Buddhist sites and their associated historical inscriptions. Specific topics to be covered include the cult of the Buddha’s relics, pilgrimage to the sites of the Eight Great Events in the Buddha’s life, the rise and spread of image worship, and the Buddhist appropriation and reinterpretation of folk religious practices. Key archaeological sites to be studied include the monastic complex at Sanchi, the pilgrimage center at Bodh Gaya (site of the Buddha’s enlightenment), the city of Taxila (capital of the Indo-Greek kings and a major educational center), and the rock-cut cave monasteries along the trade routes of western India.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART, HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA381, CEAS381, ARCP380, ARHA381, CEAS381, ARCP380, ARHA381, EAST381, ARCP380, ARHA381, CEAS381, ARCP380, ARHA381, CEAS381, ARCP380, ARHA381, CEAS381, ARCP380, ARHA381, CEAS381, ARCP380
Prereq: None

RELI377 Worlding the World: Creation Myths from Ancient Greece to the Multiverse
This course will focus on two questions that have thwarted and enthralled scientists, philosophers, and theologians for millennia: Where have we come from? and Where are we going? By reading ancient Greek and early Christian sources alongside contemporary astrophysicists, we will witness the reconfigured resurrection of some very old debates about the creation and unmaking of the world. Is the universe eternal, or was it created? Is it finite or infinite? Destructible or indestructible? Linear or cyclical? And is ours the only universe, or are there others?

The semester will be divided into four sections. The first will explore the dominant, or “inflationary,” version of the big bang hypothesis in relation to the Christian doctrine of creation. The second will consider the possibility that the whole universe might be a negligible part of a vast “multiverse,” in conversation with the early Greek atomists, who posited an extra-cosmic space teeming with other worlds. The third will explore contemporary cyclical cosmologies—that is, theories that posit a rebirth of the cosmos out of its fiery destruction—in relation to early Stoic philosophy and cross-cultural cyclic mythologies. The fourth will explore quantum cosmologies, in which the universe fragments into parallel branches each time a particle “decides” upon a position. We will examine these varied “cosmologies of multiplicity,” not with a view toward adjudicating among them, but toward pointing out their mythic and ontological genealogies and consequences.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI379 Christianity and Sexuality
This course will explore a range of Christian teachings on attitudes toward, and technologies of, sex and sexuality. We will read medieval and modern theologies of sexuality, as well as contemporary historical, sociological, and cultural studies. Points of focus will include confession, mysticism, marriage, celibacy, queer and transgendered practices and identities, and reproductive rights.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI, HA-RELI, HA-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI380 The Gospel of Mark and Christian Origins
Borges has written that “the generations of men, throughout recorded time, have always told and retold two stories—which of a lost ship that searches the Mediterranean Sea for a dearly beloved island and that of a god who is crucified on Golgotha.” This seminar will examine the fateful construction of an epic hero myth of Christian origins by tracing the social history and patterns of sectarian formation coursing through and under the Gospel of Mark. Through a close reading of Mark’s parables and controversies, aphorisms and anecdotes, miracle stories and passion narratives, analyzed contextually with contemporaneous Jewish, Greek, Roman, and Christian literature, the Gospel will be exposed as an apologetic rationalization of a specific apocalyptic mythology.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI

RELI381 Religions Resist Modernity
Why did the Taliban forbid television? Why do creationists reject evolution? Why did Gandhi insist that Indian nationalists spin their own thread? Throughout the last century, resistance has risen to modernity, and religion has played an increasingly important role in challenging the globalization of modern Western values. This seminar will explore how Europe transformed itself into a modern society with worldwide influence. Then it will investigate how the Lakota Sioux, Christian creationists, Mohandas Gandhi, the Branch Davidians, and the Taliban...
each have used religion in an attempt to resist some aspect of modernity, either outside the Western world or within it.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI275, RELI275
Prereq: None

RELI385 Performance Studies

Within the frame of performance studies, this seminar focuses on how particular uses of the body, space, and narrative inform the limits and intersections between ritual and performance, including the study of theoretical frames and audience reception. Performance is broadly defined to include cultural events and nontraditional performances. We will look at a number of theoretical texts as well as case studies, performances, and theories to examine theatrical modes of action and presence, as well as the limits between real and fictional.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA, HA-THEA, HA-THEA
Identical With: THEA316, THEA316, THEA316, THEA316, THEA316, THEA316
Prereq: None

RELI388 Socially Engaged Buddhism--East and West

For the past several decades, a new movement within Buddhist communities has been emerging that aims at joining the tenets and practices of the tradition with various forms of activism—involving social, political, economic, and ecological concerns. Termed “socially engaged Buddhism,” this phenomenon and perspective can be seen throughout Asia—in examples such as the work of Thich Nhat Hanh in Vietnam, Sulak Sivaraksa in Thailand, the Dalai Lama on behalf of Tibetans, and Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma—as well as, more recently, in various forms and locations throughout the West. This course will explore in some depth the history and contours of this emerging religious and social phenomenon.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: [RELI242 or CEAS242]

RELI391 Religion and the Social Construction of Race

In this course we examine aspects of the intersections between race and religion in a number of historical and social contexts. We place at the center of our discussions the question of how race and religion are co-constructed categories that function as a prism through which people come to understand and experience their own identities and those of others. We will privilege interpretations that emphasize (a) the intersections of race and religion as a process in which power plays a pivotal role; and (b) means through which communities form collective identities.

We will read a range of historical analysis and primary source materials from the United States and the Caribbean. After a theory module, we will examine a colonial-era captivity narrative, antebellum pro-slavery document, missionary works, analyses of anti-Semitism, works on Father Divine, the Nation of Islam, Rastafari, Haitian Vodou, Jonestown, the Christian White Supremacy movement, as well as the contemporary United States relationship to the Middle East.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: AFAM280, AMST391, AFAM280, AMST391, AFAM280, AMST391, AFAM280, AMST297, AFAM280, AMST391, AFAM280, AMST297, AFAM280, AMST297
Prereq: None

RELI393 If there is no God, then everything is permitted?” Moral Life in a Secular World

In Fyodor Dostoevsky’s The Brothers Karamazov, Dmitri Karamazov famously poses the question of what would happen to mankind “without God and immortal life,” asking whether this means that “all things are permitted.” Made famous by Dostoevsky, the question of whether we can be moral without God has always haunted secularism and has consistently been the most vocal criticism of unbelief. From Papal condemnations of secularism and “godless Soviets,” to the contemporary consensus that belief in God is evidence of moral goodness and its absence sign of a broken ethical barometer, the assumption has been that transcendent authority is all that stands between us and moral abyss. When the atrocities committed by “totalitarian” regimes are cited as evidence of this, it is only the most radical articulation of a broader narrative of secular modernity.

One of modernity’s master narratives is that people go from being under the care of the church to being under the care of the state, and our focus will be on historical cases where the question of secular values was explicitly engaged by the state. We will examine individual and collective articulations of morality in three prominent models of secularism: American “civil religion,” French laïcité, and Communist “official atheism.” What constitutes the moral foundation of a world without God? Can religion’s moral and spiritual function be performed by a different kind of belief system?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST, SBS-CHUM, SBS-CHUM
Prereq: None

RELI395 The Anthropology of Religion

We often think of religion as being about belief, but how do you observe a belief? What exactly do we study when we study religion? What can be different kind of belief system?

This course introduces students to a cross-cultural, comparative perspective on religious practice and belief through methodological inquiry. The class is intended to prepare students to do independent field research. Ethnographic readings interspersed with methodological exercises in a local religious community culminate in the preparation of a research proposal.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: ANTH395, ANTH395, ANTH395, ANTH395, ANTH395, ANTH395
Prereq: None

RELI396 Performing Jewish Studies: History, Methods, and Models

Jewish studies is broad in terms of disciplinary approaches and diverse in the ways it conceives its subject matter. This course will focus on the historical roots of the field of Jewish studies, models that advance theories and methods of Jewish studies, and on how such studies are being differently forged and performed in different disciplines, including Jewish history, Jewish literary studies, anthropology, sociology, and religious studies. For each of these areas of study, the seminar will examine a classical seminal work as well as outstanding recent ones that are on the forefront of knowledge. Talks by a number of invited guest speakers will be a required part of the seminar.
This course is designed to teach us how to reflect critically upon the theories, methods, and discourses that constitute the academic study of religion. We will be concerned with current studies in history and the history of religions; the interpretation of texts, including the Bible; philosophy of religion and theology; anthropology; cultural studies; and feminist theory. Our task is to understand and assess how scholars of religion make critical judgments. And so, since the building blocks of argumentation remain constant—definitions, classifications, data, and explanations—we will seek to identify and evaluate each scholar’s principles of selection, means of description, stipulation of evidence, use of comparative categories, and methods and models of argumentation.

REL1401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

REL1402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

REL1403 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

REL1404 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

REL1407 Senior Tutorial
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

REL1408 Senior Tutorial
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

REL1409 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

REL1410 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

REL1411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Offering: Host

REL1412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

REL398 Majors Colloquium in Religious Studies
This course is designed to teach us how to reflect critically upon the theories, methods, and discourses that constitute the academic study of religion. We will be concerned with current studies in history and the history of religions; the interpretation of texts, including the Bible; philosophy of religion and theology; anthropology; cultural studies; and feminist theory. Our task is to understand and assess how scholars of religion make critical judgments. And so, since the building blocks of argumentation remain constant—definitions, classifications, data, and explanations—we will seek to identify and evaluate each scholar’s principles of selection, means of description, stipulation of evidence, use of comparative categories, and methods and models of argumentation.

REL1474 Secularization and Secularism
This course examines historical processes of secularization, religious adaptation, resistance to secularization, and varieties of modern secularism.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

REL1475 Religion and Politics: Faith and Power in Comparative-Historical Perspective
This course examines the relationship between religion and politics historically in the contemporary world and across diverse religious traditions. We discuss the relationship of religion to the rise of the modern state, church-state relations, religious social movements, and the sources of religious conflict and violence.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

REL1476 Introduction to the Sociology of Religion
This course examines classical and contemporary theoretical perspectives on the nature of religion as a social institution and cultural system. Themes will include sociological definitions of religion and the rise of capitalism, modernity, and belief and patterns of religion’s reconciliation with modern society.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

REL1477 Conversion: Patterns of Individual and Cultural Transformation
This course examines conversion as an individual, social, and cultured process involving a change from one system of beliefs and behaviors to another. We will evaluate social-scientific approaches to the phenomenon of conversion
and examine and compare examples drawn from history and the contemporary world. Readings will focus on the conditions and outcomes of conversion processes, the missionary/convert relationship, and the contexts of cultural interaction in which conversion succeeds or fails.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI478 Buddhist Art of Asia
Study of the philosophical underpinnings, use, and social significance of select genres of Buddhist art in India, China, Tibet and Indonesia. Special attention will be given to ways of representing Buddhist concepts, values, and practices through visual narrative strategies.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RELI, HA-RELI, HA-RELI, HA-RELI, HA-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI479 Judaism and Race
Before race became a named category used to differentiate between human bodies, Jewish converts to Catholicism in medieval Spain became suspect subjects due to the “purity” of their “blood” (limpieza de sangre). Beginning with the Spanish debates regarding pure and impure bodies, this course traces the relationship between Jews and racial categories to the 21st century. The course focuses on how evolving definitions of “race” and “Jewishness” have correlated and conflicted in varied and sometimes surprising ways. We will read about theories of race, examine their direct ties to European colonial projects, and discuss the pervasive impact of these theories and projects on contemporary societies. We will consider questions such as, What does “race” mean in particular times and places? How have Jews been racialized, and how have Jews represented themselves in terms of racial categories? Why does race continue to inform social thought and institutions in such prominent ways, and how do we situate Jews in these contexts? Case studies will address the question of Jewish “whiteness” in various geographical contexts, crypto-Jews in the United States, and mizrahim (“eastern” Jews) in Israel.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI480 Sacred Mountains in Buddhist Asia
By approaching Buddhism “on the ground” through a close study of key sacred mountains, students in this course will come to an understanding of various Buddhist practices and their philosophical, cosmological, and soteriological frameworks. Monks, hermits, and lay practitioners alike acknowledge the transformative power of sacred mountains; nevertheless, their methods of and motivations for encountering these mountains can be quite divergent.

This course begins with an introduction to geographical approaches to the study of religion that we will then employ throughout the semester to analyze and compare the conceptions of sacred space found across Buddhist Asia. Through case studies of mountain-based Buddhist traditions in India, Tibet, Mongolia, China, and Japan, we will investigate themes such as identity, ritual, pilgrimage, asceticism, religious experience, cosmology, and material culture.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI481 Regulating Intimacy: Secularism, Sovereignty, Citizenship
Secularism is routinely defined as the relegation of religion to the private sphere, separate from public politics. Similarly, in secular-liberal societies, sexuality is in principal a private affair, beyond the purview of state interference. Indeed, secularism has come to be seen as the form of political rule that liberates women’s sexuality from the clutches of religion, and from Islam in particular. Yet the secular-modern nation-state—its colonial and post-colonial iterations—has also consistently regulated sex and religion, witnessed in the policing of “native,” immigrant, and queer sexualities; in the construction of the family as a separate legal and moral domain; and in the surveillance and transformation of minority religious communities. Drawing on feminist, anthropological, and historical scholarship, this course critically examines the distinction between public and private central-to-state sovereignty and to the formation of modern, secular, sexually “normal” citizens. First examining the regulation of sexuality and of religion as parallel phenomena, the course ultimately asks what the relationship is between “proper” religion and “proper” sexuality in secular state formations.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-FGSS, SBS-FGSS, SBS-FGSS, SBS-FGSS, SBS-FGSS
Identical With: FGSS225, FGSS225, FGSS225, FGSS225, FGSS225, FGSS225, FGSS225, FGSS225, FGSS225, FGSS225
Prereq: None

RELI482 Jewish Art and Rituals in Context
This course covers the history of Judaica. Although it will look at the early sources of ceremonial arts in antiquity and the Middle Ages, it will focus on Jewish art since the Renaissance and until modern times. The halakhic, or legal requirements, in Jewish law for Judaica are one context for understanding the objects; the second is their relationship to the forms and style of similar pieces of the decorative arts in the period of their creation.

The goal of the course is to give students an understanding of the range of ceremonial art used in the practice of Judaism and how individual works were fashioned out of a creative tension between the minimal demands of Jewish law and models in the art of surrounding cultures. Another aim is to enable students to analyze a work visually and to connect the work to others that are similar in style and form.

The course will result in an exhibition curated at the Congregation Adath Israel.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART, HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA212, HEST228, HIST212, ARHA212, HEST228, HIST212
Prereq: None

RELI483 Constructions and Re-Constructions of Buddhism
Is Buddhism a philosophy? A mind science? An ancient mystical path? A modern construct? This seminar will evaluate a variety of answers to these questions by exploring how Buddhism has been understood in colonial and post-colonial periods. Our primary-source materials range from Orientalist poetry to Zen essays to Insight Meditation manuals to 21st-century films to contemporary academic critiques. We will examine the shape Buddhism takes in these works and turn to recent scholarship to discuss how romantic, imperialist, anti-modern, nationalist, therapeutic, and scientific frames depict one of today’s most popular religions.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: CEAS245, CEAS245, CEAS245, CEAS245, CEAS245, CEAS245, CEAS245, CEAS245, CEAS245, CEAS245
Religion (RELI)

Prereq: None

RELI484 Religion and Law in the United States
This course addresses the complex and continually contested relationship between law and religion in the United States. The course will include three main components: (1) a historical overview that examines how this relationship has changed over time, starting with the colonial period; (2) a study of varied theoretical approaches from the fields of religious studies and law and society on subjects such as the boundaries of state power, what counts as religion, and how state actors (judicial and legislative bodies) have justified legal decisions regarding religious practices and identities; and (3) an analysis of significant Supreme Court decisions pertaining to religion and law but also related to intersecting issues of race, gender, and homosexuality. Among other topics, we will discuss the criminalization of religious practices such as peyote consumption and snake handling and civil rights protection for religious groups such as the Supreme Court’s decision to grant race-based rights to Jews.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Prereq: None

RELI486 Nonviolence and Violence in Buddhism
This seminar examines one of the most important and debated themes in Buddhism—its teachings and practices of nonviolence and of justified violence. Using both selected secondary sources and primary texts in translation, students will not only learn the basic doctrines and history of Buddhism through this engaging theme, but also reflect on the dynamics of religious nonviolence and violence in general at both philosophical and sociopolitical levels. The course explores a variety of subjects and materials, including Buddhist stories and philosophy, practices such as vegetarianism and Tibetan tantric rituals, Buddhist political leaders from Ashoka to Ambedkar, Dalai Lama, and Aung Sun Suu Kyi.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI, SBS-RELI
Identical With: CEAS486, CEAS486, EAST486, CEAS486, CEAS486, EAST486
Prereq: None

RELI488 De/Constructing Religion
We tend to assume religion is a transhistorical phenomenon, an essential form of human experience shared across various cultures and geographic spaces. Religion is distinct from politics, science, art, and the economy, or so we hold. But how did this notion of religion emerge, and what exactly are its parameters? This course examines the construction of religion as a category and a concept and the way its emergence intersects with particular matrices of sex/gender, as well as with attendant notions of agency, autonomy, civilization, progress, and modernity. Particular attention will be paid to the colonial genealogy of the modern concept of religion and to the colonial and postcolonial transformation of various socioethical traditions into “religions.”

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-FGSS, SBS-FGSS, SBS-FGSS, SBS-FGSS
Prereq: None

RELI491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

RELI492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT