

Religious Studies

Course Offerings – Spring 2012

RELI 1000-40-43	Introduction to Religion - C1/G1, CH, Non-Western	Outreach
Online	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 2110-01 and 40 (Outreach)	Old Testament Introduction – CH	Flesher Elliott
TR 9:35-10:50 am	Introduces students to the books of the Old Testament and people whose way of life they describe. Pays particular attention to religion of the Israelites, their history and culture. Focuses on different historical circumstances in which the books were written.	
RELI 2315-01	History of Non-Western Religions: Buddhism – CH,G, Non-Western	DeNapoli
TR 8:10-9:25 am	This course examines what Buddhism is about in the contexts of its doctrines and teachings; texts; practices; communities of practitioners; material and visual cultures; historical, institutional, and socio-political developments; and its migrations to the West. While this course addresses questions of what Buddhists believe and how Buddhism is practiced, it concentrates on questions of how Buddhist concepts and practices shape and constitute Buddhist worlds of meaning. Cross-listed with: HIST 2315	
RELI 2320-01	History of Islam – CH,G	Ward
TR 11:00-12:15 pm	The Media gives the impression of Islam as a religion of "angry young men" who hate. Learn how Islam is a religion of love of God and family, as well as respect for others. Learn how Islam has been practiced through time and what events shaped it. Cross-listed with: HIST 2320	
RELI 2410-01	Varieties of Non-Belief in the Western World – CH	Fall
TR 2:45-4:00 pm	A broad, chronological survey of different types of non-belief, primarily from the Renaissance onwards. It examines critiques by philosophers, politicians, poets, and novelists aiming to understand their objections to religion and analyzing how these objections shaped the modern religious landscape and the way we understand religion itself.	
RELI 3260-40	African Spirits in the New World – CH	Keller
Online	Begins with Yoruba roots in Africa travels with the African Diaspora focusing on spirit possession in Haitian Vodou, Cuban Santeria, Jamaican Revival Zion, Jamaican Rastafarianism, Brazilian Candomblé, and "Black Church" in the United States using ethnography and postcolonial theory of religious studies. Cross-listed with: AAST3260	
RELI 3275-01	World Christianities – CH,G	Utterback
TR 9:35-10:50 am	Examines the development of Christianity primarily in Africa, Asia and South America. Cross-listed with: HIST 3275	
RELI 3344-01	The Divine Personality in Eastern Religion – CH, WB	DeNapoli
TR 1:20-2:35 pm	This course examines Eastern religious ideas about gods, divine incarnations (avatars), mystic-saints, and heroes in text and lived practice. Through use of primary and secondary texts, art, music, novels, and films, this course will explore the ways that Hinduism and Buddhism have conceived of, and expressed, their god-concepts, and the cross-cultural implications of those representations.	
RELI 4100-40	African American Religious Culture – WC, D	Keller
Online	This mid-level writing-intensive seminar compares African American religious celebration, primarily in the context of Afro-Christianity, but touching on Islam, Candomble, "Voodoo," Santeria, and Rastafarianism. Cross-listed with: AAST 4100	
RELI 4113-01	Medieval Religious Dissent – C1	Utterback
W 3:10-5:40 pm	Religious dissent in the Middle Ages included what we would call heresy, but also encompasses such marginal groups as Jews and witches. Examines development of orthodoxy and persecution of religious diversity between eleventh and 16th centuries within the historical context of the times. Cross-listed with: HIST 4113	
RELI 4500-01	Ancient Palestine: Jews, Greeks & Romans in Ancient Palestine	Flesher
M 3:10-5:40 pm	After Alexander the Great conquered Israel in the fourth century BCE, the Jews were ruled first by Greeks and then by Romans over the following centuries. Explore how Judaism changed under these pagan influences, the ways pagan religions adapted to the Jewish character of Palestine, and how early Christianity and formative Judaism grew from this mix. Cross-listed with: HIST 4990	
RELI 4500-02	Religion & Fantasy	Aronstein
TR 1:20-2:35 pm	This course begins with the "founding" of Modern High Fantasy by the Inklings (C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Charles Williams) during the turbulent years surrounding World War II. We will then read more recent authors (Susan Cooper, Patricia McKillip, Guy Gavriel Kay, Phillip Pullman, Ian Hearn) who expand the world of High Fantasy, building on and disputing the founders' moral and religious vision as they offer readers a new vision. Cross-listed with: ENGL 4640	
RELI 4500-03	Mid-East & Israel in Film	Ward
T 6:00-10:00 pm	Films often capture the deepest hopes and dreams of broad populations. Israeli, Egyptian, American and other films provide a unique avenue for insights into such Middle East and Israeli issues as national identity, love and despair, corruption, persecution and terror, and hopes for peace and reconciliation in the region.	
RELI 4500-04	Beyond Life & Death	Palmer
M 6:00-8:45 pm	This course charts the way to see life and death as "natural" and as part of very diverse religions. It explores ethics for sustaining life and appropriate beyond-life understandings from Native American, Christian, and Jewish thought. It offers ways to integrate Kubler-Ross' stages of significant loss. No prerequisites.	

