

Religious Studies

Course Offerings – Spring 2014

RELI 1000.40-45	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 2050.40	Religions of Asia – CH,G	DeNapoli
Online	This course introduces the four major Eastern religions of South Asia: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. We will study these religions' sacred texts, rituals, practices, histories, cultural institutions and narrative traditions. The course is designed to familiarize students with the key analytic categories in religious studies and the indigenous categories of the four Eastern religions. Through these perspectives, students will gain a deeper understanding of religion-as-lived, imagined, and experienced in South Asia.	
RELI 2080.01	Holocaust – CH	Messenger
MWF 9:00-9:50 am	Surveys the destruction of European Jewry and other targeted groups, 1933-1945. The details of the Holocaust, its origins and course and the daily lives of perpetrators, victims and bystanders will form the basis of the course. <i>Cross listed with HIST 2080.</i>	
RELI 2110.01	Old Testament Introduction -CH	Flesher
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 2250.40	American Religion 1 (to 1865) – CH, D	Newell
Online	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. <i>Cross-listed with Hist 2250.</i>	
RELI 2315.40	History of Non-West Religions – CH,G	Grether
Online	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. <i>Cross-listed with HIST 2315.</i>	
RELI 2410.01	Varieties of Non-Belief - CH	Fall/Downs
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 2500.01	Tp: Islam in the Modern World	Ward
TR 11:00-12:15 pm	How does Islam interact with Modernity? This course extends beyond violent Islamists in the news to study Islam in America and Europe as well as in traditionally-Islamic lands, seeking to understand contemporary trends and movements among the world's Muslims.	
RELI 3220.01	Modern Middle East	Ward
TR 1:20-2:35 pm	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. <i>Cross-listed with HIST 3220</i>	
RELI 3230.01	Early Christianity	Utterback
MW 3:10-4:25 pm <i>formerly Reli 4500.03</i>	This course goes into the origins of the Christian Church, from its beginnings as a small sect of Judaism until its emergence as that only stable institution remaining after the fall of the Roman Empire in 476. During this period Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire, first as persecuted minority, and eventually as state religion, and at the same time it developed its theological foundations and institutional structures that have shaped Christianity up to the present. <i>Cross-listed with HIST 3230</i>	
RELI 3240.01	Reformation Christianity	Utterback
T 2:45-5:15 pm <i>formerly Reli 4500.04</i>	The need for church reform in the late middle ages, and particularly the question of authority, led to the rupture of the medieval church into many denominations, a fragmentation that has accelerated ever since into thousands of denominations currently. The Reformation brought Wars of Religion, whose brutality led to the loss of importance of religion. In the 18 th century the Enlightenment further changed the place of religion in European, and later North American, life. <i>Cross-listed with HIST 3240</i>	
RELI 3260.40	African Spirits in New World – CH, G	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. <i>Cross-listed with AAST 4100.</i>	
RELI 4100.40	African American Religious Culture – D, WC	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.	
RELI 4113.40	Medieval Religious Dissent	Abraham
Online	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. <i>Cross-listed with HIST4113/HIST5113.</i>	
RELI 4500.01	Tp: Varieties- Ancient Judaism	Flesher
TR 1:20-2:35 pm	How have religious beliefs and practices shaped and been shaped by ideas about gender throughout American history? How have people used gender and religion to express inter-group hostility? How have class, race, and ethnicity affected gender and the practice of religion?	
RELI 4500.02	Tp: 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.	
RELI 4500.05	Tp: Moses, Jesus, Muhammad	Ward
T 6:00-8:45 pm	As "founders" of the religious communities of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, these remarkable leaders left a broad mark on the history and philosophy of humankind. Examine each one's biography within historical context, in sacred literature and "sacred histories," in scholarly debate and popular culture. Explore several perspectives to illuminate how the narratives about each have shaped our world.	
RELI 4500-80	Tp: Women & Islam	Kamp
R 7:00-9:50 pm Video Conferencing	Contact instructor for further information.	