

Religious Studies

Course Offerings – Fall 2016

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| RELI 1000-01 | Introduction to Religion – CHG <> H; A&S Non-Western | Fall |
| TR 1:20-2:35 pm | Religion is central in shaping culture. While cultural differences stem from religion, many similarities find their expression in religion. Learn about several world religions and the way each understands the world and influences its adherents. | |
| RELI 1000-40-43 | Introduction to Religion – CHG <> H; A&S Non-Western | Outreach |
| Online | Refer to on-campus course description. | |
| RELI 1101-40 | First-Year Seminar: Gilgamesh – <> FY | Keller |
| Online | How have humans described the relationship between human governance and divine authority across time and cultures, and what does this tell us about our world today? This FYS begins with the stone tablets of the Epic of Gilgamesh, travels through the age of reason, and concludes with digital discussions of the “holy power” of atomic weaponry, helping students situate contemporary questions of religion and politics against the backdrop of human history. | |
| RELI 2040-01 | Middle Eastern Religions – CHG <> | Ward |
| TR 1:20-2:35 pm Section 40 -- Online | Since 9-11, the conflicts of our world have taken on a religious character, pitting members of Judaism, Islam and Christianity against each other. This is just the latest chapter in a history of alternatively working together and struggling against each other. Discover how these religions began and matured, and how they have been shaped by the modern world. | |
| RELI 2050-01 | Religions of Asia – CHG <> H | DeNapoli |
| MW 3:10-4:25 pm | This course introduces the four major Eastern religions of Asia: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. We will study these religions’ texts, belief systems, rituals and practices; the ultimate goals they emphasize for the adherents; and the ways in which these Asian religions have responded and adapted to their historical, cultural, social, political, and gendered contexts. | |
| RELI 2150-01 | New Testament Survey - CANCELLED | |
| CANCELLED | | |
| RELI 2175-01 | Life & Teaching of Jesus | Flesher |
| TR 11:00-12:15 pm | Jesus the Christ has impacted the world unlike any other person in human history. This course presents the life and teaching of Jesus in the social, political and religious context of the time. By examining the four gospels and extra-biblical sources, we will detail the message and the meaning of Jesus for his day. | |
| RELI 2225-01 | History of Christianity | Utterback |
| MWF 1:00-1:50pm | In its 2000 year history, Christianity has grown from a persecuted sect of Judaism whose leader was executed as a criminal by the Roman authorities to the largest religion in the world. Study its rise from obscurity to dominance, its attempts to maintain that dominance through many centuries, and its various struggles, both internal and external. Learn where the Church “got it right” and where it sometimes went terribly wrong. Consider why the church in the 21st century is growing rapidly in Africa, South America and Asia, even as European churches stand largely vacant. (XL: HIST 2225) | |
| RELI 2250-01 | American Religion I: History – 1865 – CHD <> H | Heise |
| MWF 9:00-9:50 am | Traces the history of religion in America through the Civil War. We will pay particular attention to the intertwining of religion and colonialism; the tension between emerging Protestant hegemony and religious pluralism; and the roles religion has played in justifying oppression and pursuing liberty in American history. (XL: HIST 2250) | |
| RELI 2450-40 | Traditional African Religion – CHG <> C2 | Keller |
| Online | Just as Africa is a continent of many peoples, it is also a continent of many religions. These religions divide as well as unite the peoples. Focus on the traditional religions that originate in Africa while studying the importation and exploitation of outside religions-especially Christianity and Islam. (XL: AAST 2450) | |
| RELI 3110-01 | Bible & Archaeology | Flesher |
| T 2:45-5:15 pm | Archaeology has increased our knowledge of the people of the Bible tenfold. Come, learn what we know about the lives and achievements of the people who populate the history and stories of the Old Testament. | |
| RELI 3220-40 | Modern Middle East - G <> | Outreach |
| Online | Surveys the Middle East from 1700 to the present. Emphasizes the demise of the Ottoman Empire, the rise of domination by European colonial powers, transformations in political, social, religious and cultural life, the rise of nationalist movements, the influence of oil, the growth of Islamist political groups and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. (XL: HIST 3220) | |
| RELI 3400-01 | Religions in American West – CH, D <> | Heise |
| MWF 11:00-11:50 am | People have conceived of the American West as exile and Promised Land, as New Babylon and New Jerusalem. This course examines the religious history of the complicated place that has been not only the west, but also the north (to Hispanics coming from New Spain and then Mexico); the south (to Russians moving down the coast from Alaska), the east (to Asian immigrants crossing the Pacific), and, of course, the center (to Native Americans who had lived in the region for centuries). | |
| RELI 4000-01 | Theory of Religion – WC <> C3 | DeNapoli |
| W 9:00-11:50 am | Is religion an "illusion" or a "neurosis," as Freud wrote? Is it anthropology's "cultural system," or society's representation of itself, or...? Examine what some of the world's most influential thinkers have said about what religion is and how it should be studied. Warning: this capstone course is not for the intellectually faint of heart. | |
| RELI 4500-01 | Topics: Issues in Contemporary Islam | Ward |
| TR 11:00-12:15 pm | How does Islam interact with Modernity? This course extends beyond the news to study contemporary trends and movements among the world's Muslims. Includes a general introduction to the history and religion of Islam, and discusses contemporary Islamic topics, reflecting current issues, instructor research and student choices. | |
| RELI 4500-02 | Topics: Milton | Nye |
| MWF 9:00-9:50 am | No writer has a better claim than John Milton to be master of the English epic, and this course will trace the evolution of his complex poetic genius. We will study the various influences, literary, biblical, political, ecclesiastical, classical, aesthetic, and academic that contribute to that genius, surveying the literature before and after Milton that derives much of its significance from his achievement. But we will concentrate mostly on a careful close reading of his English poetry and prose. His thought and language can be thoroughly exhilarating for a modern reader. | |