



RELI 4000: Theories of Religion

Dr. Tammy
Heise

Fall 2021
6 to 9 p.m.
Monday

Hua Shan, China

(Sacred Taoist site)

Photo by

Tammy Heise

What is religion? How and why do we study it?

Where did religion come from? What (if anything) does it do? What makes something religious? How can religion be studied? These are some of the perennial questions that scholars of religion ask and attempt to answer. In this course, we examine contemporary theories to explain religion and methods used to interpret it. Students then apply critical theory in their own research projects. One might, for example, interpret Beyonce Masses in light of critical race and gender theory. Another might analyze QAnon conspiracy theories as examples of apocalyptic thinking in a new religious movement. All will conduct research and interpret theory to support their own interests in the discipline of religious studies.

For more information about this class, e-mail theise2@uwyo.edu.