



RELIGION

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

2007-2008

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

2007-08

**DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE GUIDE
2007-2008**

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www.kcmetro.cc.mo.us/longview/socsci/philosophy/religion/symbols.htm

This course guide has been prepared months in advance of the 2007-2008 academic year and information contained herein is subject to change. Students are advised not to purchase any texts without the approval of the professor concerned.

Due to the renumbering of courses in the Department, students should consult the list of equivalent undergraduate courses in the back of the 2007-2008 undergraduate calendar.

FACULTY

A list of the full-time faculty follows below. All possess degrees from universities and/or schools of advanced studies that represent the best academic centres for the study of religion in North America and India. All have published books that have made a contribution to their particular fields of study, have published in learned journals and given papers at learned societies. They have also won a reputation among their students for being good teachers, concerned about the quality of instruction at Concordia University, as well as for being "available" and committed to the development of a more meaningful student life.

Full-Time Faculty

Chair

Lynda Clarke, Ph.D. (McGill)

Professors

Michel Despland, Ph.D. (Harvard)

Michael Oppenheim, Ph.D. (University of California)

Ira Robinson, Ph.D. (Harvard)

T.S. Rukmani, D.Litt., Ph.D. (Delhi University) - Chair in Hindu Studies

Associate Professors

Richard Foltz, Ph.D. (Harvard)

Norma Joseph, Ph.D. (Concordia) (sabbatical June 1, 2007-May 31, 2008)

Leslie Orr, Ph.D. (McGill)

Norman Ravvin, Ph.D. (Univ. of Toronto) – Chair in Quebec & Canadian Jewish Studies

Assistant Professors

Donald Boisvert, Ph.D. (University of Ottawa)

Marc des Jardins, Ph.D. (McGill University)

New Hires

Naftali Cohn, ABD (University of Pennsylvania)

Carly Daniel-Hughes, ABD (Harvard)

Shaman Hatley, ABD (University of Pennsylvania)

INTRODUCTION TO THE DEPARTMENT

General Objectives

The Department of Religion is dedicated to the academic study of religions and other social and cultural phenomena in so far as they have been influenced or affected by religions. We are interested in the comparative study of many religions. Although we do study how many religious traditions articulate and defend their own self-understandings, we treat these theologies and buddhologies academically and comparatively.

Nature of Religious Studies

The academic study of religion is a multi-disciplinary enterprise. It involves the historical examination of religious movements, the literary analyses of their literatures, philosophical reflections on beliefs and teachings, the social scientific investigations of their rituals, practices, texts, and institutions, the psychological study of their participants and ethical inquiries regarding both their moral writings and social roles.

Correspondingly, the faculty in the department have been trained in a number of academic disciplines including history, sociology, anthropology, literary studies, philosophy, psychology and theology as well as in the study of particular religious traditions.

KNOWLEDGE OF TWO MAJOR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

The Department believes that every Major or Honours student in Religion or in Judaic Studies should possess, at time of graduation, a knowledge of at least two major religious traditions. For example, the student who is pursuing a Major in Judaic Studies will take some courses in a religious tradition other than Judaism. This basic principle reinforces the emphasis upon the centrality of the discipline of the History of Religions. A particular religious tradition can best be understood in the context of the general religious history of humankind.

DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMMES

The Department of Religion offers at the undergraduate level: minors, majors and honours programmes in Religion and in Judaic Studies. The degree requirements for all of these programmes can be found below. We also offer several graduate programmes: an M.A. in the History and Philosophy of Religion, an M.A. in Judaic Studies, and a Ph.D. in Religion. For further information on our graduate programmes, please contact the graduate programme assistant at 848-2077.

Women and Religion

As part of the Department of Religion's undergraduate curriculum, a concentration in **Women and Religion** is offered. A variety of special courses are included in the regular program for the BA major in Religion. Religion majors can focus on this area for either the primary or secondary concentration requirements.

The study of women and religion is a growing field in which the Department of Religion of Concordia University has long been a leader. This structured concentration solidifies our commitment to this field and enables us to prepare students in a systematic and consistent fashion. The concentration furthers the work of the department in that it will allow students to pursue course work from a comparative, cross-cultural and multi-tradition perspective. The study of the role of women in the history and practice of religion introduces our students to an exciting and vital area of study.

Degree Requirements

60 B.A. Honours in Religion:

12 In a language related to thesis; or in a related discipline such as: Anthropology English Literature, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Theological Studies, Women's Studies.

6 Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214³ or 215³

21 From area of primary concentration (see areas of concentration below)

6 From area of secondary concentration (see areas of concentration below)

6 RELI elective credits at 300 or 400 level

3 RELI 409³

6 RELI 410⁶

42 B.A. Major in Religion

6 Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214³ or 215³

21 From area of primary concentration (see areas of concentration below)

6 From area of secondary concentration (see areas of concentration below)

6 RELI elective credits at 300 or 400 level

3 RELI 409³

30 Minor in Religion

6 Chosen from RELI 209³, 210³, 214³ or 215³

24 RELI elective credits (chosen in consultation with Departmental advisor)

60 B.A. Honours in Judaic Studies

12 Chosen from: HEBR 210⁶, HEBR 241³, HEBR 242³, RELI 401³

Students who demonstrate fluency in Hebrew by a written examination may substitute RELI courses at the 300 and 400 level approved by the departmental adviser.

6 Chosen from RELI 209³ and 210³ or 214^{3a} and 215³

3 RELI 220³

9 Chosen from RELI 301³, 326³, 327³, 328³

9 Chosen from RELI 329³, 336³, 338³, 339³, 381³, 391³, 392³, 395³, 407³

6 Chosen from RELI 223³, 224³, 225³, 226³, 302³, 316³, 318³, 319³, 320³, 321³, 322³, 323³, 324³, 325³

3 Chosen from RELI 334³, 335³

3 RELI elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

3 RELI 409³

6 RELI 410⁶

48 B.A. Major in Judaic Studies

12 Chosen from Hebrew Language: HEBR 210⁶, HEBR 241³, HEBR 242³, RELI 401³

Students who demonstrate fluency in Hebrew by a written examination may substitute RELI courses at the 300 and 400 level approved by the departmental adviser.

6 Chosen from RELI 209³ and 210³, or 214³ and 215³

3 RELI 220³

9 Chosen from RELI 301³, 326³, 327³, 328³
9 Chosen from RELI 329³, 334³, 335³, 336³, 338³, 339³, 381³, 391³, 392³, 395³, 407³
6 Chosen from RELI 223³, 224³, 225³, 226³, 302³, 316³, 318³, 319³, 320³, 321³, 322³, 323³, 324³, 325³
3 RELI 409³

30 Minor in Judaic Studies

6 Chosen from RELI 209³ and 210³ or 214^{3a} and 215³
3 RELI 220³
6 Chosen from RELI 301³, 326³, 327³, 328³
6 Chosen from RELI 329³, 334³, 335³, 336³, 338³, 339³, 381³, 391³, 392³, 395³, 407³
9 RELI elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

Areas of Concentration

A - Asian Religions (21 credits) - chosen from any of the following:

RELI 224³ Introduction to Islam,
RELI 225³ Introduction to Hinduism
RELI 226³ Introduction to Buddhism
RELI 316³ Medieval Islam
RELI 318³ Shiite Islam
RELI 319³ Modern Islam
RELI 340³ Veda & Upanishads: Fountainhead of Hindu Thought
RELI 341³ Hindu Sadhana: From Yajna to Yoga
RELI 342³ The Golden Age of Bhakti
RELI 346³ From Rammohun Roy to Gandhi and After
RELI 347³ Religion and the Arts in South & Southeast Asia
RELI 348³ Religion and Society in South & Southeast Asia
RELI 349³ Religions of China and Japan
RELI 350³ Theravada Buddhism
RELI 364³ Mahayana Buddhism
RELI 383³ Women and Religion: Islam
RELI 384³ Women and Religion: Hinduism
RELI 385³ Women and Religion: Buddhism
RELI 411³ Studies in Qur'an and Hadith or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor

B - Christianity (21 credits)

3 RELI 223³ Introduction to Christianity
12 Chosen from RELI 301³ Biblical Studies I: The Hebrew Bible, RELI 302³ Biblical Studies II: Christian Origins, RELI 320³ Catacombs, Crusades and Convents: History of Christianity I, RELI 321³ Mystics, Heretics and Reformers: History of Christianity II, RELI 322³ From Toleration to Political and Social Activism: History of Christianity III or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor
6 Christianity elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

C - Judaism (21 credits)

3 RELI 220³ Introduction to Judaism
3 RELI 301³ Biblical Studies I: The Hebrew Bible
6 Chosen from: RELI 326³ Ancient Judaism, RELI 327³ Medieval Jewish Thought & Institutions, RELI 328³ Modern Judaism or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor

9 Judaic Studies elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

D - Women and Religion (21 credits)

3 RELI 233³ Introduction to Women and Religion

6 Chosen from: RELI 381³ Women and Religion: Judaism

RELI 382³ Women and Religion: Christianity

RELI 383³ Women and Religion: Islam

RELI 384³ Women and Religion: Hinduism

RELI 385³ Women and Religion: Buddhism

RELI 391³ Women and Jewish History: Ancient & Medieval

RELI 392³ Women and Jewish History: Modern or other appropriate courses

approved by the departmental advisor

9 Chosen from: RELI 372³ The Human Body in Religious Faith and Practice

RELI 380³ Sexuality in the History of Religion

RELI 387³ Goddesses and Religious Images of Women

RELI 389³ Women's Ritual: Expressions and Expertise

RELI 406³ Feminist Hermeneutics & Scripture

or other appropriate courses approved by the departmental advisor

3 Women and Religion elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

Southern Asia Studies

The Department of Religion participates with History, Political Science and several other departments in the Southern Asia Studies Programme which offers a major and a minor as follows:

MAJOR (42 credits)

6 credits History 261 and Religion 215

3 credits History 364, 365, 393 or 461

6 credits Political Science 336, 424, 482

9 credits Religion 224, 225, 226, 318, 340, 341, 342, 346, 347, 348, 350, 384

18 credits Chosen from any relevant courses in the core disciplines (not already counted towards the above requirements) or courses dealing with Southern Asia in the Departments of Economics, Education, English, Geography, Sociology/Anthropology or Faculties of Fine Arts and The John Molson School of Business.

MINOR (30 credits)

6 credits History 261 and Religion 215

6 credits History 364, 365, 393 or 461

Political Science 336, 424, 482

Economics 311, 319

9 credits any from Religion 224, 225, 226, 318, 340, 341, 342, 346, 347, 348, 350, 384; or FMST 335

9 elective credits from any courses dealing primarily with Southern Asia, and Special Topics courses in any discipline with a Southern Asia theme or focus. Other courses may be substituted for many of the above with the Programme Advisor's permission.

Please see the Undergraduate Calendar for further details on the Southern Asia Studies Programme.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Donald Boisvert: dlb@alcor.concordia.ca or Dr. Ira Robinson: robinso@alcor.concordia.ca

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

Student Advising

Students who have questions concerning their programme of study or need assistance relating to academic difficulties can contact the Department either by phone (848-2424, ext. 2065) or email religion@alcor.concordia.ca and make an appointment to meet with an undergraduate advisor.

Undergraduate Listserve

Religion students and students taking one or more Religion courses have the option of being added to the Religion Undergraduate Listserve. This listserv helps to keep students informed of upcoming events, guest speakers and academic deadlines.

Department Web Page

Visit the Department's webpage and find information on the various courses offered, course outlines, faculty research interests, guest lectures and conferences, information on our graduate programmes plus much more:

<http://artsandscience.concordia.ca/religion/reli.html>

THE BOYD SINYARD AWARD

Each year the Boyd Sinyard award is given to the outstanding graduating student in Religion. The award is named after the first chairman of the Department of Religion at Sir George Williams University.

CONCORDIA RELIGION STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (CRSA)

If you are studying within the Department of Religion (i.e. if you are an Honours, Major, Minor or just taking a course offered by the department), you are a member of the CRSA. CRSA is a student-administered organization dedicated to fostering community and expanding the educational experience of all Religion students. Each year the executive branch of CRSA (five students elected to plan and administer CRSA affairs) offers Religion students the chance to meet each other and faculty at various social gatherings, as well as the opportunity to enliven their education by attending CRSA sponsored lectures given by learned academics and religious thinkers from all parts of the world. CRSA members are urged to take advantage of the student lounge located in the basement of annex R (2050 Mackay). This is a place where students can study, hang out or use the free phone. If you would like more information about CRSA, leave a message in our mailbox at the Department of Religion.

COURSES FALL/WINTER 2007-2008

(/2 = fall 2007 /4 = winter 2008)

For classroom locations information, call (514) 848-2424, ext. 3838

RELI 209/4 - A (3 credits)

T.J. 1145-1300

THE RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION

Instructor: Marc Lalonde

This course explores the conceptual elements that underlie the religious experience. These elements include the notion of the sacred, beliefs, cosmologies and myths, the origins and understanding of evil, ethics and salvation. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 211 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 210/2 - A (3 credits)

T. 1800-2015

RELIGION IN PRACTICE

Instructor: Maria Mamfredis

This course focuses on the day-to-day practice of religious traditions. Included are the expression of religious experiences through art, music, and scripture; transmission of these religious expressions through ritual, worship and mystical/ecstatic practices; and the construction and maintenance of different types of religious authority and communal identities. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 211 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 214/2 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1615-1730 **RELI 214/4 - A** (3 credits) T.J. 1315-1430
RELIGIONS OF THE WEST

Instructor: Daniel Bernard (fall) John Bilodeau (winter)

This course surveys the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of religions that arose in Western Asia, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course examines contemporary forms of religious life in those parts of the world where these traditions have spread, as well as indigenous religions. The course explores the religious activities and experiences of both women and men within these various traditions. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 213 or RELZ 214 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 215/4 - A (3 credits)

T.J. 1015-1130

RELIGIONS OF ASIA

Instructor: Brandon Daniel-Hughes

This course surveys the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of religions that have arisen in and spread throughout Asia, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and the religions of China and Japan. The course explores the religious activities and experiences of both women and men within these traditions. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 213 or RELZ 215 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 216/2 – Onl EC (3 credits) and RELI 216/4 – Onl EC (3 credits)

ENCOUNTERING WORLD RELIGIONS

Instructor: Howard Joseph

This course serves as an introduction to some of the religions of today's world, and explores several contemporary contexts where people of diverse religious backgrounds come into contact with one another. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 298C or RELZ 216 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 217/4 AA (3 credits)

J. 2030-2245

CULTS AND RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY IN NORTH AMERICA

Instructor: Susan Palmer

This course takes a sociological and historical approach towards understanding new religious movements (NRMs), popularly known as "cults". The course examines the reasons for their controversial status in society, and undertakes a survey of the beliefs, rituals, leadership, membership, recruitment strategies, and social organization of a number of specific NRMs. **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 218/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1145-1300

WISDOM, TRADITION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

Instructor: John Bilodeau

Most of the world's religions have formulated a set of teachings which convey an idea of the fundamental realities of the nature of the universe, and of the path by which humankind can come to a realization of these realities. Such a realization is frequently equated with the ultimate goal of enlightenment as liberation, or knowledge of/union with the transcendent. This course will explore several of the religious traditions which have developed texts and practices leading to wisdom. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELZ 218 or RELI/RELZ 298E may not take this course for credit

RELI 220/2- A (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course will examine the history of Jews and of Judaism from ancient times until the present. It will emphasize the continuities, changes and interrelationships with respect to Jewish social, religious and intellectual life through the ages. It will also carefully examine the varieties of belief and practice in contemporary Jewish life. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 222 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 223/2 - A (3 credits)

M.W. 1315-1430

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY

Instructor: Daniel Bernard

This course provides an introduction to key developments and enduring structures in the historical evolution of Christianity. It examines the variety of expressions of faith that are embodied by the Eastern churches (e.g. Greek and Russian Orthodox, Syrian) and the Western (e.g. Roman Catholic, Protestant), and traces the ways in which institutions,

symbols, and rituals have in the past and continue today to carry forward the Christian tradition as a world religion in a variety of cultural contexts.

RELI 224/2 – AA (3 credits)
INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM
Instructor: Bilal Kuspinar

T.1800-2015

This course explores the religious tradition of Islam through the beliefs and practices of the vast number of Muslims scattered throughout the world — in the Middle East, Indonesia, India and Pakistan, North America, and other places. It examines the scriptures and common rituals or "pillars" of the religion, as well as expressions of life and culture in the past and present such as the law (shariah), the Islamic arts, and the mystical orders. The course also provides a historical framework of the classical period of Islam up to the Abbasid empire (eighth century). **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 313 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 225/2 – A (3 credits)
INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM
Instructor: Marcel Parent

M.W. 1145-1300

This course introduces students to some of the essential concepts of Hinduism that have been of enduring significance for the tradition – such as dharma (religious duty, as well as the spiritual/social order), moksa (the goal of liberation), and karma (action, understood in ethical as well as ritual terms). This course focuses on the ways in which these ideals have been embodied in particular scriptural, historical, and regional contexts by examining narrative literature, various practices of worship and asceticism, and contemporary interpretations. **Note:** Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 226/2 – A (3 credits)
INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM
Instructor: Marc des Jardins

T.J.1145-1300

This course introduces students to the diversity of forms of Buddhism that have emerged in history and are practiced today. It examines those aspects that are shared in common by Buddhists all over the world, including reverence for the Buddha, support of the monastic order, and adherence to the Buddha's teachings. The course explores the ways in which these ideals and beliefs are expressed through such Buddhist practices as worship, study, pilgrimage, and meditation. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 350 or 364 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 301/2 - A (3 credits)
BIBLICAL STUDIES I: THE HEBREW BIBLE
Instructor: Naftali Cohn

T.J.1015-1130

An introduction to the methods and results of biblical scholarship with regard to the history, culture, and religion of ancient Israel. Particular attention is given to the major religious affirmations and theological concepts of the Hebrew Bible that have become central in the subsequent development of Judaism.

RELI 302/4 - A (3 credits)

T.J. 1015-1130

BIBLICAL STUDIES II: CHRISTIAN ORIGINS

Instructor: Carly Daniel-Hughes

A critical survey of Christian origins, this course focuses on New Testament literature and considers historical setting, history of text, religious and cultural significance. Attention is paid to extra-canonical literature and other relevant sources.

RELI 310/2 - A (3 credits)
(RELZ 310/2 A)

T.J. 1445-1600

SELF AND OTHER: EXPLORING VALUE CHOICES IN PERSONAL &
INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS

Instructor: Sonia Zylberberg

This course considers ethical issues arising in the context of personal and interpersonal relations, families and friendships, and health and medical care. These issues are discussed in relation to traditional and contemporary moral perspectives, both religious and non-religious. Topics covered may vary from year to year, but may include discussions of conscience and career, privacy, sexual relations, harassment, substance abuse, abortion, euthanasia, and gay and lesbian relations. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 331 or RELZ 310 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 312/2 – A (3 credits)
(RELZ 312/2 A)

M.W. 1015-1130

JUSTICE AND SOCIAL CONFLICT IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

Instructor: Marc Lalonde

This course considers ethical issues arising in the context of social, legal, and political relations. These issues are discussed in relation to both traditional and contemporary moral perspectives, both religious and non-religious. Topics covered typically include discussions of social and economic inequality, welfare, poverty, just punishment, business ethics, public ethics, economic development, and sustainable development. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 332 or RELZ 312 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 316/2 – A (3 credits)
THE GOLDEN AGE OF ISLAM

M.W. 1615-1730

Instructor: Richard Foltz

The course considers patterns of life and thought in the period of Islam widely known as the “Golden Age” — from the achievements of Abbasid civilization centred in Baghdad to the final glories of the Ottoman, Safavid, and Moghul empires in the eighteenth century before the twilight of Islamic political power. The Islamic kingdoms in Spain and the expansion of Islam eastward along silk and spice trade routes are also considered. Islamic legal, mystical, theological, and philosophical thought is studied, as well as the ideas of key religious figures.

RELI 319/4 - A (3 credits)
MODERN ISLAM

M.W. 1315-1430

Instructor: Richard Foltz

A study of Islamic religious and social thought in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Islamic liberalism, traditionalism, and fundamentalism are compared and contrasted.

RELI 321/2 –A (3 credits)

T.J. 1015-1130

MYSTICS, HERETICS, REFORMERS

Instructor: Michel Despland

This second course of the sequence on Christianity, historically considered, focuses on the period from 1300 to 1650 and examines the many groupings for alternatives to the hierarchical synthesis proposed by great minds and leading authorities. It concludes with a study of the new orthodoxies established by Protestant reformers (Luther and Calvin) and by the Council of Trent in the sixteenth century.

Note: Students who have received credit for RELI 304 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 323/2- B (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

HONOURING THE GODS AND FEASTING WITH FRIENDS: THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN

Instructor: Carly Daniel-Hughes

This course explores various dimensions of social and religious life among Greeks, Romans, and others in the ancient Mediterranean. With the help of both archaeological and literary sources, the course examines the concrete ways in which ordinary women and men maintained fitting relations with their gods, with their rulers, and with one another, illuminating the religious and cultural contexts in which early Judaism and Christianity emerged.

RELI 326/4 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1615-1730

ANCIENT JUDAISM

Instructor: Naftali Cohn

This course examines the variety of Judaic expression in the period of Late Antiquity. This includes the concepts, institutions, and literature of both rabbinic and non-rabbinic Judaisms as well as their biblical background. The development of rabbinic systems of thought and law, as well as their expression in rabbinic literature, are considered.

RELI 327/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1015-1130

MEDIEVAL JEWISH THOUGHT AND INSTITUTIONS

Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course examines the intellectual, religious, and social history of selected Jewish communities during the Middle Ages. Both internal Jewish developments and changing Jewish relations with their non-Jewish neighbours are considered.

RELI 328/4 – AA (3 credits)

M. 1800-2015

MODERN JUDAISM

Instructor: Barbara Galli

This course surveys the major historical events, sociological and political forces, and intellectual currents which shaped Judaism in the modern period as well as the ways that Jewish communities responded to these forces. Among the topics explored are Emancipation, forms of religious adjustment, anti-semitism, the experience of Jewish communities in Russia and North America, the Holocaust, and Zionism and the state of Israel.

RELI 335B/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

SELECTED TOPICS IN CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES

SPECIAL SUBJECT: CANADIAN JEWISH WRITING

Instructor: Norman Ravvin

This course explores the Jewish voice in Canadian literature which can be seen to be the first opening toward a multicultural tradition in this country. Writers such as A.M. Klein, Mordecai Richler, Henry Kreisel, and Leonard Cohen created an English language tradition of Jewish writing in this country that is varied, provocative, and lively. We will look at novels, short stories, some poetry, memoir, and criticism. We will also consider non-Jewish authors, such as Gwethalyn Graham and Mavis Gallant, who were among the first to write about Jewish characters for an English-speaking Canadian audience. This course will allow students to consider issues related to Canadian identity and culture, ethnic studies, and multiculturalism alongside literary questions.

RELI 338/4 - A (3 credits)

T.J. 1615-1730

(cross-listed with HIST 235/4 A)

HOLOCAUST: HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Instructor: E. Lehrer, History Department

This course examines the historical circumstances that made possible the systematic destruction of European Jewry in the years 1939-45, as well as the process of destruction and the Jewish and world responses to that destruction. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 357 may not take this course for credit. Students who have received credit for HIST 298A may not take this course for credit.

RELI 342/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1315-1430

THE GOLDEN AGE OF BHAKTI

Instructor: Shaman Hatley

The medieval period of Hinduism is the period of Bhakti, or devotion. This course looks at the Bhagavadgita, as well as popular regional literature and the lives of devotees such as Mirabai, Tukaram, Tulsidas, Kabir, Andal, and Mahadeviyakka. The course also examines the Vaishnava, Shaiva and Shakta traditions of devotion.

RELI 346/4 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1145-1300

FROM RAMMOHUN ROY TO GANDHI

Instructor: Shaman Hatley

This course explores, in the first instance, the contribution made by leading Hindu thinkers from Rammohun Roy to Gandhi to harmonize such contemporary values as social welfare, equality, humanism, and spiritual experience with parallel antecedents of Hinduism preserved in Sanskrit texts. This course also focuses on how post-Gandhian movements such as Swadhyaya (reflective self-study) proposed by Pandurang Sastri Athavale, and Chipko (protection of trees) proposed by Bahuguna, have promoted meaningful religious dialogue in order to realize the ideals of equality, social progress, and environmental concerns. **Note:** Students who have received credit for RELI 343 or 351 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 347/2 – A (3 credits) T.J. 1015-1130
RELIGION AND THE ARTS IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA
Instructor: Marcel Parent

This course is an introduction to the religious art of South and Southeast Asia, including an examination of Hindu, Buddhist, and Islamic architecture, sculpture, painting, and performing arts. The course examines the ways in which sacred art is related to myth and symbol, religious values and goals, ritual, religious experience, and social and political realities.

RELI 348/4 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1015-1130
RELIGION AND SOCIETY IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA
Instructor: Marcel Parent

This historical and sociological examination of religion's impact on and intersection with the structures of South and Southeast Asian society, explores such issues as caste and class, gender and family relations, links between religion and the state, and relations between Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim communities.

RELI 369/4 – AA (3 credits) W.2030-2245
RELIGION AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE
Instructor: Patricia O'Rourke

This course explores popular forms of alternative medicine and religious healing rituals. It examines the historical and cultural relationships between religious belief, spiritual practices, and types of healing outside the discourses of conventional medical practice. Some of the major issues addressed include miracles and the miraculous, the efficacy of prayer and meditation, gender and alternative modes of healing, and the role of parallel forms of medical knowledge and practice in religious communities.

Note: Students who have received credit for this topic under an RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 372/4 – A (3 credits) T.J.1315-1430
THE HUMAN BODY IN RELIGIOUS THOUGHT AND PRACTICE
Instructor: Donald Boisvert

This study of religious attitudes to the human body focuses on the body as a foundation for religious symbolism, religious community and identity, ritual, and religious experience. The course examines these problems with reference to various religious traditions. Issues examined include purification of the body; eating; mortification and mutilation of the body; attitudes towards dead bodies and physical immortality; attitudes towards bodies as gendered; embodied spirituality and incarnation.

RELI 375/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1445-1600

RELIGION IN CANADA

Instructor: Donald Boisvert

This course examines the history, contributions and sociological profile of different religious traditions within Canadian society. In particular, the influence of these traditions on Canadian politics, law and culture is considered, as well as the challenges a number of them faced in coming to Canada. Attention is also paid to the interaction of different religious groups within the broader Canadian context.

Note: Students who have received credit for RELI 363 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 375/4 – Onl EC (3 credits)

RELIGION IN CANADA

Instructor: Donald Boisvert

This course examines the history, contributions and sociological profile of different religious traditions within Canadian society. In particular, the influence of these traditions on Canadian politics, law and culture is considered, as well as the challenges a number of them faced in coming to Canada. Attention is also paid to the interaction of different religious groups within the broader Canadian context.

Note: Students who have received credit for RELI 363 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 376/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1315-1430

PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION

Instructor: Michael Oppenheim

The discipline of Psychology of Religion can usually be described in terms of two streams. The first is experimental and empirical and the second philosophical and theoretical. This class will focus on the second stream. It will seek insights from the convergence of the disciplines of psychology and religious studies in addressing such questions as: What does it mean to be religious? What is the role of religion in individual development? What is the place of relationships to others in religious life? How is authenticity characterized? How are gender differences treated in the psychology of religion? We will explore some of the classical psychological theories of religion, those developed by James, Freud, Erikson, and Jung, as well as more recent developments by post-modern and feminist theorists.

RELI 378/2 - A (3 credits)

T.J. 1615-1730

DEATH AND DYING

Instructor: Laurie Lamoureux Scholes

This course provides a comparative perspective on the variety of conceptions and practices

related to death and dying that are found in different world religions. In addition, the course considers how people in contemporary North American society utilise traditional religious concepts and rituals, scientific understandings and medical procedures, or innovative combinations of ideas and practices to cope with, and make sense of, the problem of death. Lectures, discussions and some small group work will constitute the major teaching methods. Guest lecturers will be invited. Students should complete the course with some general understanding of, and critical appreciation for, the ways in which different religious traditions explain death and its attendant issues, and how these might assist individuals in coping with their own death or that of others.

RELI 380/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1315-1430

RELIGION AND SEXUALITY

Instructor: Donald Boisvert

This course examines, from comparative and historical perspectives, the interplay of religion and human sexuality. It will look at: 1) the development of attitudes towards sexuality within diverse religious traditions, and 2) religious and cultural manifestations of sexuality. Topics may include, among others, sexual images of the sacred; human reproduction; gender and identity; religion, the body and sexual desire; women; marriage; virginity and celibacy; sexual variance; homosexuality; sexuality and fetishism. Other topics may be selected according to the interests of the class. Lectures, discussions and some small group work will constitute the major teaching methods. Guest lecturers will be invited.

RELI 380/4 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1445-1600

RELIGION AND SEXUALITY

Instructor: Steven Lapidus

This course examines, from comparative and historical perspectives, the interplay of religion and human sexuality. It will look at: 1) the development of attitudes towards sexuality within diverse religious traditions, and 2) religious and cultural manifestations of sexuality. Topics may include, among others, sexual images of the sacred; human reproduction; gender and identity; religion, the body and sexual desire; women; marriage; virginity and celibacy; sexual variance; homosexuality; sexuality and fetishism. Other topics may be selected according to the interests of the class. Lectures, discussions and some small group work will constitute the major teaching methods. Guest lecturers will be invited.

RELI 383/2 – AA (3 credits)

W. 1800-2015

WOMEN AND RELIGION: ISLAM

Instructor: Lynda Clarke

This course explores past and present debates among Muslims about the ideal status of women in Islam. The historical and legal background— the material of the debate — is examined first. The class then considers how a variety of discourses, ranging from conservative to Muslim feminist, treat and manipulate this material.

RELI 385/2 – A (3 credits)
WOMEN AND RELIGION: BUDDHISM
Instructor: Josée Campion

M.W. 1315-1430

This course explores the situation, activities, and experiences of women within Buddhism. Using an historical approach, the course examines the circumstances of women in early Buddhism, and traces subsequent developments in India, Tibet, Southeast Asia, the Far East, and the West, up to the present day.

RELI 386/2 - AA (3 credits)
WITCHCRAFT, MAGIC AND RELIGION
Instructor: Maria Mamfredis

M.2030-2245

This course approaches the study of magic, witchcraft, and religion from a variety of perspectives. Taking examples from indigenous cultures, the ancient world, medieval Europe, the early modern period and contemporary movements, the practices and rituals that have been labelled magic or witchcraft are examined, along with the responses to them. The course explores how magicians and witches view themselves, how different cultures relate to them, and how magic, witchcraft, and religion merge and diverge.

Note: Students who have received credit for this topic under an RELI 398 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 398A/2 –A (3 credits)
LITERATURE AND THE HOLOCAUST
(Selected Topics in Religion)
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

T.J. 1145-1300

Religious, historical, literary, and political contexts have been applied to come to terms with the events of the Holocaust. All of these will be relevant as we read important and provocative novels dealing with such issues as ethics, the relationship between art and history, the use of humour and popular cultural forms, as well as the way that storytelling helps direct our understanding of events that are often said to be "incomprehensible." We will also consider the wider impact of fiction dealing with the Holocaust on the popular media, including film, cd roms, video, and news reporting. Course texts will allow us to consider European and North American responses, well- and little-known writers, as well as figures whose work has become both iconic and problematic.

RELI 398E/4 – AA (3 credits)
MONTREAL JEWISH COMMUNITY
(Selected Topics in Religion)
Instructor: Sonia Zylberberg

M.W.1615-1730

The Montreal Jewish community is unique in terms of its ethnic, denominational, political, linguistic and cultural composition. This course will examine some of these institutions, along with the buildings, programs, groups and individuals that are located here. While focusing on the continuing connections to both the Jewish and the larger societies, the

historical context will serve as the framework within which they are situated.

RELI 398F/2 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1145-1300

RELIGION AND ART IN JUDAISM

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Barbara Galli

This course will explore the understudied world of Jewish art in all its forms through history. What is it? What makes it Jewish? How have Jews expressed their religious, national and cultural heritage in distinct art forms? In what ways has the influence of other art practices, especially within Christianity affected a Jewish praxis?

RELI 398M/4 – AA (3 credits)

T. 1800-2015

ANIMAL RIGHTS, RELIGION, AND VEGETARIANISM

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Richard Foltz

Humans are animals, or are they? Most, though not all, religious traditions treat humans and animals as separate categories, with different systems of ethics and values applied to each. How cultures perceive the relationship between animals and humans affects choices about diet, understandings of our place in the world, and increasingly, the ethics of scientific research. In this seminar-format course we will discuss how human-animal relationships have been perceived and justified in the world's diverse religious traditions and how they are being debated and re-imagined today.

RELI 398P/2 – AA (3 credits)

J. 1800-2015

RELIGIONS OF TIBET

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Marc des Jardins

This course examines the “nameless” popular religion of Tibet including mountain cults, shamanism, spirit possession and a variety of manifestations of popular religion. The relationships between dogma, lineages, philosophical enquiries, ritual and ascetic practices will be investigated. The goal of this course is to familiarize the student with current issues in Tibetan and Buddhist studies and foster understanding of Tibetan religion in Tibet, China and the rest of the world.

RELI 398U/4 – A (3 credits)

M.W. 1145-1300

HISTORY OF SATAN

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Donald Boisvert

This course investigates the origins, development and significance of personified evil – Satan and his demons – in early Judaism and in the history of Christianity. Consideration will be given to some of the most important literary and visual depictions of this figure and his story from the ancient world through the Middle Ages to our own day. The course will shed light on how intellectuals thought of this figure but also how Satan came to play an important role in popular culture down through the centuries.

RELI 398W/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1445-1600

INTRODUCTION TO CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Norman Ravvin

This course will provide the student with an introduction to a variety of themes, disciplines, media and personalities that have contributed to the body of work that exists, and who are changing the way we view Canadian Jewish history, literature, religious life and public culture. We will look at important historical texts, novels, films, and museums while also considering the changing impact of city life, religious practice and the multicultural ethic of this country. The outcome should be both a definitive sense of the particularity of Jewish culture in Canada, and with a sense of its relationship to the past and to other important centres in the United States, Europe and Israel.

RELI 398X/2 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1015-1130

RELIGION AND VIOLENCE

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Marc Lalonde

It is often said that we live in a violent world but that religion represents the search for peace, love, and understanding. In many instances this is indeed the case and we will be concerned to explore its inspiration. Yet considered historically, it is not unusual for religion to be a central factor in the motivation and expression of violence. What, then, is the nature and character of the relationship between religion and violence? The purpose of this course is to investigate this question on a number of different levels. It will examine the meaning of violence in its multiple forms (as physical, psychological, moral, ideological, etc.) at both the individual and social levels of existence. Within that framework, the course will compare and contrast various religious traditions in the course of their historical development as they relate to the theme and reality of violence. By examining their sacred writings, theologies, rituals and communal actions, this course will chart the diverse contributions of religious life and thought to both the perpetuation and resistance to human violence.

RELI 398Z/4 – A (3 credits)

T.J. 1445-1600

RELIGIONS OF JAPAN

(Selected Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Marc des Jardins

This course uses a historical approach to understand the development of Japanese religious traditions. It will investigate popular Japanese cults and religions, the assimilation of foreign religious thought and practices, and the implantation of Buddhism, Confucianism, and other models from China. Religious sectarianism, state-regulated religious schools, cults, and the role of religion in the establishment of Japanese national identity will also be studied.

RELI 409/4- A (3 credits)

M.W. 1615-1730

METHODOLOGY AND THE STUDY OF RELIGION

Instructor:

Prerequisite: Permission of the department.

This class will introduce students to some of the major perspectives in the contemporary study of Religion. The lectures will present a historical and thematic treatment of the ways Religion has been studied from its beginning as a discipline to the present time. The texts will explore the contemporary terrain in terms of insights emerging from anthropological studies, hermeneutical studies, and debates in cultural studies. Current scholars of Religion will also be invited to share their experiences and research.

RELI 498G/2 - A (3 credits)

J. 1600-1815

(cross-listed with RELI 614K/2 A)

HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIOUS AND PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS IN HINDU THOUGHT

(Advanced Topics in Religion)

Instructor: T.S. Rukmani

Prerequisite: Permission of the department.

Every Culture develops a world view based on how its people see the world they live in. Once formed that world view continues to exercise its influence on the way subsequent generations organize their lives and also in the way they interpret those initial ideas to fit into changed conditions. In the case of the Hindu world view a number of ideas got formulated in the ancient Vedic period and in particular during the period of the Upanisads. An attempt will be made in this paper to see if the ancient world view that got entrenched in the Hindu psyche from the ancient period still finds resonances with the world view of contemporary Hindus. This paper will address some of these ideas, like the concept of Absolute Truth, what constitutes the greatest value according to a Hindu, what are good and bad ethical precepts in Hinduism, how do Hindus tackle questions of environment and ecology, what is the karma theory, hermeneutics of dharma and other related questions. An understanding of the religious and philosophical dimensions of Hinduism is the aim of this course so that at the end of it students get an overall in depth appreciation of the many dimensions of Hindu Thought. *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498H/4 – AA (3 credits)

J.1830-2030

(cross-listed with RELI 616P/4 AA)

MAHAYANA BUDDHISM

(Advanced Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Marc des Jardins

Prerequisite: Permission of the Department

In this course, students will examine important issues in Mahayana Buddhism through the study and the reading of primary texts (in translation) and its commentarial literature. This year will be devoted to aspects of Yogacara Buddhism and the Mind-Only (Cittmatra) School as it may have existed in India, to its transmission and successive evolution in Tibet and its reformulation in China.

RELI 498I/4 – AA (3 credits)
(cross-listed with RELI 698I/4 A)

W. 1830-2030

Feminist Jewish Philosophy
(Advanced Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Michael Oppenheim

Prerequisite: Permission of the department.

Feminist Jewish Philosophy is one of the most challenging and stimulating areas of Modern Jewish Philosophy. This course will explore the nature of the field of Feminist Jewish Philosophy as well as the thought of those who are its primary contributors. It will begin by examining its relationship to feminist thought, Jewish thought, philosophy as well as to Judaism overall. This will uncover the variety of understandings of the definitions, boundaries, and tasks that have been proposed. Among the thinkers who will be discussed are: Judith Plaskow, Hava Tirosh-Rothschild, Susan Shapiro, Heidi Ravven, Rachel Adler, and Laura Levitt. The readings for each class will be indicated on the syllabus. The classes will be conducted as seminars, where the participation of everyone is essential.

This is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.

RELI 498J/4 – A (3 credits)
(cross-listed with RELI 629X/4 A)

W. 1600-1815

THINKING THE HOLOCAUST
(Advanced Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Marc Lalonde

Prerequisite: Permission of the department.

The purpose of this class is to investigate the challenge of the Holocaust for the development of modern *critical* and *religious* thought. Toward that end, we will examine the socio-historical and thematic links that fix the Holocaust to modernity; the ensuing philosophical dissection demanded by critical theory; and the radical reconstruction of theology pursued by Jewish and Christian thinkers. In the final analysis, the class constitutes the excavation of a complex correlation of history, thought, and religious faith that continues to make itself felt in the present. Thus the ongoing concern to "think" the Holocaust today. *This course is a seminar format one, in which both upper level undergraduate and graduate students of religion and philosophy will be participating.*

RELI 498V/2 – A (3 credits)
(cross-listed with RELI 613J/4 A)

T.1600-1815

MUSLIM CULTURES OF NORTH AMERICA
(Advanced Topics in Religion)

Instructor: Richard Foltz

Prerequisite: Permission of the Department

Traces the appearance and growth of Muslim presence in the United States and Canada, from the first immigrant communities in the late 19th century up to the present, and the more recent trend of conversion among North Americans. Issues facing Muslim communities such as integration, discrimination, and education will be investigated, as well as the emergence of distinctively North American forms of Islamic thought and lifestyle.

This is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.

RELI 498X/4 – A (3 credits)
(cross-listed with RELI 641I/4 A)
CHRISTIAN CULT OF THE SAINTS
(Advanced Topics in Religion)
Instructor: Carla Salvati

J. 1600-1615

This course will explore the Christian cult of Saints and Relics from its origins to the Protestant Reformation. We will consider the cults of the martyrs, Anthony of Egypt, Mary Magdalene, St. Benedict, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Francis and Clare of Assisi, St. Catherine of Siena and others. The writings, iconography, relics and holy sites associated with these saints will be examined for what they reveal about the continuities and shifts in the history of the practice of *imitation Christi* (imitation of Christ). *This is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.*

RELI 498Z/4 – AA (3 credits)
(cross-listed with RELI 614L/4 AA)
TANTRA IN SOUTH ASIA
(Advanced Topics in Religion)
Instructor: Shaman Hatley
Prerequisite: Permission of the Department

T.1830-2030

This course examines the history, ritual, and social contexts of the Tantric or "esoteric" traditions of South Asia, and explores the roles of tantric practice in the broader landscape of South Asian religion and culture. Our primary focus will be the medieval Hindu Tantric traditions--Shaiva and also Vaishnava--and Tantric Buddhism in India, but we will also examine Tantra in relation to Hindu orthodoxy, Jainism, and Islam. Beginning with the problem of defining "Tantra," issues of particular focus will include the dynamics of Hindu-Buddhist interactions, and Tantra in relation to goddesses, yoga, devotional (bhakti) traditions, the temple, the court, and colonialism.

Department of Religion - Timetable Fall 2007

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
10:15-11:30	312	301 321 347 398X	312	301 321 347 398X
11:45-13:00	225 398F 218	226 398A	225 398F 218	226 398A
13:15-14:30	223 385	342 376 380	223 385	342 376 380
14:45-16:00	214 220 323	310 398W	214 220 323	310 398W
16:15-17:30	316	378 498V/613J (1600-1815)	316 498J/629X (1600-1815)	378 498G/614K (1600-1815)
18:00-20:15		210 224	383	398P
20:30-22:45	386			

Department of Religion - Timetable Winter 2008

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
10:15-11:30	327 348	215 302	327 348	215 302
11:45-13:00	398U	209 346	398U	209 346
13:15-14:30	319	214 372	319	214 372
14:45-16:00	335B 375	398Z 380	335B 375	398Z 380
16:15-17:30	409	326	409 498I/698I (16:00-18:15)	326 498X/641 (16:00-18:15)
18:00-20:15				
20:30-22:45			369	217